

**SATURDAY NIGHT TALKS**

By REV. F. E. DAVISON  
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**ALMS-GIVING AND PRAYER IN KINGDOM.**

International Bible Lesson for Feb. 6, 1910—(Matt. 6:1-15).



There has always been a vast amount of alms-giving and prayer based on just one foundation—to be seen of men. In Christ's time there were 13 trumpet-boxes in the temple, in which were deposited the contributions of the people. These boxes were

called "trumpets" because they were narrow at the top and wide at the bottom, and crooked like a horn, so that the dishonest could not abstract the coin. The people who desired to advertise their benevolent spirit "sounded the trumpet" before them by causing their money to jingle and ring as they threw it in the contribution box. That custom no longer obtains since a handful of copper makes more noise than a greenback. People then sought to make their money jingle; now they try to hush it as much as possible. In other words, the teaching of the king was that the principle of alms-giving in the new kingdom was to be, not ostentation, advertisement, display, and to be seen of men, but on the ground of pure benevolence, real charity, genuine religious life.

Everything depends on the motive behind the gift. Money will do good, whether tainted or untainted; it will buy food for the hungry, and clothing for the naked, and medicine for the sick, but its value in the sight of God depends altogether on the spirit with which it is given. There are circumstances where a certain amount of publicity is necessary for the sake of the object or cause to which gifts are devoted, but so far as the giver is concerned the value of his gift consists altogether on the motive behind it. "To be seen of men," that is the error the king would uproot. The paltry and pitiful attempt at parade on the part of his disciples, that is the thing He condemns. "Be not as the hypocrites, who sound a trumpet before them." They have their reward, but it is not the reward of the Father who seeth in secret.

**Hypocritical Prayers.**

What is true of giving is true also of prayer. There is not so much danger in this direction as in the other. The trouble now is to get people to pray at all. They neither pray in the synagogues, nor in the corners of the streets, nor in the secret closet. We hire men to do our praying for us, and if we are reverential enough to bow our heads while they are doing it, we feel that we have been sufficiently devout. In Christ's time men made a parade of their devotions. They spread their prayer rug in the market place, and at the street corners, and made a show of piety. In order to hear the onlookers say, "See, how holy this man is!" If men did that now, the crowd would jeer, and say, "Here is an escaped lunatic."

For, the fact is, the men who did that in old time were frauds at heart. Their vain repetitions deceived nobody. The Moslems have a proverb: "If your neighbor has made the pilgrimage to Mecca once, watch him; if twice, avoid his society; if three times, move into another street." In other words, look out for the man who is ostentatiously religious.

**Publicity Not Condemned.**

Mark you, there is nothing here against public prayer, or open alms-giving. The man who takes opportunity from these words not to give at all nor to pray at all, is just as far wide of the mark. The whole force of these words rests on the supposition—"to be seen of men." If the motive behind your benevolence or your prayers is the good opinion of your neighbors, the speech of people, the praise of men, you are a Pharisee and a hypocrite. But if your motive is disinterested benevolence and sincere love of God you will not fail of the benediction of heaven though your name is heralded in all the newspapers at the head of the subscription list, and you are known and read of all men as a follower of Jesus Christ. Chrysostom said: "If thou shouldst enter into thy closet, and having shut the door, shouldst do it for display, the doors will do thee no good."

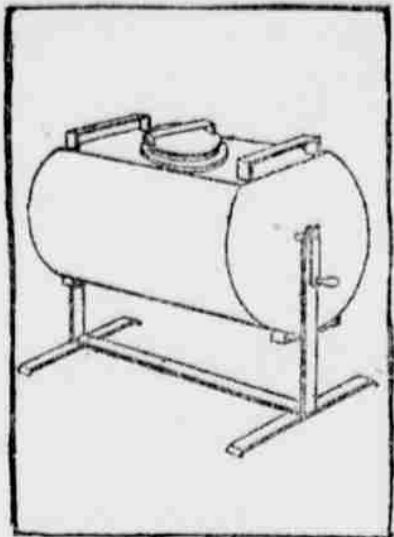
For display—that is the idea. Do nothing for display is the law of the kingdom. It is not your attitude, it is your heart that He looks at. Not what you say with your lips in prayer, but what is in your heart deep down out of sight is what He listens to. It is not the bell up in the steeple, but the people down in the pews that sounds the loudest in the ears of the Father in Heaven. It is not the money you put on the contribution plate, but the spirit that caused you to put it there that counts up yonder. To say prayers and to really pray are two very different things.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire  
Uttered, or unexpressed  
The motion of a fire,  
That burns within the breast.

