

THE END OF THE ROW

Isa. 38:2.

Robing

Good morning friends of the radio audience. We greet you on the last morning of the year 1940, and will ask that our unseen worshipers bow your heads as we invoke the blessing of Deity upon our service.....

line

Gracious God, in Thee we ^{live} and move and have our being. In Thy presence is fullness of joy. Break the spell of that which blinds our minds. Purify our hearts that we may see Thee. Renew our inward life through the unseen and eternal. Visit our spirits and witness with them that we are Thy children...Amen.

We read for our lesson this morning, some verses from the thirty eighths chapter of the Book Of the Prophet Isaiah, verses one through eight. ~~Verse two is the text.~~

We are talking to you this morning on the subject..."The End Of The Row."*and we are dedicating it to the sick who are listening in*

In the lesson read the scene that presented itself was this: Hezekiah was sick unto death. He was a very good man but good people get sick, for sickness is no respecter of persons. The name Hezekiah means Strong in the Lord. We all admire strength but the kind of strength that should be most sought after is to be "Strong in the Lord"...This is strength that may be had by even the weakest physically. Isaiah was the old mans pastor so to speak. On one of his pastoral calls he said to Hezekiah, "The lord says for you to put your house in order for you are going to die and not live."

If we were to describe the condition of this dear old sick man we would say that he had come to the end of his journey. But the truth is that he had just come to the end of the row. As we go on we will see that the end of the row does not mean death. People often say, "I am at my rows end". A good anxious mother said, to my wife and me, on one of our calls yesterday afternoon..."I am at my rows end." If that good woman is listening in to day we want to enjoy with her the fact that the end of the row is not the end of the journey. We pray this day that God through the doctors will restore good health to that splendid home.

There is an old ~~expression~~ expression like this "And he turned his face to the wall." We mean by that that the man died. This

expression is our text. Hezekiah was lying in the corner of his room and either way he turned he would face the wall. But instead of dying he prayed a prayer like this:

{ Oh Lord remember that I walked in truth...who of us can say that I walked with a perfect heart...that is so seldom practiced... I did that which was good in Thy sight...does a Christian beat that?

The Amen of his prayer was tears that ran down hot over his face

While he was praying Isaiah was walking out of the room. But before the Prophet reached the door God told him to go back. A good mans prayer was knocking at the doors of heaven. The tears of a good man were seen by the Heavenly Father. It is hard to measure the power of a prayer that ends with tears. God said to Isaiah that he could change his message to the praying saint. The message now from God was, "Thus saith the lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears and behold I will add to thy days fifteen years. He did not come to death but to the end of the row.

{ You people who know something of farming also know that when you come to the end of the row it does not mean that you have finished your crop. But you pause a moment and start working another row. You pause long enough to take a long breath. Some times you stop long enough to go get the water jug...notice I said water jug....from the shade of the bush and quench your thirst. Usually you look back down the row that you have just worked, to see if you have done a good job. If it does not look good you determine to make the next row better.

All this is very much like the end of the year. We pause, we refresh our spirits, we scan the year that has just passed to see how our work looks and if it does not look so good we resolve to do better. *Stupid people has chance to say "I am sorry" which ought to have been said months earlier -*

The end of the year is just a little interruption at which time we may meditate and plan. We should be grateful for some of the interruptions of life....

1. The night comes as one interruption. It comes some times between a day mispent and another day that will be well spent because of the meditations we made in the night time
2. The hills rest the eyes from the monotony of the level valley.
3. So with the new year, it lies between a year that may have been mispent and a new one that may be improved.

I do not want to leave you this morning without saying another thing or so about the row, because all of us are beginning that new row tomorrow.....

As you work the row your plow may run smoothly and do a good job. If that happens, most likely some one will commend you. I fear that we are just a bit stingy with our commendations of our friends in their successes.

On the other hand your plow may take the earth a while and then slide awhile....through the carelessness of the man at the handle. When that is the case the row will be spotted and will not make the yield that it should...the moral is that if we want to do a work next year that will meet God's approval a year from now we must be careful to do every day's work well.

To run a good furrow you will have to clean off your plow point at the end of the row.

1. Sometimes poisonous vines wrap around your plow.
2. Sometimes it is briars
3. At other times it is grass....

At the end of the row this year you may find that you have about your life vines of poisonous influence, briars of cutting words, or grass that was a hindrance to good work, ~~Whitman~~ Whatever the hindrance let us stop to day and clean it off that we may begin our new row tomorrow with a clean life that will work the row for the greatest yield in 1941.

To do well our task of spiritual production in 1941 we must have God with us and turn ourselves completely over to Him for His guidance.....WIL YOU DO THAT?

Let us pray....

Oh God our Father we thank Thee this day for this station over which we may talk to Thy children who are not able to attend services up at our churches...we thank Thee for all the blessings of the past year...We humbly ask Thee to bless the sick and all who are joining us this morning in this service and the people throughout the world. Help us all to be faithful servants of Thine Through 1941.....for we ask it in Thy name
AMEN.

