

“DEVOTIONAL PERIOD”

Hymn 128

Scripture Reading, Matthew 5, vs. 21-24

In this passage, Our Lord touches on a matter which is of vital importance, and gives, in so doing, one of the many revelations of His own enormous understanding of the human heart. No modern psychologist could lay his finger on the trouble spot with more complete accuracy than Jesus did. We cannot read the gospel story without being filled with amazement at the marvellous insight shown in His dealings with troubled, questing humanity.

And this particular trouble! Some little difficulty, in all probability a mere misunderstanding, is insidiously, silently, but with devastating insistence, wrecking our peace, undermining our sense of security, and obtruding itself into our most sacred moments. We have tried to ignore it in the hope that it will pass away, but the longer it is allowed to fester in the depths of the heart, the greater becomes its power to distress and harass the soul in its search for clear vision and ready access to the deeper things of its inner life. It may be a memory of a sharp word spoken in haste or the puzzled wonderment as to the changed demeanour of a loved friend; or again, the sharp sense of hurt anger because of something said or done, which was undeserved. And it may be, and this is the bitterest of all, some unacknowledged cause in ourselves of pain inflicted on another. Whatever it is, it is doing harm, because it is not being brought out into the open. The time comes when it must be faced and grappled with. And, at the Altar of prayer and sacrifice, at last, all defences down, the realisation comes that only in openly seeking to bring about explanation of the position, in bravely laying bare the hidden problem, can peace be regained. And, how often, when the coverings have been put aside, the whole thing has turned out to be mere imagination, or capable of so simple an explanation that one wonders how much suffering and turmoil could possibly have arisen from it.

Bring it out into the open. Don't let it coil itself round your secret heart and deaden your joy in spiritual living. It will perish in the sunlight but flourish in the dark. Whether the fault has been in you or in your "brother" (who may be your sister) once it is met fairly and squarely, Peace will return and the Altar will become the place of joy again.

PRAYER

O our Father, Who seest the heart of each one of us, grant to us Thy grace that we may understand the things that would hide Thy face from our sight. Forgive us if we have given place to dark doubt and fear in regard to our friends or relatives. Give to us

“Within the Veil”

MRS. TROUNCE AND MRS. SHEIL, UPPER HUTT UNION

The Upper Hutt Union has lost two members during the past month by the passing to Higher Service of Mrs. Trounce and Mrs. Sheil. Both have been connected with the Union since its formation 18 years ago, and will be a great loss to us, for both took a great interest in the work. Mrs. Trounce was not able to take such an active part as Mrs. Sheil, yet she did good service to the Cause, and will be greatly missed. Mrs. Sheil, on the other hand, took a very active part, being the first President when the Union was formed, and holding the office for a number of years. At the time of her death she was Cradle Roll Superintendent, and, although a sick woman for many years, her interest in children was very great. She was always planning something towards the advancement of the Cause. Her presence at the meetings will be greatly missed, as she always had a word of encouragement and her prayers in the meeting were an inspiration to all.

MRS. A. TOMLINSON, LEVIN UNION

It is with a very deep sense of loss that Levin Union records the recent passing of a much-loved member, Mrs. A. Tomlinson. She had been a faithful worker in the cause of Temperance for many years, and we shall all miss her presence at our meetings very greatly.

Though in delicate health, her death came with unexpected suddenness, and our loving prayers and thoughts are with the sorrowing invalid husband, who was her constant care over many years. Truly she devoted her life to the service of others, and she now has her Master's commendation, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

more love that we may not misunderstand, and more desire to overlook small grievances because we know it is not Thy will for these to shut out the vision of Thyself. Help us to keep the clear light of love burning within our innermost hearts and to reject all thoughts of suspicion and resentment as soon as they seek entrance. So may our lives be lived close to Thee and our service be more worthy of Thy great love and sacrifice for all men. For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.

“HIGHLIGHTS” FROM TALKS AND ADDRESSES

From Hawera:

Mrs. H. Atmore, speaking at the September meeting at Hawera, told a thrilling story of the wonderful "Women's Conference" held near New York in 1945, which was attended by women from all over the world. Many had gone through great privations through the war, but there was a great comradeship among them all. As one delegate said: "There are two great forces in the world today, Love and Hate. Love works for Peace and Hate for War."

Mrs. J. Tennant's address at Marlborough District Convention:

From the verse "O Lord thou art our Father, we are the clay," Mrs. Tennant likened human lives to tea cups—so many varieties of cups all made by one potter. She spoke of lives which had been broken and damaged through drink, but through the power of God had been restored and made useful. Even a handleless cup can be used in various ways in a kitchen, and often people could do a great amount of work for God, even while suffering from some disability. She referred to the dirty cup, "woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites" who make clean the outside, but within the cup there are many bad things. As cups need cleaning in their daily use, so do we. Cups need washing occasionally even when not used. Dust settles on useless things. In our lives often there is uncleanness for doing nothing "in as much as ye did it not unto Me." There were common cups for every day, chosen cups for special occasions, precious cups, cups beautiful, and full cups. The speaker told of people she knew who had been crippled yet were a great blessing to all. God has need for full cups, He renews and refills with His Spirit, which finds expression in love, joy, peace and gentleness. We might pray to be to those around us just what a nice warm cup of tea can be.

MY INFLUENCE

A careful woman I ought to be
A little fellow follows me.
I dare not to go astray,
For fear he'll go the self-same way.
Not once can I escape his eyes
What e'er he sees me do, he tries.
Like me, he says he's going to be,
That little chap who follows me.
He thinks that I am good and fine
Believes in every word of mine.
The base in me he must not see
The little chap who follows me.
I must remember as I go
Through summer sun or winter snow
I'm building for the years to be
That little chap who follows me.