

with unlimited possibilities. Statistics show that most of the church people are prosperous, and most of the poor people are outside the church."

Notice what he says. They are not outside the church because they are poor. They are poor because they are outside the church. They seemingly do not know enough to come in to the church and be taught how to live properly and prosperously in this present world."

Some years ago, after a sermon I had preached on the practicableness of religion in business life, a little concern on two legs came up to me and said, "Your sermon sounded very well, but as a business man I know it is impossible to succeed in business on Christian principles." I watched that man's career. I wanted to see how a man could succeed on devil principles. That man failed once, failed twice. Became bankrupt in morals as well as in money. He got to a place in business where he could not get credit for a towel to wipe his dirty hands with.

There is a passage in the book of Job that describes these sharp little fellows who think they can outwit Almighty God. "He hath swallowed down riches, and he shall vomit them up again." When God gives one of these little fellows an emetic and it begins to operate, they disgorge their ill-gotten gains with violence. After the emetic has done its work their dishonestly gotten wealth does not look quite so attractive.

If you study the career of men who have climbed high and stood long, you will find they put conscience into their business. Their house stands because it was founded on a rock.

Jesus believed in the conquering might of Truth and Goodness in this world. When an unprincipled Caiaphas ruled the church, when a lustful Herod ruled the state, when a time-serving Pilate sat on the bench, when a conscienceless Caesar sat on the throne, when wrong and rapine were everywhere dominant, Jesus said, "The meek shall inherit the earth." His words were pushed aside with contempt. They were regarded as the Utopian dream of a visionary enthusiast. Jesus said it, and the world derided it, when they nailed Him—the meekest of the meek—on a cross of shame. Meekness, gentleness, goodness, instead of leading to a throne of power, led to a cross of shame. What sarcasm it would have been for some one that day to write over that cross: "The meek shall inherit the earth."

But look ahead and tell me what the long stretches of human history say. They say what Jesus said, the meek, the just, the righteous, the humane, inherit the earth and rule it. Although in the courses of human history we have seen Fraud dominant in the senate and Tyranny triumphant on the throne, have seen Truth on the scaffold and Justice in chains, yet we have also seen what James Russell Lowell saw and said:

"Though the cause of Error prosper, yet 'tis Truth alone  
is strong.  
And although she wanders outcast now, yet I see around  
her throng  
Troops of beautiful tall angels, to enshield her from all  
wrong.  
Careless seems the Great Avenger, History's pages but  
record  
One death struggle in the darkness, 'twixt old systems  
and that Word.  
Truth forever on the scaffold, Wrong forever on the  
throne.  
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim  
unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadow keeping watch above  
His own."

Thank you, good poet of God, for putting the truth so beautifully clear and strong before us. The Cross on which the Prince of Glory died outshines the golden throne on which the Roman Caesar reigned. The empire of Jesus extends immeasurably farther than Roman eagles ever flew in all their proudest flight. The day of the Pharaohs and the

Napoleons, the day of the Caesars and the Kaisers—they are all of the same breed—their day is gone, and men more and more are seeing that the regnant forces that inherit and rule in God's universe are the principles that Jesus taught by the seaside and on the hillsides of Palestine twenty centuries ago. He who builds his life and business on these principles builds on rock. All other ground is sinking sand.

Young man! If you want to stand among the great men of the world, do this: link your life with the great Christ who said, "If any man serve Me, him will My Father honor." That is as true as when Jesus first spoke to a group of young men who stood around Him in the days of His Galilean ministry. Norman McLeod packed a great gospel sermon in a few lines which I love to repeat:

"Courage, brother! Do not stumble,  
Though thy path be dark as night,  
There's a star to guide the humble,  
Trust in God and do the right.  
"Perish policy and cunning,  
Perish all that fears the light,  
Whether winning, whether losing,  
Trust in God and do the right.  
"Some will hate thee, some will love thee,  
Some will flatter, some will slight,  
Cease from man and look above thee,  
Trust in God and do the right."

If you want confirmation of the truth that God will honor those who trust Him and do the right, look over the pages of business and political life. You will admit that Gladstone was successful in this present world. He sat in the highest places of honor in the greatest nation of the world. Through all the mutations of a long political career he wore the white flower of a blameless life. How did he attain and maintain that splendid eminence? His political rival in the House of Commons, Lord Salisbury, gave the right answer to that question when he said of him, "He was a great Christian!" In his young manhood Gladstone resolved to follow the Sermon on the Mount in politics as well as in business. By that course he came to highest honors in life, and dying left a light and landmark on the hills of fame to guide others up to God and the glory.

You admit that Abraham Lincoln was a successful man in this world. From lowest levels of birth and environment he rose to the highest seat of honor his nation could give him. And the star of his fame brightens with every decade. Why did he rise? "The meek shall inherit the earth." Genuine sincerity, kind-hearted humanity, crystalline honesty, unswerving rectitude, characterized his entire career. He was the incarnation of conscience. He walked in the path of righteousness and in that path came to enduring fame and helped us understand what Jesus meant when He said, "The meek shall inherit the earth."

I give you one more illustration. I will take it from the political world. I will go back the stream of human history to a far away age and nation. I will go back to the land of the Nile and the Pyramid. I will select one of great personalities of history. As a young man he followed Conscience, was loyal to Duty, and kept faith with God. At first it seemed a losing game. Everything seemed against him. He was compelled to leave king and court and as a penniless exile make his way into the solitudes of Midian, where for forty years he lived the life of a common cowboy. But he would not barter his soul for gold, nor palter with eternal God for power. Did he have his reward? Were his expectations cut off? "The righteous shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall grow stronger and stronger." Did he find that word of God true? After forty years' solitude God called him, and made him the Leader and Lawgiver of a nation, so that to this day he is an example and model to nation builders. He was honored in life. He was honored in death. "Had he not high honor, the hillside for a pall,  
To lie in state, while angels wait, with stars for tapers tall,  
And the dark rock pines like tossing plumes, over his grave  
to wave,  
And God's own hand in that lonely land, to lay him in the  
grave."

Honored in life, honored in death, honored in heaven, for the song the redeemed sing about the throne is the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Young men and women, I counsel you to be ambitious. Seek the highest and best things God can give you. Covet earnestly the best gifts. Be ambitious for eternity as well as for time. Rest not content with the fading laurels of earth, but by the grace of Christ seek the crown that fadeth not away forever. Do not rest content with your name inscribed on earth's honor scrolls of fame, but see to it that it is written in the Book of Life.

"To every man there openeth  
A way, and ways and a way,