

4-18-1943

Notes: Baccalaureate: Quest and Achievement (Deuteronomy 34:4), 1943

O.P. Kretzmann
Valparaiso University

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TEXT

Deut. 34, 4.

THEME

Quest + Achievement

OCCASION

Baccalaureate. April 18, 1943.

1. Agree with me - one of the most unusual commencement days in the long history of the University - unusual in its time: Palm Sunday, the opening of the week dedicated to commemoration of the passion and death of our Lord; unusual in the fact, ^{however} not only seniors, but more than a hundred men already enrolled in the Armed forces; unusual background - since last Sept.

our what
hunts foreign
earth is
piled high
not in onto
to us -

men have left almost one a day - colleges & universities ivory towers which should be torn down for the duration - I wonder - if any social unit beyond the family feels the present crisis more keenly & deeply than the colleges & universities of America - list in entrance - they are our own our ^{spiritual} cloth & blood - ^{that's where we're} going out into a world they never made - and if they also serve who only stand & wait, then certainly the colleges & universities of America can be justly proud of their contribution ^{today} to the cause of freedom & justice & mercy -

+2

Obvious - against such a background baccalaureate sermons & commencement addresses - greater danger than ever before - fossilized remnants of an outworn tradition - after all - what can one say to those upon whom the odds - Perhaps: "Hope you will do better than we did" - Why should they list? We talked about love - held those nearest to us; talked about brotherhood - ran out on the world 20 yrs. ago; justice & equality - not when our pocketbooks are tattered or when they involve a man whose skin is black - No, we haven't much right to speak - we are the voices from exhausted souls - a generation whose brief, dark day is done

3.

And yet - we are ^{also} the only living link between what has been and what shall be - out of our failure you, I.e.g. may be able to draw some lessons which, real in your minds and vivid in your hearts, will enable you to build better than we have built - to live again please God, under your vision & life long effort - our expression

Base Jan 1953

The end of
the road of
your
Fading
memories

Baccalaureate - April 18, 1943

57-2

4. That reason for text - an old man alone on Mt. Nebo -
 Before him ^{was the land of promise - spread out}
 beautiful & fair ^{in his eyes} for this he had waited & worked these
 many years - all his life he had given for it -
 the waiting & the wars, the flaming heat of the
 desert, the watching in cold nights, the fighting ^{and the}
 and grief - all for this - as he stood there a voice -
 "I have caused etc. - As the sound died away, Moses
 learned the last and ^{the} greatest lesson in life - the hardest -
 the most bitterly needed in our day of cynicism,
 defeat & despair - one which I would like ^{to give}
 you to remember - Life is to be measured not in terms
of its achievement, but its quest - that the standard
of its greatness & power is not what you find but
what you seek - that great failure is better than
cheap success - "I have caused etc."

Remember a few more women who will see it.

5. ^{Church work} ~~Commencement address~~ emphasize success, achievement,
 wish that you reach a goal - result: too often
 compromise, chiseling, cutting corners in order to achieve -
 slow dry rot of the immediate, the attainable, the
 practical - ^{the little things - satisfaction -} my own classmates - toward their goals -
^{given up the good fight -}

20th Cent. 11th a

6. Suggest exactly the opposite ^{only} the opposite view of
 life will enable you to make any contribution to
 the work of ^{today} tomorrow, to live as God would have you
 live, to be as happy as you can be in an unhappy
 world. The hard discipline of the unattainable, the
hardy wine of sacrifice, a creed for your souls &
a fire for your hearts, an altar of oblation for high-

Seemingly failures

1500 years after Moses this view of life came to
 fulfillment in the Cross - shortly after! Rom. 12, 1 I have
as if there were a tomorrow -

7. Imprecious! I wonder! Most imprecious ^{if I were} example:
 true greatness ^{not} - not for what he has done, but for what he is

L.H. May 16, 1943

TEXT

THEME

Basel 1943

(B)

Base
Jan. 1943

OCCASION

lost cause -
forget the dream

victoria

not for the ~~better~~ but not won, but the battle he has fought -

Nazi: his career - unpopular cause - ~~he~~ would tell you that
Any one he has lost more battles than he has won - that much
remains to be done - ~~his~~ ideals, ~~his~~ principles, ~~his~~ dream -

3 ease of
ungrateful
tasks.
for

"I have caused this" - And yet here he is today -
hounded - not quite so impractical. The quest goes on -

(57.3)

8. But more than that - we are driven to this view of life
by the situation in which we find ourselves today -
what is wrong with us goes so deep that no single
generation will be able to right it - the very core of
life has become soft - barbarism against, behind - but the fight

we

barbarism within us - barbarism ^{with} ^{injustice} of sin of forgetfulness of God,
of the bill which our wilful heads have made for
ourselves. this will be long & hard - a quest - many years, real
post-war

9. And there's the thing I fear most - because your task is
so great - almost impossible of achievement - you will lose
not begin at all - not embark on the quest - wash our sanctus
hands of it all - sit back in our little corners - not the achievement

10. Here is where God enters - He speaks: "I have caused
this to do - He alone finally gives the vision, the
dream, the hope, the courage, the faith - Columbus cries:

"This day we sailed on" - We have God - the indomitable
spirit above the black swamp of the gods: "Be not afraid!"

11. Personal & direct - cannot solve problems of the world
without solving our own - three great forgotten things -

Point

- (a) Truth - not pragmatism - Japs - something
- (b) Justice - crus & equal - freedom for - dignity of the human soul - Rom 12:1
- (c) Mercy - lent - it wins - three cycles - Zola

12. And so - out into a dark world - come back I have
successful? - scars - light in your eyes. come to immutably constant

13. Above all - the foot of God - beginning & end. He will

come yea - this evening time - And so goodbye - midnight - later than us that Adam

rise from our enemy
Columbus & say said -

He is to be natural