

FIVE MINUTE SERMON

BY REV. WILLIAM DEMOUY, D. D.

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

OUR BLESSINGS NOT APPRECIATED

"At that time Jesus said to His disciples, Blessed are the eyes that see the things which you see." (Luke x. 23.)

How little we appreciate some of our greatest blessings, and in what high esteem we hold some of our minor ones! It is only too true that the greatest blessing we possess is generally the one we value least. The benefits flowing from it into our lives are accepted as a matter of course, and we never stop to think how helpless we would be without them. If these benefits affect the sensual part of man, he is more alive to them; but if they are destined to ennoble his higher nature, it is rare that he displays even ordinary interest in them.

The reason for all this is to be found in the very nature of man. Since the fall of our first parents, there ever has been a conflict between our higher and lower natures. The inferior part of man suffered the most from God's curse upon human nature; and as a consequence, it endeavors to bear man downward and offers him keen pleasure as he descends. This pleasure—sensual as it is—has great power to sway the whole man its way. Once he has tasted of it, he becomes weaker, and his higher nature must combat its effects harder than ever. Few there are, however, who do not feel an acute sting after having, even but once, allowed it to hold sway within them. Man, naturally weak in his nature, borne toward the sensual, and weakened still more because of his yielding to the dictates of his defective nature, feels drawn toward what brings him satisfaction in this respect. Hence, even the legitimate satisfactions of this nature, which are certainly blessings to man—though not really great ones—are indulged in by him with the keenest of pleasure.

But as mentioned there is the higher nature of man—the nature whereby he is truly like to God. This higher nature is immeasurably superior to this other nature, and it can be, and should be, perfected daily, so that it approaches nearer to the perfection God intends it to have, and, while so doing, overcomes the lower nature. This, however, is accomplished only by great labor, and no keen, sensual enjoyment is experienced in the work. There is an inward peace that comes to those who earnestly strive after this perfection. This peace, however, does not satisfy the cravings of a corrupt nature, and he who fails to conquer these cravings, as he should, will not even enjoy this peace. To strive after the one and at the same time gratify the other, is to spoil every chance of becoming a perfect man, as long as such a condition continues. Hence, to gain this inward peace a fight must be carried on against these evil cravings of our lower nature; and a keener, though baser enjoyment must be sacrificed for the sake of the higher, though infinitely higher, pleasure.

But, alas, very few make this sacrifice. In fact, the majority cast aside the higher pleasure for the sake of the lower gratification. God urges man to the higher, and gives him the means of attaining it, but man appreciates this blessing only slightly. The truth of this statement is evident to all. Were it not so, man would pay more attention to the blessings that God bestows upon him, and have less regard for the little pleasures that for the world and the gratification of his bodily desires afford him—especially because man knows that indulgence in these worldly enjoyments conflicts with the perfection that God's blessings would bring him.

Even those who strive more or less seriously to perfect themselves are not fully conscious and sufficiently appreciative of God's present blessings to them. "Blessed are the eyes that see the things which you see." They see more than did any one before the coming of Christ—even more than did those who lived during the mortal lifetime of Christ. But in order to see, the eyes must pierce the darkness of this world and, by the light of faith, behold the wonders that God provides for them: In His Church Christ dwells forever, bodily, though invisibly; He may be received into the bosoms of the faithful and become their spiritual food and nourishment. There exists a sacramental system through which grace without limit may be dispensed to the faithful. Men endowed with solid piety and profound learning are called to the vineyard to work for the spiritual advancement of the faithful and for the corrections of the sinner. When could one ever enumerate all the blessings that God has given man "to see" and to receive, so as to perfect himself and become truly godlike? How sad to think that we do not see sufficiently well these great favors that God provides for us!

TEACH CHRISTIAN IDEALS

George Washington in his farewell address emphasized to the people he loved that religion and morality are indispensable to political prosperity. The Catholic Church stands, day in and day out, for the type of citizenship that George

Washington described. We believe that our children should be taught, in the formative period, the morality and the religion of which Washington spoke. They cannot be separated. The average age of the criminals—desperate criminals—who appear before the bar of justice in the criminal courts of New York City is seventeen to eighteen years old. They have stood before me there, hundreds of them, boys in age but criminals in heart.

There is something wrong, there is something rotten in this country of ours when such a situation obtains. Can it be that we have lost our grip on our boys and girls? Are we rearing them with no sense of authority?

The only thing that can reclaim the citizenship of this country is the ceaseless, fearless teaching of religion. Such a practice would bring back respect for law.—Judge Alfred J. Talley.

THE VALUE OF QUALITY

Quality is the standard by which things are judged. The delicious flavor (which means "Quality") that has always characterized Salada has won for it the favor of millions of discriminating tea drinkers. The standard always adhered to has been the keynote of Salada success, and rather than lower it, the Salada Tea Company would close its doors. You would appreciate the unvarying "Quality" of Salada. Your own Grocer can supply you with this delicious tea. Ask for it today.