**TO WASH VEGETABLES.**

Placed in a Cylinder and Cleaned as Latter Revolves.

How often people are heard to say that they do not eat this or that in hotels and restaurants because they do not know if it has been cleaned properly. In the old days, when the process of properly cleaning, this objection was a fair one, but now it has less ground for existence. With the advent of the numerous time and labor saving devices, the food is just as clean in first-class restaurants and hotels as it is at home, and one of the inventions that have brought about this improvement is the vegetable washer devised by a New Hampshire man. In appearance the vegetable washer looks very much like the paper stands seen on store counters. It comprises a stand on which a hollow cylinder rests upon an axis. The cylinder has an opening on one side and a screw top for the opening. The whole is water-tight. The vegetables



are placed in the receptacle, which is filled with water, the top screwed on and the cylinder revolved by means of a handle.

**Quaint Old-Time Custom.**

Custom decrees that a gold coin, or, at the very least, silver, shall be put under the mainmast of each new ship launched. The coin bears the date of the year when the vessel is completed, a fact well known to collectors, who keep an eye on ships that are likely to be the depository of numismatic prizes, says Pearson's Weekly.

Thus, at Liverpool some years back, a derelict Yankee schooner, bought for a song, yielded an 1894 dollar, the rarest and most eagerly sought after of all American coins. It sold readily for \$5,000, and would be worth to-day at least double that sum, for it was in perfect preservation, having rested in its cotton wool wad beneath the hollow "stepping" of the mast since the day it was first placed in position.

Its recovery was the result of foresight and business enterprise, combined, of course, with special knowledge. A man passing the worthless hulk on the day of the sale noticed the date, 1894, on her stern and rightly guessed that she might be the bearer of a dollar of that year.

In the same way have been preserved and recovered many of the ancient silver Scottish pennies known as dolts which were so thin that twelve of them were barely equal in value to the penny sterling. The old Scottish shipbuilders of the days when these coins were in circulation used, with characteristic national thriftiness, to put one of them beneath each mast they "stepped," in preference to the more valuable groat.

**Guests at This Hotel Do Not Pay.**

Essen, Germany, has a hotel—a first-class hotel—at which the principal guests never have to pay for their accommodations. It is owned by Frau Bertha Krupp, the richest woman in Germany, and owner of the great Krupp works, at Essen. She runs it at a loss of more than \$100,000 a year. This hotel was built by Frau Krupp for the entertainment of the representatives of foreign Governments who visit Essen for the purpose of purchasing war material or who stay at Essen to superintend the execution of orders.

Embassies from the Emperors of Japan and Russia, from the Kings of Roumania, Bulgaria, Spain, Norway and Sweden, as well as from the Presidents of the Central and South American republics, have been entertained at the Krupp hotel for months at a time in the most princely style. Ordinary travellers sometimes can find accommodations at the Krupp hotel, but only when the rooms are not required for Frau Krupp's foreign official guests.

**International Manners.**

A German lady, we perceive, has started a school wherein the art of eating is taught. Not the art of acquiring food, but the art of dealing with it when it is on the table. An international school of table manners would do as much as The Hague Conference to reconcile animosities. There is really nothing, for example, in which we could not agree with the American if he would only come over to the British notion of eating an egg. Possibly the Rhodes scholars will think the matter out at Oxford.—Westminster Gazette.

**Sitting in the Shadow.**

One evening when Luther saw a little bird perched on a tree roost there for the night, he said: "This little bird has had its supper, and now it is getting ready to go to sleep now, quite secure and content, never troubling itself what its food will be, or where its lodging on the morrow. Like David, it 'abides under the shadow of the Almighty.' It sits on its little twig content, and lets God take care."

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