

HOLCOMBE: HOUSE CHURCH: WITNESSS: Centrum: 1/7/73

Sometimes you can't think of what to do a witness on, and there are times when every thing is sort of bubbling and breaking loose. The season of Epiphany, which was the manifestation of the gospel to the Gentiles and there is no more appropriate time to do a Lens course.

The trip overseas and all the things we are preparing.

But I think today I want to say a few words in this direction.

U-a

I am convinced that this is going to be a hard winter, and it is not just that the weather man says so. This is going to be a hard winter for us all and when you say that you need to begin to talk to yourself about what that means and I suspect once you realize that you are coming into a time of hardness, that you have to talk to yourself once again about what you have made up your mind to be. I played around with that last few days and I wrote something down. It's not very good, but it is the kind of thing you play around and try to write.

Something like this: Life boils down to deciding to either live life, partaking of its goodness and storing what memories and goods that available for our declining years in lieu of the bitterness of life or as a defense against the constant threat of death. That's one way to live life. or to absurdly abandon every hope, and in love with the given to rush create a future that we will never live to see. And I suspect that in life you make your own decision. And as we talk to ourselves around here, you can make the latter

What does that mean when you begin to face a time that is going to be hard. And I mean it is going to be hard on your peculiarly. Every time the assignment sheets come out I find myself saying, why am I assigned there. I sure would be a lot of easier if they assigned someone else. It would be a lot nicer to be some one else doing something else. That kind of hardness. and then you begin to look out at the world see what is taking place and you wonder. Whether you have decided to create a future that you and I are never going to see.

And yet in the midst of that you-have-to-there the question you have to throw in that pot for sure. What if we live in a world that is not very much like the

world that you and I are accustomed to seeing. The majority of the world that you and I live in, and we must not forget this, would consider the fact-- life that you have here somewhat luxurious. If you have ever taken a walk through the train station in Calcutta, or thru an aboriginal village in Australia or in the backwoods of Africa, you might come to realize that very few of the people in the world know this kind

of life, even as restricted as ours in many respects.

And the suffering that goes in our world, is not altogether economic, Few, Few people in our world have ever known the privilege to live the kind of life that we have know. It goes behind the economic suffering. It is cultural suffering and political suffering. that escapes our imagination.

I suspect we have to go back and discovery those statistics/that 17% of the worlds people own 82% of the world's good. You somewhat get at the caricature that all of us live under. And I say that because you know when you have that you struggle through the issue of your own significance, I guarantee you that that is a river that runs thru the land of mystery and you don't draw it once. You have to ford it/~~draw~~/ every so many miles. You have to decide to go over it and if you don't have a pontoon if your hip pocket - you sink.

The world really doesn't care about . I mean the world is concerned to your children about things a million miles from us. And it won't matter what happens/ or whether you were a good father or mother. Finally it is how you are going to be about what your life is about no matter if you think that is what your life is about. It won't ever matter whether you are a good Sunday school teacher, or . . . But to decide to give up my life for the sake of the whole future and wear as a rock around my neck the agony and pain of the rest of the world and to know that they exist there every moment that I live and breathe here in that particular line of suffering.

we've Now ~~we've~~/decided by the nature of who we are that we would ~~would~~ not go out and hand out pills and build nice things for people. and we could do it. we have so much creativity that we could build those things and pop them up like wheels and

but we have seen that we are the revolutionaries, and sometimes you would rather run out and do these things because you could see something happening. That didn't come through to me until somebody came back from Washington and reported that they said every thing was wonderful and they would like to give us some money but he couldn't cut through the red tape to build Fifth City at that time. The question in ~~the~~ our colleagues mind at that time was that that guy's job was to cut through red tape, that is what he did for a living but his problem wasn't cutting through red tape, and he was certainly enthused with the proposal, but he lived out of a life style that cut his throat. He couldn't cut through that red tape, because he couldn't cut through his life style. If what we are about in te our time did not alter the life style of the world, you finally don't reach the masses of the last fat lady, or the local man, and so we committed our self to altering the life style and ~~that~~ that is the wisdom of Jesus, that if anything was to be altered in humanness that you had to alter with the deeps, you had to alter with the style ~~of~~ that we call the religious and became the religious and that is where our lesson is. ~~and we decided then to turn-~~ And we decided before that even ourselves into boiler \_\_\_\_\_ where we literally boiled ourselves, to where in tradition with the religious of the past, decided to put ourselves in to the refinery where you just blast until all the froth is scraped off and you have nothing but purity, you have nothing but steel, and our internal life can never be anything ~~of~~ less than that. It is hard and rigorous and when it comes sloppy around the edge you slip it down and make it hard and rigorous until that style gets born to create a world that you and I will never see. But we create-a- be the religious for the sake of the future.

I wonder about those guys out on the desert, when they got those slush pots back in E-gypt. What kept them out in the desert was not that they were giving up the slush pots of egypty but it was the <sup>vision</sup> decision of what they were going to create, but they never lived to see it.

That is our winter. These three images come to my mind. First, just a hard winter, The second is the countenance, the Knight of the Woeful countenance, that he wears the suffering and sorrow of the world, and you never forget it one minute and you realize

