

# DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON

## SUNDAY'S DISCOURSE BY THE NOTED DIVINE.

### Subject: The Milestones of Life—Duties and Trials Which Belong to the Different Decades—Advice to the Twenties—The Waiting Age—The Last Haven.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—From an unusual standpoint Dr. Talmage in this discourse looks at the duties and trials which belong to the different decades of human life; text, Psalms xc, 10. "The days of our years are threescore years and ten."

The seventieth milestone of life is here planted as at the end of the journey. A few go beyond it. Multitudes never reach it. The oldest person of modern times expired at 169 years. A Greek of the name of Stravaria lived to 132 years. An Englishman of the name of Thomas Parr lived 152 years. Before the time of Moses people lived 180 years, and if you go far enough back they lived 900 years. Well, that was necessary, because the story of the world must come down by tradition, and it needed long life safely to transmit the news of the past. If the generations had been short lived the story would so often have changed lips that it might have got all astray. But after Moses began to write it down and parchment told it from century to century it was not necessary that people live so long in order to authenticate the events the past. If in our time people lived only twenty-five years, that would not affect history, since it is put in print and is no longer dependent on tradition. Whatever your age, I will to-day directly address you, and I shall speak to those who are in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties, the sixties, and to those who are in the seventies and beyond.

First, then, I accost those of you who are in the twenties. You are full of expectation. You are ambitious—that is, if you amount to anything—for some kind of success, commercial or mechanical or professional or literary or agricultural or social or moral. If I find some one in the twenties without any sort of ambition, I feel like saying, "My friend, you have got on the wrong planet. This is not the world for you. You are going to be in the way. Have you made your choice of poorhouses? You will never be able to pay for your cradle. Who is going to settle for your board? There is a mistake about the fact that you were born at all."

But, supposing you have ambition, let me say to all the twenties, expect everything through divine manipulation, and then you will get all you want and something better. Are you looking for wealth? Well, remember that God controls the money markets, the harvests, the droughts, the caterpillars, the locusts, the sunshine, the storm, the land, the sea, and you will get wealth. Perhaps not that which is stored up in the banks, in safe deposits, in United States securities, in houses and lands, but your clothing and board and shelter, and that is about all you can appropriate anyhow. You cost the Lord a great deal. To feed and clothe and shelter you for a lifetime requires a big sum of money, and if you get nothing more than the absolute necessities you get an enormous amount of supply. Expect as much as you will of any kind of success, if you expect it from the Lord you are safe. Depend on any other resource, and you may be badly chagrined, but depend on God and all will be well. It is a good thing in the crisis of life to have a man of large means back you up. It is a great thing to have a moneyed institution stand behind you in your undertaking. But it is a mightier thing to have the God of heaven and earth your coadjutor, and you may have Him. I am so glad that I met you while you are in the twenties. You are laying out your plans, and all your life in this world and the next for 500 million years of your existence will be affected by those plans. It is about 8 o'clock in the morning of your life, and you are just starting out. Which way are you going to start? Oh, the twenties!

"Twenty" is a great word in the Bible. Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver; Samson judged Israel twenty years; Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities; the flying roll that Zechariah saw was twenty cubits; when the sailors of the ship on which Paul sailed sounded the Mediterranean Sea, it was twenty fathoms. What mighty things have been done in the twenties! Romulus founded Rome when he was twenty; Keats finished life at twenty-five; Lafayette was a world renowned soldier at twenty-three; Oberlin accomplished his chief work at twenty-seven; Bonaparte was victor over Italy at twenty-six; Pitt was prime minister of England at twenty-two; Calvin had completed his immortal "Institutes" by the time he was twenty-six; Grotius was attorney general at twenty-four. Some of the mightiest things for God and eternity have been done in the twenties. As long as you can put the figure 2 before the other figure that helps describe your age I have high hopes about him. Look out for that figure 2. Watch its continuance with as much earnestness as you ever watched anything that promised you salvation or threatened you demotion. What a critical time—the twenties!

While they continue you decide your occupation and the principles by which you will be guided; you make your most abiding friendships; you arrange your home life; you fix your habits. Lord God Almighty for Jesus Christ's sake, have mercy on all the men and women in the twenties!

