

Let's Chat

BY MABEL B. JORDAN
Columnist

TRUST AND BELIEVE

Whatever our problems, troubles and sorrows, if we trust and believe there'll be brighter tomorrows. And all that is asked or expected from us is faith that is unshaken by tribulations, that keep growing stronger along with the years. So we must keep on believing whatever betide us.

Helen S. Rice

AGE-WISE

In the passing of another year, a fresh one's greeted without fear. For when you take life day by day, it's easier to find your way. With challenges that must be met, and knowledge gained not to forget, but used to gain even more. Each new year open is a new door. Each new year is space to grow.

Cheryl J. Phillips

LOVE

Love is not blind—it sees more, not less. But because it sees more, it is willing to see less.

Rabbi Julius Gordon

LOYALTY

Great souls are always loyally submissive, reverent to what is over them. Only small souls are otherwise.

Thomas Carlyle

To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.

William Shakespeare

EACH NEW DAY

It doesn't matter what did befall us. It doesn't matter what might have been, for our yesterdays are all behind us and every day lets us start over again.

R. Scarbrough

HEART GIFTS

A cheerful smile, a friendly word. A sympathetic nod are priceless little treasures. They are the things that can't be bought with silver or with gold for thoughtfulness and kindness and love are never sold.

Helen S. Rice

PIONEERS

There is no smooth and easy path. Each one must find their way and prove their merit traveling on with faith, from day to day.

Dovie A. Divine

PATIENCE

It's not always easy to be patient, but it is intelligent to be patient. Patience is a mark of strength. Patience is really our facet of love.

Anonymous

INNER STRENGTH

You can't have inner strength unless you are calm and quiet and composed and have a sense of control within yourself. Be controlled and peaceful so that you can consider and evaluate.

Dr. Norman V. Peale

THE BETTER WAY

The better way is unfailingly just that. But it may often be a way of challenge, of unselfishness, even terms of risk. For we never know where the better way may lead, to what adventures or life or new interests or encounters. And the more we welcome it, the more it will go on happening for our greater blessings.

David Gunston

SURVIVORS

Survival is a strong and sweet urge within us. There is a love of life in us. When we keep letting go and letting love have its perfect sway in and through us. Survival is a strong urge within us and speaks to us through all creations everywhere.

Bernice Ketchum

FEAR

When fear knocks at your door, always let faith answer that door.

Oral Roberts

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt, as young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear; as young as your hope; as old as your despair.

Anonymous

CIRCUMSTANCES

Circumstances and situations do color life, but you have given the mind and situation to choose what the color shall be.

John H. Miller

DIRECTION

Like the winds of the sea are the winds of fate. As we voyage along through life, it's the set of the soul that decides its goal and not the calm or the strife.

Anonymous

Foundations are important. To the uninitiated it looks as if they are going in the wrong direction, but they are going down in order to go up.

John L. Hill

TOMORROW

Today the sun may shine a while. Tomorrow it may rain. Today our hearts may burn with joy. Tomorrow ache with pain. But so it is each day of life, we have our joys and sorrows. Our dreams can't all come true today. That's why we have tomorrows.

Anonymous

NEW KIND OF LOVE

Let me know every morning a new kind of love, a growing kind of love, a not afraid of being hurt or wounded kind of love. A love that does not syncope or change the meaning of the word. A love that never counts the cost.

Wilma Burton

POSITIVE THOUGHT

Your greatest pleasure is that which rebounds from hearts that you have made glad.

H. W. Beecher

If You Are To Speak, Make Yourself Clear

Everybody is making speeches these days—in the pulpit, at civic clubs, before lodges, schools, and other groups. Someone has jokingly said, "It has got to the place today that whenever two men meet on the street, one of them pulls out a gavel and calls the meeting to order."

So many are the meetings, and so great is the demand for speakers, that anyone who has attained a degree of prominence or popularity may be called upon to give a speech.

For those who may not have wide experience, the following suggestions are given:

1. Who is going to be present? Men? Women? Young people? A mixed group? Your choice of material will depend a lot on those who are to hear you. The Woman's Club is interested in something entirely different from the DeMolays, and the Kiwanis Club from the Boy Scouts. You will not want to preach an evangelistic sermon to a group which has no sinners to convert, nor would the PTA want a lecture on metallurgy. Be sure your speech fits your audience.

2. What is the purpose of the talk? Is it to inform? Teach? Inspire? Challenge? Stir to action? Deepen faith? Entertain? People are too busy to listen to speeches that have no point to them. Be sure you know, before you start, exactly what you hope to accomplish.

3. Choose an interesting title. This will create interest, arouse the curiosity, and tell something of the topic to be discussed. If a minister were to announce, simply, "Faith," nobody would be particularly interested. But if he were to choose, "Can Faith Move Mountains Today?" people would wonder what he was going to say. Be sure you do not mislead people by announcing "The First Five Minutes After Death," and then give them a sermon on money, liquor or gambling. They will feel they have been tricked, and will not trust you again.

4. Where will you get material? If the speaker is before a church group, you will want to use (1) the Bible; (2) a Bible concordance; (3) a Bible dictionary; (4) a Bible commentary; (5) books of illustrations; (6) current events; (7) history; or (8) poetry.

If you are speaking to a secular group on a secular topic, you will find books in the public library written by men who are authorities in their field; encyclopedias will give you a

background of the past, and things accomplished, and trade or professional magazines will bring you up to date. You will also find that interviews and personal experiences provide much interesting material.

5. How will you arrange the material? Keeping in mind the amount of time you will have at your disposal in giving the speech, make a simple outline of the principal things you have to say. You will probably not want to have more than three or four divisions, so they will be easy to remember. Then, under each one, fill in the facts, figures and illustrations that bring out clearly what you want to get over to the group. You will want to arrange your material logically, leading to a definite conclusion; if it is of a historical nature, naturally you will begin with the past, indicate the bearing that it has on the present, and conclude with a prophetic note concerning the future.

