

"Youth Fellowship Day"

N. Union
1/31/54
A. M.

Scripture Lesson: -

Text: - "Let no man despise thy youth."

Introduction: - This is youth fellowship day. It is important that the youth of our churches are considered important enough to merit special consideration consideration by the churches. The youth are considered important because they are the church of tomorrow. Youth week calls attention to young people and their place in the church. I might say right here that I think we have a fine group of young people and I pray that God's blessing may be upon every one.

The opportunities and responsibilities of youth are so great today that I want each one to dedicate his or her life to Christ & that Christ may give you power to meet these opportunities & responsibilities.

Young people are important to us who are older, because they are young and because they are people. Youth is a period of growth that needs tactful & wise guidance. Decisions and choices made during this period of life affect all the future years of life. Youth is a time of planning and dreaming and looking toward the future. They do not know the way to choose. They intend to go the right way & then may choose to go the wrong way. They need divine guidance in this wicked world with all of its perplexities and problems.

Jesus lifted up his eyes and saw a needy multitude about him, dissatisfied and hungry. One of his disciples, Andrew, went about and through the crowd and found a lad, a lad who needed to be brought to Jesus. This lad was an ordinary young person. Andrew found a young lad and the Lord worked a miracle. The Lord Jesus needs youth today for his work. Those who are older cannot do it all. Look around you and you will see that they are waiting to be discovered and used to bless and brighten a world. They are waiting for the church to teach them and lead

lead them in the right direction. They all have hopes and dreams of youth; they all have hopes and dreams and faith in the future and it is with a contagious enthusiasm that they manifest this. That is what I like about about enthusiasm. They are ready to be led whither? The church wants youth to take the upward path and will endeavor to lead them into it.

The Master believed in ammediate action, he used words such as these: "Straightway", "Quickly", "Forthwith", "Today". Andrew found the lad "quickly", or he might have been lost in the crowd.

I.

One of the great evils of the land that is destroying the lives of a great many people is intemperance. The liquor traffic is bidding for the souls of youth. The battle against this evil must be relentless and unceasing. This evil is responsible for more wasted lives and the increase in crime than anything else. Teen-agers play a very great part in the relentless struggle. A professor of Yale University says, "We have seven million alcoholics in the U. S. Four million are confirmed alcoholics. One million in the last stages. Three million excessive drinkers and the problem drinkers who under stress drink excessively.

We are spending in the U. S. about 20½ times as much for liquor as we are spending for our entire school system. The very fact that 40,000 people become alcoholics each year should make us take this menace seriously. Dr. A. C. Ivey of the U. of I. says the problems of drinking of alcohol are becoming worse. More people are injured by drunken drivers than ever before. More teen-agers are being arrested for drunken driving than ever before. More men and women than at any time during the past 20 years. The consumption of liquor has more than doubled since 1934. The highway toll of all causes was nearly 2 million injured. In 1951 37, 700 were killed.

The ads on radio, television and magazines try to make youth and every one believe that beer belongs in the home. No liquor as tells you

that one out of ten who drinks moderately will become a heavy-drinker. One in 15 will become alcoholics. Fortune magazine in a report on its poll of youth said that 25% of high school students, boys drink and that 10% of the girls drink. Strongest in condemning liquor were the usual boys and girls who go to church regularly. In the state of Mass. 16,000 young people were arrested for drunkenness in one calendar year. Drink is not a food or a medicine so it cannot do you any good.

II.

Another ism that you need to be against is what is called communism. Communism is on the march today. Every where we hear the tread of its armed feet and everyone wonders what lies ahead. Communism is a fanatical religion that has declared war upon the Christian God. Almost all the ministers of the gospel and students of the Bible agree that it is master-minded by Satan, who is trying to counterfeit Christianity. Shun it; denounce it. Believe that the Christian religion, with Jesus Christ at the head, is adequate for you and your fellow men.

Conclusion:- In a wilderness cabin, in pioneer days, a mother called to her death-bed an awkward, lanky lad to sit beside her. She said, "Abe, be somebody". This boy who had lived in poverty remembered these words. They were stamped on his heart and life as he climbed upward to success. You owe it, not only to yourself, but you owe it to the world to be somebody.

A life, anchored in the will of God, can be your life. Jesus never came into the world to establish a religion, but he came to reveal the way of life. He said, "I am the way, the truth, the life". If you want to be a happy, successful Christian, accept the Savior as your guide, and go his way.