

2-12-1964

## Notes: Lenten Address: Two Lenten Vignettes (Fragments), 1964

O.P. Kretzmann  
*Valparaiso University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholar.valpo.edu/kretzmann\\_collection](https://scholar.valpo.edu/kretzmann_collection)



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kretzmann, O.P., "Notes: Lenten Address: Two Lenten Vignettes (Fragments), 1964" (1964). *O.P. Kretzmann Collection*. 59.  
[https://scholar.valpo.edu/kretzmann\\_collection/59](https://scholar.valpo.edu/kretzmann_collection/59)

This Collection Record is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in O.P. Kretzmann Collection by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at [scholar@valpo.edu](mailto:scholar@valpo.edu).

DATE

12/12/64

OCCASION

Ash Wednesday

V-II

THEME

Two henten Vignettes

9. 25 years ago - on this campus one rainy night - a pair of us who had been examining Shakespearean view of tragedy drifted off into a discussion of the question: What after all is the greatest tragedy - the most continuing sorrow - in life & time - at first many different answers - the fear of death - not for ourselves but for someone we love - or the steady, relentless weight of financial worry - or - the loss of friends in the way with us for a while - and then go away again - or our secret fears - the no-man-land when we are alone - the inward, hidden hurt of life - the burden of our aloneness -
10. And yet - as the discussion proceeded and we searched the corners of our lives - we gradually began to agree that the most tragic thing - the great continuing, haunting sorrow of life is its sense of incompleteness - of unfinished tasks - of things that we would like to do and cannot stay to do - of loose ends and frayed edges - the problem that Shakespeare was examining: "Tomorrow & tomorrow" -
11. Of course, we often say: "That is done - finished" - [that <sup>task</sup> tomorrow - that <sup>job</sup> exam - that course] - that business transaction - we have a

DATE 2/12/64 OCCASION Ash WednesdayTHEME Two human Vignettes.

momentary sense of accomplishment - achievement and yet we really mean only - "It is the best I can do right now - perhaps some day I can do better." That is all - so the end of anything in life is never really complete or final - time and life are too fluid and dynamic for that - no thoughtful man or woman says: "I have done that" - only "I am done with it" - it isn't finished, complete, perfect - but it's the best I can do - the lute may break and the harp return to the willows - but the melody or discord lingers on -

12. And yet this is the great reason for our observance of <sup>Good Friday</sup> ~~Good Friday~~ - once & only once in the long story of our incompleteness - there was one task that was done - completely, finally, absolutely - by any & every standard of measurement, human or divine, our hearts worn - from the first cry in the manger to the last cry on the cross - was a divine symphony coming to its final & inscribed & complete & perfect ending - its end: "It is finished" - and with that He transformed our sense of incompleteness, our unfinished lives, our loose ends, frayed edges - the brokenness of our sin into something new & holy & great & good -

VII

DATE 2/12/64 OCCASION Ash Wednesday v - IV

THEME Two hearken Vignettes - Bond  
Crown.

13. Understand that - look more closely - 3 P.M. - almost the hour of the end - there was this strange darkness - this mysterious stillness - even mobs become still when death comes - lynching - suddenly - head up under the crown of thorns - his voice rings out; "It is finished" - to some of the crowd - the leaders of the mob, the Roman soldier - this may have sounded like the crash of doom - had they after all lost - how come this sudden, strange, glow of finality, of triumph, of victory - yes, if they could have seen what we see today - they would have seen each thorn in His crown become a shining gem in His diadem of glory - His nails forged into the scepter of a King - His wounds - purple of empire - God the Father roared down from heaven and touched Cross - it arms began to echo the world - St. Paul; "Because he was obedient" - St. John; "He is the first-born in a fleshly moment the dying young man on the Cross had become the wisest of the heart on the throne - the man of many crowns - Recall: for 2000 years after Calvary, all paintings of the Cross pictured only the Christus Rex - the King of Kings & Lord of Lords, the Conqueror of your Sins and mine -

DATE 2/12/64 OCCASION Ash Wednesday

THEME Two herten Vignettes

14. And thus the story ends and so the young man dies - not like Atahole Frasco: "Draw the curtain" - not like Galile: "light man light" - not like Houdet: "the rest is silence" - but as the Savior of the world - the cosmic + eternal Christ - the fashioner of atonement - the Emperor of your soul and mine - I can do no more than call Him to your attention again - so that you may know that in Him is everything you have ever asked of God -
15. And where is He now - this moment - this afternoon - John Mesquidi "Trial of Jesus"