

Perils in path of high motives  
mat 21: 28-32

The beginning of the year marks  
a time when our resolutions run  
high - our intentions good - our  
purposes worthy -

In normal times our resolutions  
pertain to making new gains -

1. Physically (good body habits)
  2. Mentally (reads)
  3. Spiritually (acts)
- But now - added to those  
there are urgent calls for our  
nation -

Some of these urgent calls -

1. Conservation of what we have (add me longer)
2. The saving of what we earn (hands)
3. Developing the skills we possess.

Resolutions regarding such things as  
above should not be regarded lightly -

when we are gripped by some worthy  
purpose we find an elevation of  
our lives - Jesus used His life getting  
people to accept worthy purposes -  
He looked with favor on the Rich young  
Ruler not for his wealth but for his  
high intention -

It is good to have worthy motives  
and make resolutions - but there are  
perils in the way of high motives  
Jesus saw these perils - How pregnant the  
insight revealed in the sentence "He said  
'I go sir' and went not"

We hear a great cause discussed  
as a new year comes at us

hear such expressions as  
"Here am I send me" "I'll be there" "you  
can count on me" But have there not been  
times when it might have been said of us -  
"But he went not"

Plutarch tells how Socrates called Alcibiades to virtue. His call ~~so~~ ~~was~~ ~~an~~ ~~ever~~ ~~came~~  
Alcibiades that it drew tears from his eyes  
but flatterers would come to him and  
he would desert Socrates -

If tears have come to our eyes in the year  
of some bitter need - If our souls have  
been moved to high resolutions and  
yet we see those resolutions peter out  
it is not wisdom for us to consider the  
perils that lie in the path of worthy  
motives -

I. It is well to see that peril lies in be-  
lieving that a major conquest has  
been made when a purpose is ac-  
cepted -

you purpose to get an education - That  
does not get it

we have the motive and purpose  
for a great revival - That does not  
bring it - So there is a peril in  
resolving about a good thing and  
feeling that such fixes it. This is  
only prelude.

we purpose to have a crop but  
that means planting - cultivating  
and harvesting the crop -

II. There is a peril in failing to accept  
the fact that worthy purpose leaves  
a high cost for accomplishment

3 The book of Joshua records that period when children of Israel crossed Jordan to dwell in Canaan - Jericho fell - next Joshua's 30000 were routed by the Amorites - Battered they returned and Joshua said "would to God we had been content to dwell on the other side of Jordan" i.e. remained where we were - He had high motive but moved in without considering the cost -

Our freedom is bought with blood - we do not build a house without first counting the cost -

III. there is a peril in divorcing worthy purposes - from personal responsibility for their accomplishment (Church is all the Cross roads)

worthy Causes do not stand without some one taking the responsibility for maintaining them -

when a great Cause of Civilization draws in great masses of people it is hard for the individual to clearly define his responsibility -

An old story goes that in a rural sector a feast was held in the fall - each person was to bring a quart of wine - empty it in a common keg - when the priest went to draw out first it was only water - every one had thought well all the others will bring good wine so I will take water - all took water -

