

exploitation of men or of natural wealth. It is one of the great evils of our day and one of the prime causes of the unrest that seems at times to threaten revolution. The group spirit of the money-changers who obtained a footing in the temple courts was one of the causes that led to the arrest and death of Jesus.

4. The Spirit of Ostentation. Another evil spirit that is abroad, twin-sister of Greed, and breeds bitterness and hatred, and threatens worse, is the spirit of ostentation, or the vulgar display of wealth, coupled with the insatiable craving for pleasure. It becomes super-personal when it is dignified by the name of the Fashion, for only the very strong-minded—the remnant—can resist the fashion, which wields an immense influence over the majority. This evil spirit engenders class pride and its obverse, class contempt. These are the negation of the solidarity and Christian love of the brotherhood. They are the denial of human fraternity. When Jesus was nailed to the tree He bore in a degraded form of death that contempt for the lower classes which de-humanized the upper classes of His day.

5. Selfishness. A clear understanding of the teaching of Jesus and the purpose of His life leads us to appreciate the meaning of sin. Reduced to its simplest terms, sin is selfishness. To be in a state of sin is to be rooted in self. It is the all-pervading weakness of mortal nature from which no one is exempt. It becomes a super-personal spirit when it embraces the group, the community, the nation. We have seen it on the grand scale in the slave traffic, the opium traffic, the Congo rubber traffic, colonial exploitation, and in a thousand other forms. We have seen it at the Peace Conference; we see it everywhere. We feel its effects in every department of human activity, and in every walk of life. It was this spirit that paralyzed the work of Jesus and prevented the coming of the Kingdom of God during His life-time.

How are we to fight against these evil spirits that afflict humanity and hide from us the face of God? This is the great social problem of the Church of Christ. This is the real problem of social service, namely, to develop a super-personal spirit of righteousness, of brotherhood, of good-will, to resist, to attack, to overthrow and cast out these evil spirits that resist the coming of the Kingdom of God.

For you and for me, as we are met here today, to renew our memory of the achievements, the self-denial, the self-renunciation and sacrifice of our little company of sixty, for the most part in the first blush of manhood, we realize that there has been created and released for our help and use a corporate, God-like