Sunday's Sermons

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But to be valuable must be faultless. A diamond is not valued according to its size, but according to its purity and quality. It must be pure, or it is known as off-color or imperfect. Only 10 per cent. are high grade or first water. In 90 per cent. there is a flaw in cutting or other parts. We have a pure food law which forbids the sale of goods that are poisonous, adulterated, and seeks to cause the selling of goods without fault. In order to sell well, a horse must be faultless. He must not be blind, he must not balk; he must not be wind-broke; he must not have the heaves; he must not have a bone spavin. These are all flaws and they remove his value. Art requires that a picture or a statue shall be without a flaw to become a masterpiece.

"I am glad that I can find one character in whom you can find not one flaw. I can find no flaw in Him.' This was said of Jesus Christ, and it was said by one of His bitterest enemies. There is no flaw in Him. He is absolutely faultless—without blemish.

LOVE AND CHARACTER.

"Love is the greatest thing in the world, and character is the grandest. You can't destroy character. You'll have character when everything else is taken away. You can't lose it and you can't bury it. Reputation may be lost. Character needs no epitaph. You can bury the man, but character will beat the hearse back from the graveyard and it will travel up and down the streets while you are under the sod. It will bless or blight long after your name is forgotten. Many a man who was buried 20 years ago is living in Scranton today in blasted lives. Many who were buried as long ago are living today in good deeds that are done because of influences they left behind.

"So I show you the character of Jesus. Do you find any fault with Him? He said He was the Son of God. Did He speak as if He were indeed the Son of God? Did He ever utter one thing that didn't sound as if He were? Not a word that He ever uttered was false. He called men to repentance. He told them that God believed them and was ready to forgive. Can you find any fault with that? If you can, I don't want to know you. No matter who you are, man or woman, I don't want to know you.

"Some years ago a man came to my room in a town out West and rapped on my door in the middle of the night. His eyes were bloodshot, his hair disheveled, his face drawn. I asked him if he was sick. He said, "No, if I told you what is the matter with me you would despise me.' I said to him, 'If you are in trouble, and if you want to do what is right, and are sorry for some wrong that you have done, I won't despise you. I'll help you if I can, and I'll stand by you if it takes my last dollar.' Yes, if I knew anything against any man that would break the heart of his wife and make his family ashamed, that would bring the blush to their cheeks—so help me God, I'd die before I'd tell it. I've never bawled anybody out in my life, and I never will. No, sir. I'll preach the gospel just as straight and just as strongly as I know how, but I'll never bawl anybody out.

WORLD CONDEMNED ALREADY.

"God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He isn't glad when a man dies in his sins. But He has great pleasure in the death of the righteous. He isn't willing that any man should perish. He didn't send His son into the world to condemn it—it was condemned already, and He wanted to save it. Jesus came to open to men the door of salvation, and if we don't enter, the fault is ours. If God had simply said He loved the world, and then had done nothing for it, that would have signified nothing. If He hadn't given us the plan of salvation and we should be lost, that would be His fault. But God gives us the plan of salvation, and if we are lost it is our fault.

"Men do not go to hell because they are sinners, but because they will not repent. You may be moral, but if you don't repent you will go to hell. If you do repent you will be saved. There's only one way to be saved—that's God's way. There are only two places to which you can go—heaven or hell. It wouldn't be right for God to put the good and the bad in the same place. If He did it wouldn't be heaven. I went through the State reformatory at Pontiac, Ill., and saw little fellows only 10 years of age penned up with hardened criminals.

"The law's age limit in Illinois is 10 years. I don't know what it is in Indiana, but in Illinois the law holds that when you are 10 years old you are old enough to know right from wrong. Some fool mothers and preachers say that a child of that age is too young to be a Christian. If you say that you're a big idiot. A child who knows right from wrong is old enough to be a Christian, no matter how young it may be. I have heard said that God loves everybody and everything and that He proved it. Can you find any fault in that? If you can, take down your sign as a man.