NAZARETH

The beauty of the earthly paradise, which God planted with His own hand, and whither He came at the hour of the evening breeze to converse with His unfallen creatures, was a poor shadow of the loveliness of the Holy House during eighteen years of the Hidden Life. We cannot guess at all the mysteries which were enacted within that celestial cloister. The words were few, yet in eighteen years they were what we in our human way should call countless. The very silence even was a fountain of grace. There were tens of thousands of beautiful actions, each one of which had such infinite worth that it might have redeemed the world. During those eighteen years an immeasurable universe was glorifying God all day and night. The beauty of the trackless heavens swayed by their majestic laws, vast unpeopled orbs with their processes of inanimate matter or their seemingly interminable epochs of irrational life, earth with all its inhabitants, the worshippers of the true God amid whatever darkness in all its regions—all were swelling, as in one concourse of creation, the glory of the Most High. The wide creation of angels, above all, peopling the immeasurable capacities of space, sent up to God evermore, the God Whom they beheld clearly with the eyes of their intelligence, a worship of the most exquisite perfection. But the entire creation was as nothing to the Holy House of Nazareth. One hour of that life outweighed ages of all the rest, and not only outweighed it on a comparison, but outweighed it by a simple infinity. —Fether Faber.

FAITH IS A GIFT

Faith is a gift that may be lost by negligence. It is a habit infused with sanctifying grace at baptism, and it may be lost with the loss of sanctifying grace. However, the ordinary mortal sin does not destroy the habit of faith; but a mortal sin against the faith itself destroys it root and branch.

The truth of that principle is brought home to us by daily experience. An observant man, who was at the same time chaplain of a hospital and a penitentiary, once remarked that he saw more Catholics refuse the ministrations of a priest in the hospital than he ever did in the prison. The prisoners may have done many vile things; they may have been guilty of theft or impurity or murder or intoxication; but as they never denied that they were Catholics, they never committed a mortal sin against the Catholic faith. And so when the end came, they had faith enough left to call for the priest and receive the last sacraments.

On the other hand, the Catholics or should-be Catholics who died at the hospital without the last sacraments, had formally or practically denied the faith. They had accepted invitations to dinner or luncheon on Fridays or fast days. To prove their broadmindedness, they had eaten whatever was set before them including meat. They were Catholics but they did not believe in hell. The Church has blundered in not permitting the innocent party to remarry in the case of marital infidelity. She is also hopelessly antiquated in other ways. The Protestant hostess considers her Catholic guests as superior to their creed, and tells them so. In a word, these Catholics have denied the faith; they have committed a mortal sin against the faith; and so their faith is gone, and generally gone, forever. They have fallen from grace and favor; from the grace of God and the favor of men. Nobody respects people who have not the

courage of their convictions; and honest Protestants in their secret hearts have nothing but contempt for temporizing, accommodating, minimizing, half-hearted, week-kneed Catholics.

Some years ago an inquisitive newspaper man asked the Archbishop of Quebec if he had read the "Life of Christ" by the French apostate, Renan. His Grace replied simply and instantly: "I think too much of my faith." That reply contains a valuable lesson for us all, but especially for the laity who have not been trained to answer difficulties against the Bible and the Church. Even professed theologians require a good reason and explicit ecclesiastical permission to read the works of infidels who attack the Church or the Bible. When they read such works with a view to refutation, they get what is called the grace of state, which renders them immune from harm. Without such a valid reason they would simply expose themselves to the loss of their faith. To refute such authors, of course, they are compelled to read them. That is their excuse.

If the laity wish to know what the anti-Catholic objections are they can find objection and answer, poison and antidote, in books on apologetics. To take the poison without the antidote, is fatal in ordinary cases. Happily, we have plenty of books explaining the stock arguments against the faith. They are as instructive as fact and as entertaining as fiction. They are at once spiritual and literary, scientific and popular.—Catholic Union and Times.

