

Matthew 5: 13-16

Sermon for Baccalaureate Service

Southern Methodist University

May 13, 2005

- 1 Thank you – for most / Benevolent words – Introduction. Whenever given ^{rec'd}
 2 kindly expressions -- in order I don't become too cogent – accuracy. Recall
 3 my early days – Bishop of Nebraska...
- 4 When one Sunday morning – in route to preach Centennial celebration of
 5 one congregations in conference. Left home Sun. morning ~~what thought~~
 6 plenty of time – heading Western part State – landscape becomes quite
 7 Agrarian and void of familiar Markers – for someone spent most life in
 8 Urban settings.
- 9 Realized – as hour grew closer to my 11:00 time of worship – ~~While~~ in the
 10 vicinity needed be - Still no Methodist Church in sight - I knew was - lost.
 11 Becoming ever concerned – as to not be tardy I saw - a one - pump gas
 12 station – that had
- 13 All the looks of scene – out Mayberry. Drove onto lot – rushed inside - ^{grows}
 14 there two men sitting at table playing checkers. "Excuse me" – I said –
 15 "I'm looking for the Methodist Church here in town. Need to be there – for
 16 11:00 worship..."
- 17 Can you direct me?" "Sure" – "you're not that far from it," One said. After
 18 pointing out the two roads – needed take & turns needed make. Thanked
 19 them... for help.

- 1 - Nearly out door. When one said - "Listen fellar - don't you go to worrying
 2 - if don't make that on time - won't - miss much - just some old bishop
 3 - going preach there today."
- 4 - It's experiences such that - keep checks & balances to those very
 5 - wonderful words of kindness - although I do appreciate them. *Thank you much.*
- 6 - Allow me this evening to - bring you Greetings & Congratulations - from the
 7 - Dallas Area of U.M.C. In few hours many you will graduate - from what
 8 - you have discovered ^{from} @ SMU - one of the finest ^{world class} academic institutions
 9 - anywhere. *World.*
- 10 - And your parents / spouses - has equally made - discovery - of SMU Ant'
 11 - cheap! Tomorrow that's why Parents celebrating. / Because - of the DNA of
 12 - Southern Methodist Univ. ^{Center} there from its inception / & affirmed throughout
 13 - its history.
- Assoc This place*
- 14 - It is expectation of generous sacrifice of / many-persons - some living-
 15 - others now part of that great cloud of witnesses / that in addition to you
 16 - having received - a premier education earned here. - By - your sacrifice-
 17 - sweat / prayer / time &
- has*
- 18 - Hard work / to mention few. It is the hope - you have you also have been
 19 - challenged here - to begin a journey discovering your calling as well. And
 20 - you thought Calling was something that ministers have.
- 21 - I like how the Protestant theologian - one of my favorite authors Frederick
 22 - Buechner defines calling. He says it - " is the place where God calls you to
 23 - where ^{your} deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." *Wow - Calling*
- 24 - A calling - 'Its moment - where our joy & the awareness we not here for
 25 - ourselves only meet.' When those two intersect - you have a calling.

- 1 - Calling not a job - profession - Its not what we do for a living - its how we
- 2 - live our very lives - its discovering who you were meant to be. On
- 3 - whatever - your chosen path. Calling is at the core - of knowing our
- 4 - sacred worth and the sanctity of others as well. *That is some hope* ~~the~~
- 5 - I would invite all us ^{to} keep close some evidence - that we are following our
- 6 - God given call/on - whatever paths we pursue. Realizing that place -and it
- 7 - may not be geographical at all - where our joy & the awareness we not
- 8 - here for ourselves only meet.
- 9 - It is hoped - that you have - *Journey these years* Discovering Call - to choose any path that will
- 10 - bless all of life. Including God's less privileged children. And to offer some
- 11 - expression proof - if need to.
- 12 - ~~Couple months ago~~ *##* My spouse and I boarded flight here- to Atlanta. As
- 13 - our Group # was called - we handed the ticket agent the coupon - she tore
- 14 - in half & gave us back the stub that potion that informs you - seat
- 15 - assignment.
- 16 - Now I never look at that - except to glance for my seat number. Once we
- 17 - seated - for the 1st time - I flipped the stub over - and read that one
- 18 - sentence printed there. It said..! * I placed that in my pocket sort of
- 19 - Holy Grail. *Removing*
- 20 - Wife said why you doing that? I need to keep it - this seemingly
- 21 - inconsequential piece of paper can prove -- I've been on a journey. Is says..
- 22 - Has anyone ever.....Well no - But it did make me conscious - this stub / if
- 23 - need be / could evidence I've been on a journey.
- 24 - What proof can you offer - this evening - if need ~~be~~ - you have been on a
- 25 - journey discovering your calling? Here? *Special News* One piece of evidence you might *Suggest*
- 26 - need would be a stub of commitment - As confirmation - that you have
- 27 - been on journey. Here.

1 In a recent address - Rabbi Richard Jacobs gave - he shared with us from
 2 Robert D. Putnam provocative article 'Bowling Together'. In which Putnam
 3 said, "The closing decades of the 20th Century found Americans growing
 4 ever

5 Less connected with one another & with collective life. We voted less /
 6 gave less / trusted less / invested less time in public affairs & engaged less
 7 with our friends / our neighbors & even our families."

8 I suspect some have misplaced their stubb - of commitment to their falling.
 9 Calling you see - is the way we choose to live. In community. Living to
 10 make a difference. It's about not losing sight of the sacred even in the
 11 midst of being swamped with our every day lives. *God*
life wife
Challenges - spread bumps / sth backs
P. Cappone

12 I would encourage you this evening - Keep your stub close to you - you
 13 never know when it will be needed - to show others & remind - you / you
 14 are called. Calling - has less to do with - whether we are at Church on
 15 Sun. Or the Temple on Fri. Or the Mosque on Sat.

16 Calling
 16 It has lots to do with - the level of compassion and integrity we conduct
 17 our lives. If you want really know about a person's religion do business
 18 with them. You'll find out more that way - than anything else.

19 Keep your stub handy - It will remind you what kind of world you are will
 20 committing to. Halford Luccock - Former Professor Homiletics / Yale told
 21 the story...

22 Calling
 22 What kind of world will your stub committed to: If you want world that's so
 23 lighted - that bigotry and ignorance can't stand it. And a world that so
 24 hopeful that despair would have an impossible change to take hold.

25 And a world that so intentional about - recognizing the worth of all - that
 26 ism can't maneuver in it.

1 Then know - tonight - that Lighted worlds always cost more. More of
2 your time / sacrifice / patience / generosity.

3 Jesus of Nazareth.....
calling

4 Keep your stub.....You have a calling.

*It would cost
go out do
much nothing
automatically*