

1941

# Notes: Lenten Address: Holy Week: Wednesday: Gospel of Another Chance (John 8:11b)

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St. Louis 1941 - Wednesday.

Classet  
Fall 1962Chance  
A/10/62

1. Several years ago - quit class room - instructor asked: "the greatest single dramatic scene in all the world's literature" - Suggestion: Opening scene in Hamlet on platform at Elsinore - the death of King here - the murder of Duncan in "Macbeth" - the slamming of the door by Nora in Ibsen's "Doll House" - instructor: The greatest single dramatic scene is in John 8, 1-11 unegualled in dramatic power - rising steadily to a climax of pity + of love new in the world.
2. Our Lord in the temple - Pharisee - our Lord ignores - writes on the ground (God always does) - then one swift terrible sentence calls up all the terrible passions of the coming years - "let him <sup>injust</sup> sin eldnt. then irony "Whom are thy accusers?" + then the lifting, magnificent pity of God: "Go and sin no more" - The curtain drops on God standing alone looking after a sinner who had received what He alone can give - another chance at life - to sing - to laugh - to see life steadily.
3. Right into the heart of our problem - all of us can think of an hour when we needed another chance - when we had failed - when we had run away from God - when we were spiritually in the dust - and the reason for it was: Sin.
4. Sin - stay with it for a moment - St. Anselm - consciousness coming back into a world ruined by sin - Sin: the breaking down of fellowship between God and us - + between ourselves - Every reference in Holy Writ uses this picture - Sin is wandering, loneliness, going away, going astray, separation, transgression - always one thing - we had a fellowship + we broke it - we had a home + we forgot it - we had a home + we lost it -

Nichtuhr

right comes  
innocence  
blessedness.

Epiphany Detroit

St. James 1941 - Wednesday, March 27, 1941

5. And because Sin is like that, it haunts us - like  
ghosts walking by our side. Freudianism

Psychiatry - Macbeth pleads with his physician:

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow  
Raze out the written trouble of the brain  
And with some sweet, oblivion antidote  
Cleanse the stuffed bosom of that perilous stuff  
Which weighs upon the heart?"

No answer! Macbeth wails: "Come put mine armor  
on, give me my staff". Better to die than to live  
like that. [Sept. 3, 1929 - cocktail lounge - eat, drink  
be merry - tomorrow we die - no, immortal-]

6. And there comes the Gospel of another chance - the  
full glory, the almost incredible miracle of forgiveness -  
the restoration of fellowship - the return to father's house -  
Bible: the story of people who come home again -  
David - Peter - Paul - (Luther) they dash the tears  
from their eyes & look toward the father - New hope -  
horizons lift - life begins to <sup>throb</sup> move & live -  
another chance from the hand of God Himself -

7. This the ultimate meaning of our Lord's obedient  
life & atoning death. He stood one day - Prodigal  
Son - and a few months ago - a hospital-  
pastor giving Communion - had life - broken the  
law of God & man - but now the crowd had  
gone - there was the whisper of God in the  
quiet room "Where are those that condemn  
this?" - God gave Him another chance & he  
had taken it - the eternal mystery of the Khris faith -  
begins way down with Luther "a lost & condemned  
This is what you will hear again, Thine, Fri., Sunday

How shall be  
End Today

This is your intention & plan for your day. God above the stars in any of a double  
End: Today  
creation, then fight on the wings of the  
morning, set you down by the grace of  
God above the stars in any of a double  
that I might be His own -  
bicep.