

5-25-1956

Notes: Final Yearly Chapel Address: Well and Good, 1956

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I

DATE 5/25/56 OCCASION Final Chapel

THEME Well and Good.

1. Hesitant about my task this morning - talk about some of our problems - our troubles - during the semester now closing - probably not unusual in number & extent - effort, however, cumulative - so that there have been requests - faculty & students - that I say a few words about some of these matters before you go home - pick up some loose ends.

2. Some preliminary observations - -

Informal -
talk about things
that pertain to the
U. - Religion & the
how effective it is -
how close do
we come to
the desired
image -

a) Students in trouble - always a small minority - too conscious of them - 20% - less than one per cent - the work in our harvest - always will be with us - also in the Church - but they must never blur our vision - our trust and confidence in the great majority of our students & faculty. They are still as good - better - than many I have seen - no blindest indictment from this platform - not only dishonest but completely wrong - totally useless -

b) Unusual capacity for self-criticism - a self-conscious campus - good, if it does not go too far - we can easily see ourselves short - aware that some of our best students do that - results face the world with our worst rather than our best - tragic -

State this - (c) Expulsion & suspension - there have been some - will be more - how about it? Expulsion: some sacrifice dream or persistent wish happy behind a door rejoicing in the fact that he has been

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throw somebody out of school - they I
tall you now that that is tragically far
from the true picture? - what really happens?
First: We recognize the fact that not only
the student has failed - we have failed to
bring him into line - to make him a part
of the ideals & purposes of the U. - failed
to have him realize his responsibility
over against God, his fellow-students, his
University - say it: there is no harder,
sadder, darker moment for a Dean or
any one else on our staff than to recommend
separation of an individual from the
life of the U. - ^{at} Fortunate: Students have
said - "too easy" - "Crack down" - well -
that's not Christian or intelligent? - ~~but~~
has too charity - love - must be control -
ever thought? - rate a man higher than he
really is - then he is better - only an error
is judgment - rate him lower - not only an
error in judgment - but a moral error.
a sin against the Eighth commandment.
that we must always remember -

3. Cult of conformity - students of our society
have of the pointed out - as of the real
cancer of our age - no room for the uncommon,
the unusual man or woman. esp. true
in the realm of morals - everybody's doing it -
everyone's passing it - esp. noticeable on campus -
how does it work - my roommate, my probably
brother, my sorority sister drinks too much -
I must consume & drink - cheat - he loves
is matter of sex - is content with getting by -
etc. - strong - always conformity to the least
standard.

at 3:00
the hundreds
of the people
brows down
blasted
hopes

commit you to God & His protection - May you be
worthy of the U. - ^{III} a living mirror as it can be.

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and went in any social or moral pattern -
result: the whole level of the group except
a minority controls the majority who
want to do the right and good and noble
thing - I hope that our student leaders will
recognize this problem - and do something about
it -

4. Honor Code. requested to say something about
it - point: here is a place where our
students have done an outstanding job -
we can be very proud - few things here
done as nice good beyond the campus - a
school that can handle an Honor Code is
a good school - responsible student body -
some misunderstanding - deliberate pay -
simple: "Don't cheat" - and don't let anyone
else drag you down into ignoring & condoning
it. hold your head high and be proud
of the fact that you are a member of a
University where men & women are mature
enough & good enough to carry such a
responsibility -

5. Many more things could be said - but time
is short - just one more point - Valpo still
in process of becoming - one is a great
joint task - finally - be right - say No -
stand up - first step - honoring faith of the
gospel ^{faith} and progress - faith is true - ideals &
religion - we are fundamentally sound & potentially
great - but there are things that are unfinished
& things that are seen but not yet reached -
& we must trust on to reach them if we can
and we can - I have that sure confidence and
that abiding faith in you - not by rules - but by a
common faith in God & our destiny - so move - x