"Jesus Christ never went to a funeral. He never followed a hearse or a dead body to the grave. He never preached a funeral sermon. That was out of His line. He came that we might have life, and that more abundantly. Moody once was asked to preach a funeral sermon, and he took up his Bible to see what Jesus had said on an occasion like that. He found, he said, that Jesus had never preached a sermon at a funeral, but that He broke up every funeral He ever attended by restoring the dead to life. He always turned a house of sorrow into one of happiness and joy. Don't you wish that Jesus had been there when your little baby died? Don't you wish that He had been there when your wife went away forever and left you with that little brood to care for? Don't you wish He had been there when your mother was taken from you?

"Are you in favor of anything Jesus Christ is against? Has any one done you a wrong? Jesus Christ is against it. Are you? If you are His, you are. He is against all wrong. Has any one cheated or defrauded you? Jesus Christ is against whoever did it. Has anybody ever lied about you? Jesus is against them. Are you in favor of honesty? So is Jesus Christ. Do you think that labor should have its just due from those who employ? So does Jesus Christ. Do you believe that capital should have a square deal? So does Jesus Christ. He is for absolutely fair play. The principles of Jesus Christ will make capital and labor shake hands. There is no question, social or business, or war, that cannot be settled by the principles of Jesus. There never was a squarer dealer on earth than Jesus Christ. He gives everybody a square deal.

"Do you believe that there ought to be 36 inches to every yard, 2000 pounds to the ton, 16 ounces to the pound avoirdupois and 12 ounces to the pound troy weight? So does Jesus Christ. Are you against all crookedness and fraud, against the grog shop and brewery, deception and all that? So is Jesus Christ.

"Jesus shot His preaching into the biggest guns in the synogogues in His day. There's a lesson for the preachers in the way He did it. He said: 'Oh, you scribes and Pharisees! You lobsters, you false alarms, you four-flushers, you excess baggage, you vipers! You are like white sepulchres, nice without but all rottenness and dead men's bones within. You're a fine bunch of guys. You rob the widows and the orphans, you lobsters! The whole bunch of you ought to be in jail.' That's the way Jesus Christ preached.

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

"The first recorded words of Jesus were spoken when He was 12 years of age—'Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?' The last were uttered on the cross when He cried out, "It is finished!" Between those two sentences were crowded the words and acts of 21 years, and not one thing did He do or say that was not for the good of man and the glory of God.

"He had faith in His Father. Faith in the coupling between the world and God. Start with the faith you have and farm that. Take what faith you have and go into business with it for God. Use what you have, and you'll get more. Don't use it, and you'll lose what you have. Faith is strengthened by use.

"It is by faith that we get into touch with God. It is the power that controls the world. If we had no faith we would have no electric lights, no trolley cars. You can't get married without faith—faith that the man you marry or the woman you marry will be true. You can't send a letter without faith that Uncle Sam will see that it is delivered. You can't eat a meal of victuals without faith—faith that it will give you strength. You can't farm without faith—faith that the seed will grow and the harvest will come. We can't live without faith. Man believed in the steam engine before he had even seen one. Elias Howe believed he had an invention that would save women the labor of sewing by hand. He had never seen a sewing machine, but he had faith, so he worked for years to make one. If friends hadn't taken care of his wife and children they would have been hungry.

"His clothes grew old, but his faith was strong and he kept on working and finally he had the sewing machine. Eli Whitney had faith in the cotton gin long before he had ever seen one. He persisted for years until it stood complete. Everybody who has accomplished anything has first believed. There would have been no Jewish nation if Abraham had not faith.

"Faith is what gives a man backbone in science, literature, education and in agriculture. Faith is to the soul what gravitation is to the earth. A gravitation draws us toward the centre of the earth, so faith makes me gravitate toward God, instead of toward the saloon. I cannot touch God with my hand, but I can touch Him by faith. Take faith out of the world and see what a place it would be.