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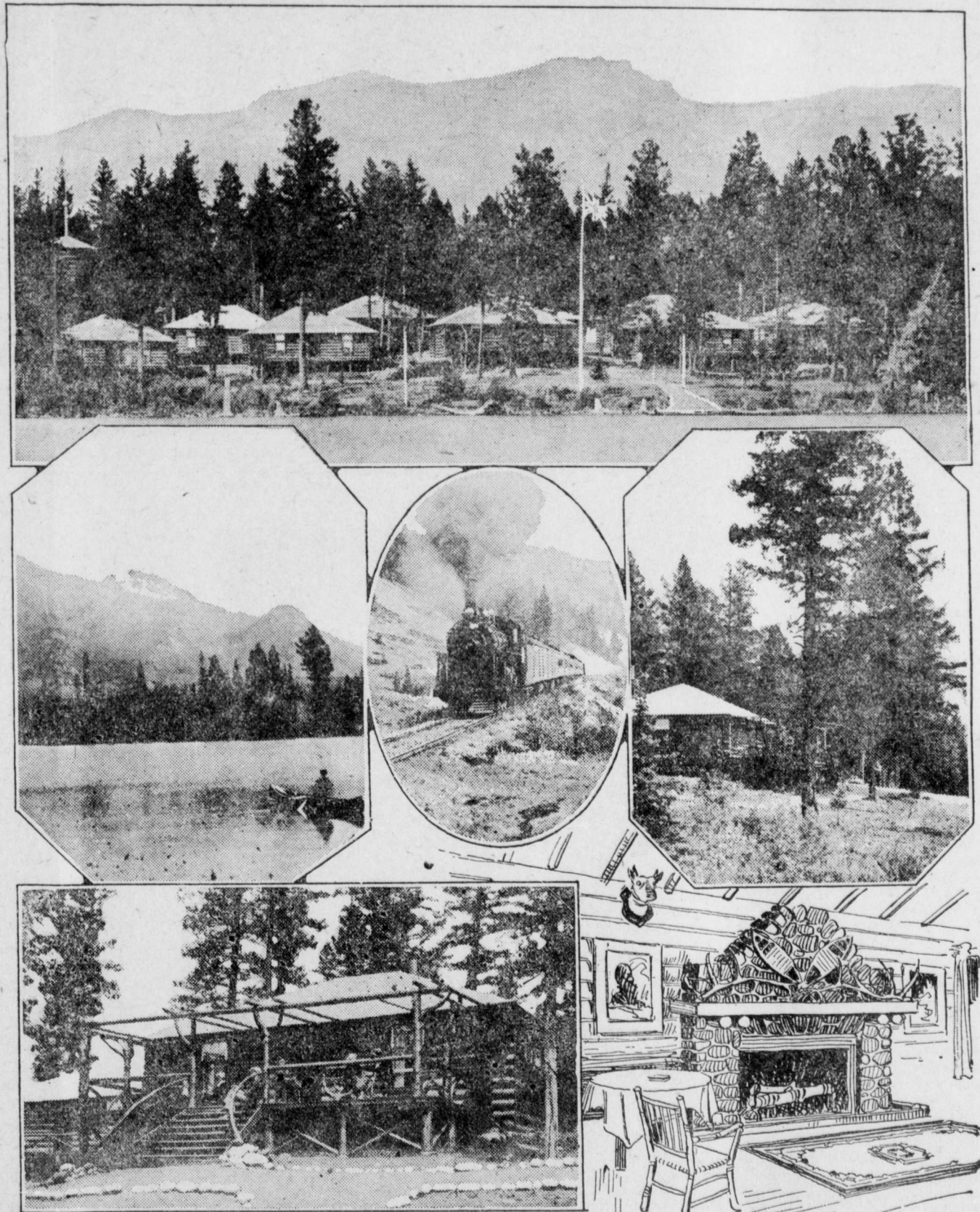
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New Paradise of the Rockies

JASPER PARK LODGE IS A REAL HOME AMONG
THE MOUNTAINS

Jasper Park, embracing 4,400 square miles of the most magnificent virgin mountain scenery in the world, has long been known to the sportsman, alpinist and tourist, but this summer it calls to holiday seekers with a new voice. It now offers ideal accommodation in Jasper Lodge, the first of a series of Alpine chalets to be built in the Jasper and Mount Robson districts, and was formally opened to the public on June 15th.

The lodge is beautifully situated among the singing pines and cedars on the shore of Lac Beauvert, while towering in solemn grandeur on all sides rise the rugged snowy domes, sometimes gleaming like opals in the shimmering sunlight and sometimes lost amid the low-hanging clouds. It consists of a group of log rustic buildings blending with the rugged surroundings. A spacious lounge building with an ample stone fireplace, an airy dining-room, a dance pavilion and a number of separate sleeping cabins, each containing four

bedrooms and a sitting-room, are electric-lighted and fittingly furnished throughout.

Here in the Northern Canadian Rockies the tourist will find all that makes a worth-while holiday. The joy of adventure in exploring and mountain-climbing, boating on Lac Beauvert, fishing in the wild mountain torrents, riding through the valleys with the fresh mountain breezes in your face, dancing with the guardian purple mountains keeping watch—all offer a most interesting variety of recreation. The best of accommodation has associated with it congenial companionship and scenery rivaling even that of the Swiss Alps.

These lodges not only tend to make Jasper Park one of the great travel centres of the Dominion thereby increasing the revenues of our Canadian National Railways, but also add their share toward ultimately placing Canada on the map as one of the outstanding meccas of the world traveler.