Next I accost those in the thirties. You are at an age when you find what a tough thing it is to get recognized and established in your occupation or profession. Ten years ago you thought all that was necessary for success was to put on your shutter the sign of physician or dentist or attorney or broker or agent and you would have plenty of business. How many hours you sat and waited for business, and waited in vain, three persons only know—God, your wife and yourself. In commercial life you have not had the promotion and the increase in salary you anticipated, or the place you expected to occupy in the firm has not been vacated. The produce of the farm with which you expected to support yourself and those depending on you and to pay the interest on the mortgage has been far less than you anticipated, or the prices were down, or special expenses for sickness made drafts on your resources that you could not have expected. In some respects the hardest decade of life is the thirties, because the results are generally so far behind the anticipations. It is very rare indeed that a young man does as did the young man one Sunday night when he came to me and said, "I have been so marvelously prospered since I came to this country that I ought to dedicate myself to God."

Nine-tenths of the poetry of life has been knocked out of you since you came into the thirties. Men in the different

professions and occupations saw that you were rising, and they must put an etopel on you or you might somehow stand in the way. They think you must be suppressed.

Your decade is the one that will probably afford the greatest opportunity for victory because there is the greatest necessity for struggle. Read the world's history and know what are the thirties for good or bad. Alexander the Great closed his career at thirty-two; Frederick the Great made Europe tremble with his armies at thirty-five; Cortes conquered Mexico at thirty; Grant fought Shiloh and Donelson when thirty-eight; Raphael died at thirty-seven; Luther was the hero of the reformation at thirty-five; Sir Philip Sidney got through by thirty-two. The greatest deeds for God and against Him were done within the thirties, and your greatest battles are now and between the time when you cease expressing your age by putting first a figure 2 and the time when you will cease expressing it by putting first a figure 3. As it is the greatest time of the struggle, I adjure you, in God's name and by God's grace, make it the greatest achievement. My prayer is for all those in the tremendous crisis of the thirties. The fact is that by the way you decide the present decade of your history you decide all the following decades.

Next I accost the forties. Yours is the decade of discovery. I do not mean the discovery of the outside, but the discovery of yourself. No man knows himself until he is forty. He overestimates or underestimates himself. By that time he has learned what he can do or what he cannot do. He thought he had commercial genius enough to become a millionaire, but now he is satisfied to make a comfortable living. He thought he had rhetorical power that would bring him into the United States Senate; now he is content if he can successfully argue a common case before a petit jury. He thought he had medical skill that would make him a Mott or a Grosse or a Willard Parker or a Sims; now he finds his sphere is that of a family physician, prescribing for the ordinary ailments that afflict our race. He was sailing on in a fog and could not take a reckoning, but now it clears up enough to allow him to find out his real latitude and longitude. He has been climbing, but now he has got to the top of the hill, and he takes a long breath. He is half way through the journey at least, and he is in a position to look backward or forward. He has more good sense than he ever had. He knows human nature, for he has been cheated often enough to see the bad side of it, and he has met so many gracious and kindly and splendid souls he also knows the good side of it. Now, calm yourself. Thank God for the past and deliberately set your compass for another voyage.

My subject next accosts those in the seventies and beyond. My word to them is congratulation. You have got nearly if not quite through. You have safely crossed the sea of life and are about to enter the harbor. You have fought at Gettysburg, and the war is over—here and there a skirmish with the remaining sin of your own heart and the sin of the world, but I guess you are about done. There may be some work for you yet on a small or large scale. Bismarck of Germany vigorous in the eighties. The Prime Minister of England strong at seventy-two. Haydn composing his oratorio, "The Creation," at seventy years of age. Isocrates doing some of his best work at seventy-four. Plato busy thinking for all succeeding centuries at eighty-one. Noah Webster, after making his world renowned dictionary, hard at work until eighty-five years old. Rev. Daniel Waldo praying in my pulpit at 100 years of age. Humboldt producing the immortal "Cosmos" at seventy-six years. William Blake at sixty-seven learning Italian so as to read Dante in the original. Lord Cockburn at eighty-seven writing his best treatise. John Wesley stirring great audiences at eighty-five. William C. Bryant, without spectacles, reading in my house "Thantaposis" at eighty-three years of age. Christian men and women in all departments serving God after becoming septuagenarians and nonagenarians prove that there are possibilities of work for the aged, but I think you who are passed the seventies are near being through.