"Take away Christianity and the world would be two hemispheres of lazarettos, two hemispheres of brothels and all the vilest off-scourings of the earth.

BELIEF WON'T CHANGE A FACT.

"Jesus said that all who believed on Him will be saved. Wrong belief makes everything wrong. Some say a man, believe what he likes, and so long as he is sincere, all will be well with him. You are fooled. A man may believe that he can handle nitroglycerine without danger, but if he monkeys with it you'll have to take him up with a broom and a dustpan. Just go out and jump off the bridge and believe you won't drown. Belief won't change a fact.

"Do you find any fault with His atonement? He tasted death for every man, for the man who owns the mine, for the man who works in it; for the president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and for the man who works on the section. If there were a man in this world who wasn't included in the plan of redemption, Jesus Christ would come down and suffer death again, just for that man. Twenty-six years ago I accepted Jesus Christ, and He has saved me from my sins. He has saved my wife, and He has saved my children. He did for me what I couldn't do for myself. You can't save yourself. Jesus Christ must do that.

"I had a friend who had been a drunkard and had gone down the line, and had done time. He had a place on the police record and they knew him as a man to be watched. Once in a hotel up in Minneapolis—no, it was St. Paul—he met an old pal and asked him to have a drink. His old pal said: 'No, I don't want one.' This puzzled him. 'You don't mean that you don't want it?' He couldn't understand why the man did not want it. He could conceive of the man refusing it on principle, but not to want it was past him. His old pal said: 'I mean I don't want it.' He explained that he had been converted and that he did not care for liquor any more.

CONVERTED AT A MISSION.

"'I never heard of anything like that,' said my friend. The other took him down to a mission, and he was converted. He tried to live down his old reputation, but it was hard. In towns where he went the police would tell him to move on, and sometimes would pick him up. When he told them he had reformed they thought he was lying. After five years he went to Chicago and went to see old acquaintances, Robert and William Pinkerton, and told them that he wanted to get his picture from the police. He said that he had changed his way of living and didn't want to be known to the police as a crook. Mr. Pinkerton said: 'I'll get it for you, Bill,' and he did.

"Then my friend went to the great lawyer, Luther Laflin Mills, who is now dead, and asked him to help him get his picture back from the penitentiary people at Joliet, and to get his Bertillon measurements destroyed there. Mr. Mills said he would try, and he wrote a letter to the warden of the penitentiary. When he got the answer it said: 'You've got another guess coming. You may get the records away from the police of Chicago, but you can't get them from the State of Illinois.' He went on preaching the gospel.

"Some time after my friend, who was nervous and in poor health, went to Battle Creek to stay for awhile at the sanitarium, and while there he made a speech. Three Governors were there—Altgeld, of Illinois; Culbertson, of Texas, and Johnston, of Mississippi. He told the story of his conversion and of his attempt to get the records away from Joliet, and when he got through John P. Altgeld was wiping his eyes.

"'I'll see what I can do for you,' he said.

"A month later my friend received a letter marked, 'Executive Mansion, Springfield, State of Illinois.' It said: 'My dear Mr. Callahan, it gives me pleasure to inclose you five cents from the penitentiary at Joliet, and to tell you that your Bertillon records there have all been destroyed. There is no record except in your memory that you were ever there. You have the gratitude and best wishes of your friend, John P. Altgeld.' You can go to New York now and down on Bowery mission you will find my friend Callahan preaching the gospel.

"Accept Jesus Christ and the record of the past will be wiped out. Oh, what a Saviour! What a Saviour!

"Can you find any fault in what the teaching of Jesus Christ has done for the world? He has made the world to blossom as a rose. He has made thieves honest. He has made libertines and adulteresses pure. He made liars truthful. He has reformed individuals and nations. Before Jesus Christ came there wasn't a hospital in the world, there were no asylums or eleemosynary institutions, no provision for the orphans, the blind, the insane or the lame.