Once you have your speech written out, completely master the material, but do not attempt to memorize it word for word. If you do, and you forget something, it will leave you completely bewildered. Rather, memorize your outline, and express what you have to say in your own words.

You may have the outline before you when you speak, if you are not sure of yourself, but do not use it unless absolutely necessary. The speaker who has to keep looking at notes soon loses the attention of the audience.

6. What things should be observed in delivering the speech?

(1) Watch your voice. Keep on the low tones, for they carry better than the high, shrill notes. Be sure you are speaking loud enough to be heard, for a speech goes utterly to waste on those who cannot hear it. If you are speaking in a large room, without the aid of a microphone, there is nothing wrong with inquiring if those in the back can hear you. Enunciates and articulate clearly. Vary the force and tempo of your voice to suit the sentiment. Make use of the pause to create suspense, and stir the imagination. Don't attempt to be oratorical, unless you are particularly gifted along that line. Use the conversational tone, which makes your message seem personal to all who hear it.

(2) Watch your face. This needs to be done before a mirror at home. Some very fine speakers huffily much of the effectiveness of their speeches

by the horrible contortions they put their features through.

Some hints for introductions:
1. While it is true that some are quiet to tell funny stories, and some people who have a talent for it, and others do not. If you have the ability to make people laugh, use good judgment in your choice of stories. You will not want to cheapen yourself by telling one which are vulgar. Neither will you embarrass the speaker by telling some old joke and claiming it happened to him. You will find that a man will make a lot better speech if what you say makes him feel good, instead of throwing him into confusion by telling things which make him flush with shame.

On the other hand, if you are one of those who are not clever in telling stories, don't attempt it, for the listeners will laugh at you instead of the stories.

2. At the close of the speech, thank him graciously for having brought the message. If you can honestly do so, compliment him highly, but if it was so dull that people heartily wished he had never come, don't make out like it was wonderful, for nobody knows better than he that it was not. Nevertheless, you can sincerely express your appreciation for his willingness to be on the program. There are very few speeches in which there are not some fine things, and even if the delivery was poor, you can make him feel good by commenting, "I particularly like what our speaker had to say about _____."

If the speaker is commonly known to be long-winded, you might tactfully mention before you start in on your introduction that the meeting started on the dot, and has moved briskly along, so that the speaker will get in his full time and yet the group will be dismissed on the hour.



MISSIONARY WORK—The Episcopal women of Saint Ambrose Episcopal Church recently hosted a Women's Bazaar. Proceeds from the event will go towards church missionary work. WAUG of Saint Augustine's College was on hand to assist with the promotion of this event.

Winn-Dixie Program Aids Needy

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—When customers of Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc., say "Even It Up" at checkout, they are actually requesting that the small change from their grocery purchases help to feed the hungry.

The cashier at checkout rounds off the customers' total food purchase to the next dollar, and diverts the change to the Salvation Army fund in the war against hunger.

The Even It Up program was set up in January 1989 by Winn-Dixie and the Salvation Army, and has grown to \$362,014 which has been diverted into food certificates for needy families across the Sunbelt.

The food certificates are disbursed by the Salvation Army to households with the greatest needs, focusing on the children and the elderly. They are redeemable at all Winn-Dixie stores

for nutritional perishables such as produce, dairy products, fresh and smoked meats which cannot be distributed from food banks equipped to handle only non-refrigerated foods.

Participating Winn-Dixie store locations throughout Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and the Carolinas are identified by the Even It Up sign at checkout.

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*Only Adult Classes during Summer Vacation

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THE SOWER AND THE SOILS

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
One day Jesus left the house where He was staying and walked to the edge of the Sea of Galilee. There He climbed into a moored fishing boat to gain a better position from which to address the people who had gathered about Him.

The crowd listening to Jesus was made up mostly of ordinary laborers. So in teaching them Jesus used stories based on common life experiences.

In Jesus' day grain was sown by a farmer walking back and forth across his field, grabbing handfuls of seed from a leather bag slung at his waist and broadcasting it as evenly as he could. But even a careful farmer sometimes tossed seed on unproductive soil.

One kind of unproductive soil was that of a "way side" or path, cutting through the field. Feet, hooves, and perhaps wheels traveling on the path made the ground hard. Birds awaited a free meal from the seed that fell on the packed soil of the path.

Another kind of unproductive soil was that which thinly covered a layer of rock. Though the seed germinated there, its roots could not penetrate deeply enough to find moisture in dry times. When the hot sun baked the soil, the tender young plants quickly withered.

A third kind of unproductive soil was that where thorn-bushes grew thickly. There the seed might germinate, but the grain's growth was severely stunted because the thorn-bushes used up most of the space and available moisture.

But a field did not have only unproductive soil. There was good soil, too, where the seed sprouted and the resulting plants yielded a harvest. The farmers in Jesus' audience knew that a harvest of grain 30 times as large as the amount of seed used in planting the crop was a good harvest. A hundredfold harvest was exceptionally good.

Jesus' explanation of the parable is clear and to the point. The seed represents the "word of the kingdom" of God. The four soils of the field illustrate different kinds of receptivity among those who hear the Word.

Some, like the hardened path, receive seed without letting it in where it might grow. Some, like the rocky soil, for one reason or another, they don't understand the Word.

LEARN ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Join us each Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Rectory, 630 Peartree Lane, Raleigh North Carolina for coffee and conversation. We will be sharing our personal stories of faith. You are most welcome to share in prayer and reflection as we seek to grow closer to God and one another.

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