

to have a lucrative practice and obtain a Chief-justiceship. A considerable number are thinking of the Christian ministry. Do thoughts of a wealthy church, a reputation for eloquence and pulpit power, recognition of eminence by universities, their own and others, by the coveted letters "D. D.," presidencies of colleges and other distinguished positions among their fellow men, ever obtrude? Do they not constitute food for perpetual thought, dream and desire?

Well, you say, what is the harm? Is it wicked to look forward to high position in the world, to achieve success and become great and distinguished among one's fellows? No, it is not positively wrong and wicked, but it is not the ideal, not the highest.

With all the world against me, with the united force of the thoughtless multitudes that shout themselves hoarse in their hula-baloos in the glorification of degrading war, with the pronouncement of all Popes, Cardinals, Archbishops and church assemblies of the world united to deny it, I still will venture alone to proclaim, against the authority of all these, that the true ideal of life is to serve others and not to secure one's own advancement, and that the few great men whose careers have illumined mankind and lifted it up to higher plains have been men who have been careless as to whether they have achieved great things in the world for themselves so long as they achieved great things for the world itself.

Personal ambition of every kind is ignoble, miserable, unworthy. To dream of the high positions which we shall achieve in the world is but a travesty on any true ideals of life. To be great is a very different thing from being recognized as great by multitudes of people. A man may be great and hold no office and not possess a dollar of money, and a man may hold the highest office in the kingdom and revel in riches, and be infinitely little and miserable.

Jesus Christ conceived the true ideal of life and taught it simply, plainly. Not a grain of self can be found in any recorded utterance of His. For nineteen hundred years we have been building churches to worship Him, and we have been sending abroad into the world men who have proposed to consecrate their lives to the propagation of His ideals. The progress made in these nineteen hundred years is paltry and contemptible to the last degree. We are still a race of selfish, struggling beings, every one wanting to gain the first place, every one thinking of self first in the main purposes of life and of others afterwards. All that redeem life is the casual unselfishness which creeps into our relationships with our fellow beings, in the family and elsewhere, from time to time. But the world will never make true progress toward its ideal until this abominable craving for personal glory, for wealth, fame, comfort and all other things of a purely personal character, has been trampled underfoot and men come to realize as a solid reality that the true and only way to become great is to forget self and live for others.

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