

SUNDAY.

FOXWARREN JUNE 19TH 1966

Call to worship

Holy Holy Holy.

Invocation prayer.

N. Testament; Math. 22:15-21 }
25: 14-29 }

Psalm Reading.

Children's story

Prayer and Lords Prayer.

~~Hymn~~
Choir

378

Announcements

Congregational singing.

Hymn....45

Prayers of Confession, ⁷⁷¹ Petition,
Offering....Dedication.

Hymn....252.

Prayers of intercession and Thanks

O.T. Psalm 9:7-20 & NT. Math.
25:14-29

Sermon.

Hymn.....261

Benediction.

1. *Maiten 22 - 15-21*
25 - 14-29

Could we look at Canada as a Nation for a few minutes this morning.

We hear much about our centenary celebrations. We are being told ~~much~~ much about the way in which we should celebrate. Of huge sums of money veing spent for projects that to many taxpayers seem the height of absurdity. In fact the inuendo is the therethat you are not a loyal citizen if you do not support some public ~~se~~ scheme or other as a centennial ~~proje~~ project. In fact you are a sub-standard citizen if you dare to criticize some of these projects , bizzare as they may seem.

Out of all the welter of ideas.. spending of huge sums of money. Taxpe payers money, solicited or just ~~strai~~ straight tax. Little effort as to ~~the~~ what we are as a nation.

As heterogenous a conglomeration of people as any where in the world.
No matter what nationalities
we are composed of, no
matter what part of the
world we come from

2.

Each and everyone of us have this in common. Enough to eat each day, and a shelter for each night, enough to decently clothe ourselves. That is our physical bond of brotherhood.

The fact that each of us should consider our neighbor as a neighbor in the fullest sense of the word. Allow him freedom of worship, of speech and political affiliations. Of assembly, That should provide a basis of spiritual brotherhood.

Two main cornerstones of any enduring nation.

Vision and the opportunity to build a nation by industry, honesty and hard work. Two more cornerstones and not the least essential.

The greatest asset of a nation is the vision of her people for without it they perish. Vision of the kind that builds a nation, does not come from the lure of high profit. It comes from the unselfish giving of a portion of one's time and effort in the building of our communities, help where needed to

our neighbor so that the spot which we occupy in our community is the better for us having lived there.

To achieve that vision or that goal requires every bit of brain work we possess. Sure it may be computerized as to final result but it still requires human effort and human contact. **In short it requires all the talents we possess.**

Just a few days ago a chap I met remarked, " Did it ever strike you that at no time in the history of Man's developement had he had such opportunity to use his brains and at the same time making such little use of them. He can produce every mortal thing he needs for a good life but **neglects to think out some manner in which all may share or how they may be distributed to others in need.**

It was hard to get up a rebuttal to that statement. It appears that that is just what we are doing. If our minister gives us a sermon that makes us thoroughly uncomfortable, **hits us where we live, lights a fire under us,** then we complain "Why

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doesnt he stick to his knitting !
We know we have these faults, why is
he always nagging at us, pointing the
them out and holding us up as terrible
examples."

Well what if he does once in a
while ? We are supposed to be think-
ing sentient beings, adults, not
children. Christian honesty is
supposed to be ours. A terse
interpretation of honesty is that it
starts at home with me. It is to me
as a person that the Lord gives his t
talents. It is up to me, as an indivi
dual to see what use I can make of
that with which I am entrusted.

It is not up to my neighbor to
tell me how I should do it. He is
having a busy enough time with his own
own talents. God gives me free
choice. Say to me here is what I
endow you with for a little while.
Look after it for me till I return.

As with the individual so with
the home, so with the community, the
province, the nation. The individ-
ual is the basis of all Nationhood.

If the individual refuses to think, to use his brains to further his talents he is just like the Steward who dug a hole in the ground and buried his Masters gift. So eventually will his community and nation.

The man with five talents had not an easy time of it. He knew that he would doubtless make mistakes. He was already at the top and it would be an intense struggle to stay there.

He would have to use every ounce of energy and thought to add five talents to what he already was entrusted with. He succeeded and had his reward.

The man with two talents had two choices. He could go up or down. He too, chose to struggle and go on and he was as hard as any other contestant. He was the middle-class man. He had received his portion according to his ability, made use of it and grew and his reward was as great as the other.

The man with the one talent had only one way to go and that was up. He chose to stand still,

neither attempting the slope nor crossing the stream. His reward, the condemnation he received.

The lord of the parable knew all these men. Their weaknesses and strength. In the story Jesus told they received free choice.

Do we as a Nation stand in any relation to the story of the stewards in the parable? That is the question we should be asking as we approach Canada's centenary.

We are freely rendering to Caesar that which is Ceasars. Somewhere along the road we have forgotten God.

A Nation does not live by force of arms. She may exist for a term but not live. She is really not alive unless she is spiritually strong. There are insidious forces at work in every nation that in the end-if we follow all history- will bring ruin. A spiritual and counteracting force is necessary as well.

After a hundred years of developeme
 as a nation do we still have the
 spiritual force and power of our
 forefathers ? Or do we stand
 dumbly around, yes men to dark forces
 around us ? It would seem that that
 is what a nation should be judged by,
 Not the size of armies roads , buildi
 ings, churches, banks, or bridges.
 Her mines or her forests or farms,
 potential wealth though they be.
 and of great substance.

It is the things we render to God
 as a nation that counts, not what we
 have done for ourselves. It is the
 use we have made of those talents
 entrusted to us that we shall be jjudg
 judged by.

There are literally millions of
 people watching this Canada of ours.
 A country of tremendous potential
 material wealth. We can show all that
 at a centennial exposition .What
 can we show of those talents entrusted
 to us ? Can we say spiritually,
 here Lord are thy five talents and
 other five. Or shall we say Here
 Lord is Thy one talent. I was
 fearful of being laughed at if I did
 anything with it, so I did not use

Final.

Our Father in Heaven
let us ever remember that
thou great talents to
use to thy glory Amen.

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it . I set it aside so that I
could return it to you unharmed.
In other words are we afraid to step
out in the dark as a Nation and
with our hand in Gods Hand try to
build our part of this world as he
has entrusted to us. Or do we want
to play it safe and sure that
God's one talent will be returned to
him intact and unenhanced by any effort
of ours ?

It is for each of us to choose
~~XXX~~ as individuals what use we make
of our talents in developing Canada
as a nation under God, not Ceasar.

Not the towers reaching skyward ,
With their costly gilded domes,
Not the roaring highway traffic,
Not the rich and costly homes.

But the spirit of the people
And the talents they possess,
Controlled by minds alert, scorn-
ful of duress

These will build a Nation from
ev'ry upturned sod,
For in the light of darkness,
They look upward unto God.

Prayer