

TOWERING O'ER THE WRECKS OF TIME

Good Friday

Communion

March 30, 1945

INTRO:

1. In a hymn familiar to all of us ---
the hymn-writer refers to the cross as

Towering O'er the wrecks of time...

The centuries have indeed seen
many individuals - groups -- nations
SEEKINGLY VESTED WITH TREMENDOUS POWER
rise --- only to fall.....

While a cross --- of a humble Galilean ---
lives on and grows ---
towering o'er the wrecks of time.

2. That cross has become the central symbol of our faith

~~----- STARS~~

And tonight on this Good Friday, we take just a
few moments of our busy lives -----

TO CONSIDER WHAT IT HAS TO SAY TO US -----

AND THEN TO PARTICIPATE IN AN AGE-OLD SERVICE,
THROUGH WHICH WE IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITH THAT COMPANY OF MEN
AND WOMEN WHO ACROSS THE YEARS -- have been followers of
a cross.

Tonight I should like to call attention
to four meanings of the cross: *by the cross we*
will mean to us in an hour

I.
It is a symbol of the heroic life and death of
Christ — at the center of Christianity.

He not only stood for ideals — he was ready to die for
them.....

He might conceivably have escaped — BUT HE SAW IT
THROUGH.

not my will but thine

We are so familiar with this story —

THAT PERHAPS WE SOMETIMES MISS ITS FORCE —

But on this Good Friday I wish we might ponder the
thought — THAT AS XIANS WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF ONE
WHO WAS WILLING TO GIVE HIS VERY LIFE FOR SOME IDEALS...

That is no ~~small~~ thing

TO BE A XIAN MEANS TO STAND FOR SOMETHING

THERE OUGHT TO BE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR IDEALS — is we're
Christian and if we're not.....

That is the first word of the cross to us.

Jesus Christ

II.

THE CROSS IS A REMINDER THAT

SUFFERING AND HARDSHIP ARE INEVITABLY A PART OF LIFE

Just why things should be as they are ---

may not be easy to understand ---

BUT THE FACT IS --- THAT SUFFERING IS A PART OF LIFE
CROSSES ARE A PART OF LIFE.....

It is Wholesome that a cross at center ---

--- not escape --- realistically..

Not embittered

OUR PRAYER IS NOT THAT ~~E~~ WE SHOULD BE SPARED ALL OF THEM

BUT THAT WE MIGHT HAVE THE STRENGTH AND THE WISDOM
To carry them --- in the spirit of Christ.

grow thru the

III.

3d meaning: A REMINDER OF A TRUTH — WE NEED TO REDISCOVER
THE TRUTH OF REDEMPITIVE suffering, and redemptive love

~~if we understand~~
let's put it this way —

Some of the best things which have come into our lives
have come through

sacrifices — suffering OF OTHER PERSONS.

Everyone of us stand in debt TO MANY PEOPLE —

for blessings which have come through their
courage — their self-giving.

The saviors of the world — are those who HAVE
SAVED OTHERS ** while unable to save themselves.....

53d chapter if Isaiah?

"he was wounded for our transgressions, he was
bruised for our iniquities — the chastisement of our peace
was upon him —

and with his stripes, we are healed,

—To understand the meaning of those words is to
vicarious suffering and redemptive love.
understand

When it comes to the human realm -- VALUES OF
THE INTANGIBLE SORT -----

it is amazing how little can be accomplished
by brute force -----

It's amazing how much IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE EXAMPLE
OF A GOOD LIFE -----

Lee Wallana - Ben Hur

----- As Christ has lifted many to nobler
heights -----

so many across the years..THE
SAVING REDEEMING INFLUENCES OF LIFE THAT HAVE GIVEN
OF SELF....

For the world is that?
~~who can~~

IV.

Finally —

the cross is a recognition of personal responsibility

"Whoever will come after me — let him deny himself — and take up his cross — and follow me..."

*just what this may come to you
may not know but it does
other ~~difficult~~ to most people*

Tradition has ascribed various words spoken from the cross —

TWO SEEM IN CONTRADICTION —

My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me..

Father into thy hands I commit my spirit..

BUT THEY REALLY GO TOGETHER:

out of the crosses of life — THE RESOURCES

John Masgfield: Religion the sense of being companioned still

CONCLUSION

Tonight the communion service....

*to what
we must
achieve*

Something so very human about this service
it's a human way -- of expressing our desire
to catch more of the spirit of Christ in our lives.

And as we partake the elements --OUR PRAYER IS THAT
THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST MIGHT BECOME A PART OF US.

Hymn 144