

MAKE PEACE WITH YOURSELF

ISA. 52: 1-3

"It is one of the saddest facts in the world that so many people feel unwanted. It is one of the deepest tragedies of all life that so many people believe themselves to be un-needed, unappreciated, and unloved."

Salesman whose product no one will buy.

The boy who finds out his parents did not want him.

High school girl who has no boy friends

Housewife who feels she is nothing but a cleaning woman.

Soloist whose solos no body want to hear.

Author whose writings no body want to read.

The minister whose sermons no one want to hear.

Back and forth this large host of people walks across the stage of life who have lost their sense of belonging on earth.

They feel like the motorist driving into a large parking lot at a Veterans hospital...not looked for, not known, and not wanted.

Unwanted people are unhappy people and God did not intend for His creatures to be unhappy. Un happy people have a sort of illness that not only effects them but others around them.

When a man finds that he fails to achieve stature among his fellows in ways which are socially acceptable he is likely to seek that distinction by any means at his disposal. If he can not find it among goodpeople he may find it among bad people.

A man may not be able to get his name in the paper by performing a good deed but can by robbing a bank. Some want to be famous some how and some would think that being a Jessie James would bring it about. "We have a pretty coffin in the habit"

The big city gangs are little more than perverted asylums for the lost, scorned, and socially rejected. He comes to feel that he is a cog in a machine, a cog needed, if you please and thereby wanted by the machine. So here he arrived.

We have a tremendous responsibility to build people up to be happy in the good things of society

#2.

So it goes unhappy people are here. Being unwanted makes them unhappy. Their talents are being wasted and they are creating great havoc all around us.

Here is an important consideration. Some people make themselves unwanted don't you think? So if you some times get the feeling that you are not wanted suppose you ask yourself the following questions:

1. Is not the world showing good judgement in not wanting me in my present condition? For example I may be doing something I am not fitted for.
2. Am I not being inexcusably senseless, lazy, crude, and selfish? I may need the counsel of the little dirty Martin Luther's mother used to sing to him.

IF FOLK DON'T LIKE YOU AND ME
THE FAULT WITH US IS LIKE TO BE.

3. Is my case like the case reported by a policeman in a certain town? He was called investigate a girls complaint of being paddled. His report was as follows:

"Daughter, 15 years old, stayed out till 3 A.M. Got paddled. Needed It."

When I say all my best fellows seem to be out of step with me it might be that I should examine and see if I am not out of step with them.

BUT

Suppose that I am living the best life I know to live and that daily I do the things my conscience tells me to do. And further suppose that I do not seem to be getting anywhere by what I am doing. I am not popular in the sense that I am getting invited to all the social events in the community. I am not prosperous in the sense that I own a fine mansion and ride in an expensive car. I am just an ordinary common man and for the most part the world does not seem to want me or have any use for me.. If you face that after doing what God through your conscience has guided you to do just remember that the world's taste has not always been the highest. Judged by the world what about Jesus?

To say this, however, is not to throw all the responsibility back on God and run loose ourselves as bulls in a china shop.

Henri Bergson had this to say: "An intelligent being carries within him the wherewithal to surpass himself. But man alone with all his intelligence is dangerous if he is not subjected to the rational perception of moral values."

All of us would be better Christians if we never forgot the critical part played in our experience by the unseen hand of the Almighty.

- a. Paul never ceased to remember how that unseen hand struck him down when he had murder in his heart, and brought him to his senses.
- b. Wesley is said to have always felt a sort of urgency in his life after he was plucked as a brand from the burning when the rectory was on fire.
- c. Washington lived under a keen and constant sense of Divine providence when in the course of battles horses were shot from under him.

Paul felt God leading him from city to city, from trial to triumph, and from defeat to victory.

Now Not only are we to see and feel our gratitude to the saints of the past but we are to see our responsibility to pass on our religion to the younger generations. For what would we have been if all our ancestors had been indifferent in passing it on to us?

"Have you had a kindness shown?"

PASS IT ON

'Twas not given for thee alone

PASS IT ON

LET IT TRAVEL DOWN THE YEARS

LET IT WIPE ANOTHER'S TEARS

TILL IN HEAVEN THE DEED APPEARS

PASS IT ON."

*Make this
pass to the
next of the Ser-
mon*

Mark Guy Pearce tells this story: When a boy he was returning from Holland, with just enough money to pay his fare. Boy like he wandered about over the boat and

went into the dining room. He thought that his ticket paid for meals also. The steward came and when he could not pay his meal ticket the steward got angry with him. He demanded the boy's name and address and was going to collect from the boy's father. When the boy revealed his name the attitude of the steward changed. Years before the boy's father had done a kindness for the steward's mother. In remembrance of this kindness the steward gladly and gratefully paid the bill. Reaching home the boy related this story to his father who said, "See how a bit of kindness lives. Now he has passed it on to you. Remember now if YOU meet some one who needs an act of kindness pass it on to him."

What an opportunity you have to pass religion if you are a teacher. Some one said, "Your class is not a swarm of youngsters but a nation that is now inschool. All the young people are half mysteries, their future unknown. Many of them are certainly going to be distinguished. Some of them will move to the top of the world. Most of them will be makers of future homes. In the aggregate they are unmeasured wealth."

with look in hand
You may not be just a formal teacher, but you will be molding life about you.

My life shall touch a dozen lives before
this day is done—
Leave countless marks for good or ill
ere sets this evening sun.
Shall fair or foul its imprint prove, on
those my life shall hail?
Shall benison my impress be, or shall
a blight prevail?

My life shall touch a million lives in
some way ere I go
From this dear world of struggle to
the land I do not know.
So this the wish I always wish, the
prayer I ever pray:
Let my life help the other lives it
touches by the way.

So we have the cloud of witnesses...saints gone on, to think about and the generations about us who will touch other generations. What would happen if we lived in the conscious knowledge of these two groups? It is hard to say but most likely things would happen similar to what happened in the winter of 1951, I believe it was, when the giant four motored transport plane skidded to a crash landing on the sleet covered runway of the Southwest Philadelphia Airport and burst into flames. Instantly the stewardess, Miss Mary Frances Housley, stood in the open gangway of the burning plane and helped many passengers to jump to safety. Suddenly one hysterical woman called

back, "get my baby? Without hesitation Miss Housley groped in to the inferno for the forgotten baby.

When the fire was extinguished Miss Housley was found just inside the door with the charred baby in her charred arms. As you remember this heroine act awakend the whole country to her unselfishness and sacrificial spirit. Here two Actions arise:

1. Did those who were delivered to life remember the hands that saved them and then live so as to justify the sacrifice?
2. Whose were the hands that helped and strengthened FRANKIE as she loved to be called? The answer, in part, was given by her Methodist pastor at the funeral. He said, "Mary Frances was another star in the crown of her old Sunday school teacher." How many many other saints were looking down and making it possible for Frankie to live with holy splendor in her hour of trial we cannot say, but at least her old Sunday school teacher was looking on.

After all the point is this: What happened in Frankie's life, is what we must bring to pass daily in our sepa realms of need and crisis. We must some how pass on what has come to us as we lend our hands and hearts to let people down over the walls of sin delivering them from their enemies. So second hand religion to us is what we are receiving from others..something they have used. And second hand religion for our posterity is what we now have but pass on to them.

