

"The Need of the Hour"

3

Scripture Lesson: - I Cor: 16: 13. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong."

Introduction: - Mr. Chairman, Pastor Stadler, ladies and gentlemen. It pleases me beyond words that I am privileged to be among this crowd of men tonight. I am glad the Pendleton church is having a Father and Son banquet, not because I happen to be the speaker, but because it is a thing every church of any consequence ought to do. Then, if I may, I wish to say that the man you have elected as chairman of your Brotherhood is my son-in-law. ~~He and my grandson, Steve, are two of the finest boys I know. I am glad you are putting William to work. Judging from his physical makeup he can stand plenty of work.~~

I.

I want to talk to you Fathers and Sons about some of the things that men and boys of a church ought to be vitally interested in. A church is to be praised for sponsoring a Father and Sons banquet. The men and boys that get together like you are here this evening, have quite a service rendered to them, an opportunity, a responsibility, that others do not have. You fathers, have the responsibility, of being the kind of fathers that you should be; the responsibility of being an ideal father. A boy does not naturally get to be greater than his father, unless he receives the kind of nurture and fellowship that only a true father can give his son. One little boy, who was receiving the right kind of fellowship, was asked, "Who do you think is the greatest man in the world"? His answer was, "my daddy". Why should he think otherwise? Why should he not think so all of his life?

A father must take time to go with his boy to enjoy some of the outdoor sports a boy instinctively likes. He must take time to go fishing, hunting, play ball, and all games of sport. I have a son, now grown to manhood, and some of the things I

enjoy is to look backward and see some of the most interesting, most pleasing, most rewarding experiences that grew out of our hunting and fishing trips. But many sons hardly know their dads. He, the dad, comes in late and leaves early so that the only knowledge the boy has of him is what his mother has told him.

II.

In the language of my text, "Quit you like men, be strong", is a fine text for a group of Christian men like those who are here tonight. The world of our day needs Christian men, men of strength, moral strength, men of courage and heroism, who are not afraid to cry out against the sins of the day and stand for Christianity. Christianity requires backbone; it is not effeminate; it is a challenge to strong manhood. No wonder Paul long ago said, "quit ye like men, be strong".

The world today is filled with perplexing problems. The nations of the world are wrestling with staggering problems of war that might end our civilization. Education is baffled with the lack of authority and with low morals. Communism is planning for the destruction of the established order of things. The threat of war keeps people jittery with fear and uncertain forebodings. There never was so much crime in America, yea, crime is on the march in America. Day after day, year after year, the tide of criminality continues to rise. The appalling increase of crime and sexual vice and dishonesty among youth, the youth of our land should arouse the Christian men of our land to action. The United States senate has appointed a subcommittee to study the problems of juvenile delinquency, which they say, is mounting at a disgraceful rate. In the second report which the committee brought in they said, that they conducted a 16-month study of juvenile crime in 1953-54. It said that national defenses against delinquency were "weak", "inadequate" and "even totally lacking" to some degree in "every community. The report was filled with lurid tales of youthful crimes, "goof ball parties" and sex orgies, ~~orgies~~, drinking, drug addictions and other ju-

venile wrongdoing.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover has given much time to the study of this problem. He says that 85% of the crime today is committed by youth under 18 years of age. Roger Babson says that we are in more danger of being overcome from within by our youth, that without from communism. Crime in 1954 surpassed the shocking records of 1953. A serious offense is committed every 18 seconds. Every day we see in the news papers records of the terrible crimes committed by the youth of our land, youth still in their teens. A lad of 18 years set fire to an apartment which resulted in the loss of eight lives and the serious injury of more than a score of people. A sixteen year old boy killed his father with one shot from a rifle, because he had been after him for staying out late at night. In Brazil, Indiana four boys, 16 and 17 years of age were sentenced yesterday for their crimes. Three other boys, one of them the judges boy, I am told, are also in trouble. In N. Y., Los Angeles, organized bands of criminals are attacking men and women in their attempts to seize money. We could go on with the description of the crimes, but this would be to no avail. Youth is one of our most precious possessions. Can we do something about the trouble they are in, to save them from destruction? Do you know where the trouble is? Do you know who is to blame?

III.

Statistics tell us that we have 25 million youth in America without any religious training whatever. Whose fault is it? Are the young people to BLAME? Millions of parents are utterly indifferent to the religious training of their children. Godlessness among 25 million youth furnishes a fertile seed bed for crime and communism that would destroy the democratic way of life.

Some parents say, "I will let my children grow up and then let them make their own decisions in religious matters?" Who will help them make the decisions while they are growing up? It may be too late when they grow up to make the right decisions. Parents do not hesitate to talk to their children of politics and other matters, why about religion

The story of Nancy.

J. Edgar Hoover says that the criminal flood is the result of our failure to teach God to our children and the one sure way to stem the tide is a return to religion. Juvenile delinquency is always rooted in adult delinquency, and only through the general acceptance of higher moral values can we solve the problem entirely. "The easiest way to bring this about, is through a return to religion. For several decades the general trend has been away from the age-old belief that man is God-centered and responsible for his thoughts and behavior to a Higher power as well as to his fellow man. The resultant materialism has emphasized the values of expediency, shirking responsibility, and selfishness. If all Americans would join the back to God movement and train their children to respect the Ten Commandments and other moral laws laid down by all great religious leaders, we would soon have an end of this juvenile delinquency."

A juvenile judge had the following experience. Over a period of 8 years he had some 8000 boys and girls under 17 years of age brought before him for violating the law. Of the 8000 only 42 attended S. S. and church. More striking of his finding is the fact that none of these children had a father or a mother who went to church or Sunday school. It looks like we need to begin with the parents.

We have become proficient in big business and in splitting the atom in the laboratory. We snatch voices and pictures from the air; we have lengthened the life of man through medical skill; we have relieved modern life of much of the hardship by the many devices we have invented; we have spanned the oceans in a few hours, but with all of this advancement we have neglected the biggest business of bearing our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Without God we are headed for increasing confusion and distress. It is high time that we turn back to God before our nation goes down in defeat like the nations of the past. Let us quit ourselves like men. Let us give ourselves anew to bringing Christ to our homes and to our nation.

Livingstone story.