"Before Jesus Christ came woman was a slave, a beast of burden. Today she is free. All that you have of honor and respect to womanhood is due to Jesus Christ, and you are ungrateful when you turn up your lip and sneer. If it hadn't been for Jesus Christ you women wouldn't dare to be out on the streets at night. You ought to fall at His feet in gratitude, and if you are not grateful you are a fool! a fool! a fool!—I don't care who you are.

"When some people die they leave lands behind them. Some leave the memory of good lives. They had characters behind them. They leave bad names to posterity. About all that some men leave to their children is the memory of an old profligate. Some men, when they die, bequeath weak bodies to their offspring; some bequeath weak minds, and their children become imbeciles; some bequeath a taste for drink, their children become drunkards. Jesus Christ bequeaths us His peace. 'My peace I leave unto you,' He says. Can you find any fault in that? Why, then, should you be sad and gloomy?

SMILE AS IF IT HURTS.

"Some people wear faces as long as if they thought God Almighty were dead. They smile as if it hurt them, and you are glad when they quit. If Paul and Silas had gone to jail looking as glum as you do that old jailer would never have been converted. God doesn't want you to look pessimistic when you are putting on your clothes on Sunday to go to church. Some of you are praying God to use you. You had better pray, 'Oh, God, help me to stop looking sour and then help me to live a Christian life.'"

PREACHER DENIES IMPLICIT FAITH IS PART OF RELIGION

Pleads for Deeper and More Spiritual Conception of God.

An implicit following of creeds is not synonymous with a profound faith in the Divine, according to the Rev. William L. Sullivan, of New York, who preached last night at the First Unitarian Church, 22d and Chestnut streets, on "The Spiritual Power of a Liberal Faith."

Mr. Sullivan also deplored the practice of seeking fleshly representation of things holy. He answered the objection often made to such a worship as he proposed by declaring that it was not "too thin," but "too deep." He said in part:

"God is everywhere. He is within our own souls. And His power is as great today as it was at the time when He is supposed to have spoken from Mount Sinai.

"Too many religions give us the idea that God did great things a long time ago. He is performing marvelous works before us now if we would only have the eyes to see them. We must not give Him and His message geographical and historical limits. We must not speak of His wondrous doing in the past tense, as there is a certain definitely discernible tendency to do in some religions."

The Rev. Charles E. St. John, minister of the church, followed the Rev. Mr. Sullivan. He gave the Unitarian conception of Christianity.

"We call ourselves true Christians and have the cross hanging on the walls of our church," he said, "because that cross symbolizes the undying eternal faith of every Unitarian. We recognize in Jesus a great teacher, a religious leader who dared to be true to His faith. Had He been willing to accept unquestionably all of the forms and rites of the Hebrew religion to which He was born He might have died a respected rabbi. But He was not willing to do that. He served God and went to the cross for His faith, just as I believe any true Unitarian would go, unflinching and unafraid."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

A Sunbeam Lecture

"MILDRED!" called her mother, "it's time to come in and straighten your room! Come now, dear, and get your work done!"

Out in the pleasant big yard Mildred was playing happily—till she heard her mother call. "Oh dear!" she exclaimed, "now I'll have to stop this nice play and go in and work. It's always that way. Work, work, work! Dust, dust and sweep and pick up things and straighten drawers! I'm sick of it all."

But she knew that when her mother called she must go. So she slowly made her way towards the house. "I wish somebody would think of something else besides work," she said to her mother as she began her task.

Her mother laughed good-naturedly, and somebody else laughed, too—who do you suppose it was?

A sunbeam! Yes, sir! A sunbeam that had slipped through the window and was playing on the dust specks flying through the room.

"Something different!" he chuckled to himself, "something different! That's what they all want! Can't they see that everything on earth is the same old thing? Just the same old thing over and over."

