

# KEEP RELIGIOUS STANDARDS UP SPEAKER SAYS

Inspiring and Powerful Sermon by Rev. Dr. Legate Yesterday morning.

The following was the text of the sermon preached by Rev. Dr. Legate at St. James' Presbyterian Church yesterday morning. St. Matthew X, 39—"He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

"It is necessary above all else that in all our thoughts about our religion we do not allow our standards to fall below those that our Lord and Master set. For to lower standards is the very thing we are being constantly enticed to do. The world and its ways are so much with us that the weight of its opinion is apt to tip the scale when we come to the point of making decisions. 'The tendency of our own nature is to take the easier way, the way that will make less of a demand upon us when some path is to be chosen or some service done. Of no one is more expected than of the Christian. Ordinary models, patterns, standards he has nothing to do with at all. His model is Jesus Christ, his law is the Saviour's teaching, his goal is God. And in this startling statement from the lips of Jesus we are reminded of all this—"He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."

"The requirements of the Gospel with regard to its followers are not elastic; they are stringent to the last degree. That is one of the glories of the Gospel—that there is nothing else like it as a way of life; that it is not earth-bound, but heaven-bound; that it is lofty and holy, with the loftiness and the holiness of God Himself.

**Important Words:**

"Now what do these words of our Lord mean, 'He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it'? They must mean something important, something which directly affects the character and conduct of His people. Because this is not the only occasion upon which He

spoke these words: on at least two other occasions of importance He did the same thing. Does it mean giving up our physical existence for His sake, dying for Him? Men and women, as we know, have died for Him. Martyrs have given themselves gladly in the most hideous forms of torment and death at the stake for His sake. Men and women have yielded up their lives in times of persecution for His cause, suffering very little less than the martyrs have done. Men and women have gone out into uncivilized lands to proclaim His gospel, and have lost their lives in doing so. There are men and women today in Christian countries who are literally working themselves to death in His service.

"Is all that what He means when He says, 'He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it'? I think he means more than that. What, you say, more than that? Yes, I think He means even more than that. It is not only on the martyr's brow that the crown of life is placed. It is not only those who have been persecuted for righteousness' sake that have found this life of which He speaks.

"There is a losing of the life which even you and I may offer to Him, which will be rewarded in the way He says. There is a daily dying which He requires from all His faithful people, a dying which is just as hard, and, maybe, in some cases harder, than the deaths which the martyrs and the persecuted saints and the missionaries have died for His sake.

"And what is that? It is the slaying of self, the complete and absolute surrender of body and soul to Him. This is the kind of dying that He speaks of in these words of His, 'He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.'

"To surrender the soul to a person or cause is to take one's life out of one's own hands and give it to that other—to die to self. By natural disposition you and I are inclined to live to ourselves and for ourselves. We want to be our own centres. We want to pursue our own aims. We want to be our own law givers. When we change all that, our life is no longer our own; it belongs to another. We die to self and live for someone else. That is what Jesus means here. No men or women who are living to themselves have found their true life. The true life is not found, nor to be found, in living to oneself.

"In order to find the true life our centre must be shifted; we must change direction; we must alter the ownership; we must die to self and live for Christ. That is what Jesus means when He says, 'He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.'

### The High Aim

"This is high talking—the absolute submission of your mind and will to the lordship of Jesus Christ—the giving of your lives to Him in this lofty, noble sense. But it is what He sets as the end aim and goal of every one who names His name to follow Him. The common estimate of Christian discipleship stops far short of that. Most of us are quite content with less than that. Indeed, the bulk of professing Christians are more inclined to practice a made easy than to go to the length which Jesus Christ demands. But nothing else except this dying unto self and living unto Him contents Him.

"The rule He Himself followed and obeyed was 'no, my will but thine be done,' and obedience to that same rule He demands from all who would be as He was. It is the only way to find life, to find the glory of life, to welcome Him into our hearts and to enthroned Him there. The rewards He offers can be secured in no other way than that. To suppress in ourselves, even to cut out altogether, the base appetites and passions and desires and inclinations that stand in the way of His complete ownership of us—that is the purpose He has in view for each of us. To seek to gain the position which St. Paul attained when he said, 'I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me'—that is dying unto self and living unto Christ, that is losing our life for His sake that we may find the real meaning of life. This is high talking, truly.

"But who of us can be content with poorer ideals of life than that which Jesus Christ sets. Christ's purpose for you and me reaches away beyond all merely earthly ideals and finds its end in God Himself. Hard to understand? Yes. Impossible to achieve? Yes. But we do not thank God that His claims on us are so true as that, and His designs for us so high as that?

"Turner, the great landscape painter, whose astonishing work in atmospheric effects has made him a master in his own particular field, was once showing a lady visitor his pictures. She turned to him and said, 'But, Mr. Turner, I never saw a sunset like that!' His reply was, 'Ah, but don't you wish you could!'

"Jesus' way of life, dying unto self and living unto Him, you will say is an impossible way of life, but, in your heart of hearts, don't you wish you could live it?



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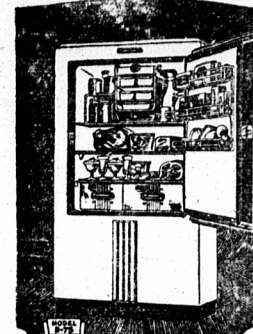
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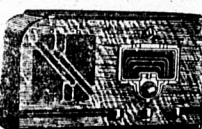
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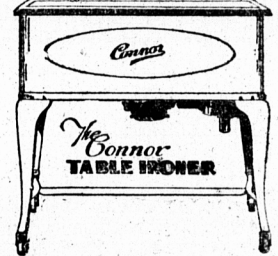
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### PRISONERS RECAPTURED

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 13—(AP)—Warden Healey said he received information today that three prisoners who escaped from the Luzerne county jail were captured at Oneonta, N. Y.

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