How do you feel about it? You ought to be jubilant, because life is a tremendous struggle, and if you have got through respectably and usefully you ought to feel like people toward the close of a summer day seated on the rocks watching the sunset at Bar Harbor of Cape May or Look-out Mountain. I am glad to say that most old Christians are cheerful. Daniel Webster visited John Adams a short time before his death and found him in very infirm health. He said to Mr. Adams: "I am glad to see you. I hope you are getting along pretty well." The reply was: "Ah, sir, quite the contrary. I find I am a poor tenant, occupying a house much shattered by time. It sways and trembles with every wind, and what is worse, sir, the landlord, as near as I can make out, does not intend to make any repairs."

An aged woman sent to her physician and told him of her ailments, and the doctor said: "What would you have me do, madam? I cannot make you young again." She replied: "I know that, doctor. What I want you to do is to help me to grow old a little longer." The young men have their troubles before them; the old have their troubles behind them. You have got about all out of this earth that there is in it. Be glad that you, an aged servant of God, are going to try another life and amid better surroundings. Stop looking back and look ahead. O ye in the seventies and eighties and the nineties, your best days are yet to come, your grandest associations are yet to be formed, your best eyesight is yet to be kindled, your greatest speed is yet to be traveled, your gladdest song is yet to be sung. The most of your friends have gone over the border, and you are going to join them very soon. They are waiting for you; they are watching the golden shore to see you land; they are watching the shining gate to see you come through; they are standing by the throne to see you mount.

What a glad hour when you drop the staff and take the scepter, when you quit the stiffened joints and become an immortal athlete! But hear, hear; a remark pertinent to all people, whether in the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties, the sixties, the seventies or beyond.

But the most of you will never reach the eighties or the seventies or the sixties or the fifties or the forties. He who passes into the forties has gone far beyond the average of human life. Amid the uncertainties take God through Jesus Christ as your present and eternal safety. The longest life is only a small fragment of the great eternity. We will all of us soon be there.

Eternity, how near it rolls! Count the vast value of your souls. Beware and count the awful cost. What they have gained whose souls are lost.

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A. T. DEWITT.

I have been a great sufferer from constipation for over five years. Nothing gave me any relief. My feet and legs and abdomen were bloated so I could not wear shoes on my feet and only a loose dress. I saw Ripans Tablets advertised in our daily paper, bought some and took them as directed. Have taken them about three weeks and there is such a change! I am not constipated any more and I owe it all to Ripans Tablets. I am thirty-seven years old, have no occupation, only my household duties and nursing my sick husband. He has had the dropsy and I am trying Ripans Tablets for him. He feels some better but it will take some time before he has been sick so long. You may use my letter and name as you like.

Mrs. MARY GORMAN CLARK.

I have been suffering from headaches ever since I was a little girl. I could never ride in a car or go into a crowded place without getting a headache and sick at my stomach. I heard about Ripans Tablets from an aunt of mine who was taking them for catarrh of the stomach. She had found such relief from their use she advised me to take them too, and I have been doing so since last October, and will say they have completely cured my headaches. I am twenty-nine years old. You are welcome to use this testimonial.

Mrs. J. BROOKMYER.

I want to inform you, in words of highest praise, of the benefit I have derived from Ripans Tablets. I am a professional nurse and in this profession a clear head is always needed. Ripans Tablets does it. After one of my cases I found myself completely run down. Acting on the advice of Mr. Geo. Bower, Ph. G., 588 Newark Ave., Jersey City, I took Ripans Tablets with grand results.

Mrs. DESSIE WIEDMAN.

Mother was troubled with heartburn and sleeplessness, caused by indigestion, for a good many years. One day she saw a testimonial in the paper endorsing Ripans Tablets, she determined to give them a trial, was greatly relieved by their use and now takes the Tablets regularly. She keeps a few cartons Ripans Tablets in the house and says she will not be without them. The heartburn and sleeplessness have disappeared with the indigestion which was formerly so great a burden for her. Our whole family take the Tablets regularly, especially after a hearty meal. My mother is fifty years of age and is enjoying the best of health and spirits; also eats hearty meals, an impossibility before she took Ripans Tablets.

ARTHUR H. BLAUBER.

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