Mildred saw him just then; she couldn't help it, he danced such a gay litle jig right before her eyes, and she began to feel better. She flirted her dust rag, and almost—almost began to hum a gay little tune. But she happened to think about her interrupted play, so she didn't hum after all. She talked to the sunbeam instead.

"Do you have to stop your play, and work sometimes?" she asked him. Of course she didn't expect any answer because she knew sunbeams couldn't talk, so imagine her surprise when the sunbeam replied, "Oh course, I have to stop my play lots of times. Everybody does."

"Everybody?" questioned Mildred.

"Yes, everybody," replied the sunbeam. "We sunbeams, and the raindrops and the clouds and—and everybody."

"Is that so?" exclaimed Mildred, "I never thought of that. I wonder why they do?"

"I'll tell you why, if you really want to know," said the sunbeam, pleasantly, "it's because play is more fun if work comes in between."

"I don't know about that!" said Mildred.

"Well I do!" laughed the sunbeam, "wouldn't you hate the weather if it never rained or snowed? Or wouldn't it be funny if summer lasted all the year? You could never go sled riding. Wouldn't

He danced such a gay little jig right before her eyes.

you get tired of always playing in the yard? Always, always, always, never a stop between?"

Mildred laughed. "Maybe I would," she admitted, "I hadn't thought about it that way."

"You think about it now, then," suggested the sunbeam kindly. "It's a lot more fun to change around from work to play, you notice and see if you don't think so, too."

With a gay little flirt of his sunbeam scarf, the sunbeam jumped on a dust mote and rode away. Mildred dusted thoughtfully a few minutes and then she said to herself, "I do believe he was right. I don't believe I mind work half as much as I thought I did!" And she hummed her gay little tune.

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Store Opens 8:30 A. M. | WANAMAKER'S | Store Closes 5:30 P. M.

"The Old Time Quality"

Being a Recital of Certain Facts About Furniture and About the World's Most Celebrated Sale of Furniture

You have heard much of the character of the furniture of the old days.

Of the furniture that took long in building, that was put together with the care of a violin and the strength of steel.

Of the furniture that came down through generation after generation, and was treasured and cared for as something enduring and wonderful and priceless.

And yet—how little of it actually did come down! Perhaps one piece in a thousand—or even less.

Something was wrong with the rest of it; the cheap pieces never endured; the imitation fine pieces didn't last; the inartistic pieces disappeared somewhere as generation succeeded generation.

Only Really Fine Furniture Has the Lasting Quality!

Twenty or thirty years ago there came upon the market a tremendous flood of cheap and ugly furniture. It was at the time when great furniture mills were starting up all over the country and machinery was fast driving out the hand craftsman.

The first machinery makers of furniture made it very badly. They were learning a new art, and their productions were fast and crude.

Some of the mills are still going ahead at it—slam, bang and hurrah! turning out a chair a minute almost and never caring how bad it is so long as it will sell.

There was a time along about the height of the cheap furniture craze when we considered going out of the furniture business because the goods available were so poor.

But we didn't go out; we went after the manufacturers instead. And soon we began to get better furniture; then better and better. The manufacturers were learning their new business. The old hand-craftsman art was revived and flourishes again.

Next Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be "Inspection Days" in advance of the Furniture Sale.

For while there are some things about furniture that machinery can do a hundred times better than hand-driven tools could ever do, there are some things that it takes the living hand of an artist craftsman to do.

Finally, the combination of the highest development of machinery and the best of hand-work brings us now—

Fine Furniture in Great Quantities at Low Prices

The "Old-Time Quality" has come back not in a few pieces of furniture, but in furniture by the thousands of pieces.

In the Celebrated February Furniture Sale at Wanamaker's

there will be tens and tens of thousands of pieces of furniture of the "Old-Time Quality"—and every piece of it of the kind that is fit to go down from father to son and from son to grandson and be treasured for its strength and its beauty as much as for its associations.

The Celebrated February Sale of Furniture

will prove that this is a better furniture age than ever was before in the world.

JOHN WANAMAKER