

*Lamson*  
*Oct 15. AM. (50)*

## SAVING TENSION

I MUST WORK THE WORKS OF HIM THAT SENT ME WHILE IT IS  
YET DAY.....JOHN 9:4.

NOW IS MY SOUL TROUBLED...JOHN 12:27

BUT WHEN HE SAW THE MULTITUDES HE WAS MOVED WITH COM-  
PASSION ON THEM BECAUSE THEY FAINTED AND WERE SCATTERED  
ABROAD AS SHEEP HAVING NO SHEPHERD. MATT. 9:36

These are all pictures of a man in a state of disturbance.

- a. The pressure of a deadline. Jno. 9:4/
- b. An inward strain..Jno 12:27
- c. Upsetting sympathy...Matt. 9:36

The first is supposed to be a cure for procrastination  
In second a deep current is moving beneath the surface  
In third we see an outreaching love.

These portray an aspect of Jesus which is essential to a  
rounded picture of a complex personality. They reflect a  
state of tension which fits most of the definitions of  
that word. For example:

- a. The act of stretching
- b. Supressed emotionla excitement
- c. Strong intellectual effort

ALL ADDING UP TO A DISTURBED CHRIST. Some time ago we  
talked about the marks of a real church and one mark was  
a disturbed church. Do not disturb the baby he is a sleep  
would indicate that disturbance wakes people up who are  
sleeping. *"was with them that are at ease in sin" amos 6:1*

NOW, OF COURSE, THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE TO JESUS' LIFE  
THAT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN. IN IT WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING  
ELEMENTS:

- a. Confidence
- b. Serenity: *calmness*
- c. Trust

But without the DISTURBED CHRIST we serve up a half  
Christ.

*Nothing two men together at Blue Springs*

## #2. TENSION

This tension we are talking about is a saving tension, It is different from mere anxiety or confusion where we take the fidgets and have a nervous breakdown.

But in the matter of a saving tension..such as characterized Jesus...we never meet life without stretching out, becoming disturbed, and making an effort. Meeting a dead line, experiencing an inward strain, and developing a sympathy that sends us forth.

LISTEN FRIENDS...if this tension, this saving tension is taken out of life we are left limp. It is the main spring in your life. The main spring of a watch is in a tension..you say unloose it and let it go. If you do then you have left just a pile of junk. PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST OUT OF THEIR LIVES A LIVE ALERTNESS, A DEPERATE SENSE OF A DEAD LINE HAVE BECOME A WATCH WITHOUT A SPRING.

THEY SAY THAT ONE OF THE BEST SELLING NON FICTION BOOKS IS ONE ENTITLED "STOP WORRYING AND START LIVING." SOME TIMES WE FEEL THAT SOME ONE ELSE SHOULD WRITE ANOTHER BOOK ON "STOP LIVING AND START WORRYING"...WE HAVE TOO MUCH ROUTINE LIVING AND TOO LITTLE DEDICATED WORRYING OR WE MIGHT SAY SPIRITUAL DISTURBANCE.

I read of a man in a dentist's office. He had a little battle to work out, whther to look through a National Geographic Magizine dated 1935 or a Hrapers Bazaar. He took the latter. His eyes fell on a headline, ""Big News From Paris" He thought now that he would read all about the Unithd Nations etc. but it read like this, "Neck lines will be a little lower and skirts a little longer and fuller. Thre new perfumes have been created that will kill twnty yards away." Another two page add said, "You can now get the best in television" and gave the picture of two men trying to hit each other on the jaw.

The magic word now is RELAX. There will be 5000000 sleeping pills taken tonight in U.S.A. We are just about to rewrite the Bible so as to make it read, "If any man will come after me let him relax." "Go ye into all the world and reduce your blood pressure."

I heard of a minister who for years has been preaching on peace, poise, and power in perpetual possession.

#3.

Another preached on "Live a serene and successful life". That is very attractive but we might remember that Jesus lived a disturbed and unsuccessful life, in terms of the world, and died on a cross.

Two men, not long ago, stopped living in a fools paradise and began some dedicated worrying.

Fairfield Osborne wrote a book entitled "Our plundered Planet" and William Vogt wrote "Road to Survival". They were worrying over the depletion of the world's resources moving toward the inadequacy of feeding two billion people. They gave us a vision of S-Day..Starvation Day if we do not develop a new sense of stewardship. That is a saving tension to save us while it is yet day.

To bring it home to us in the present situation let us look at three areas where this tension is needed:

1. Between our actual and potential world. ( See page 26 Best Sermons)
2. Our achieved and possible self
3. Between the visible and invisible world

Mount Sinai illustration

*Shall we pray?*

*Our Father, we remember that early Christians were spoken of as people who turned the world up side down. Help us to have an inner disturbance that will not let us rest as long as sin is in and around us doing its dirty work. We pray in the name of Jesus.*

