

Sunday, August 7, 1966 *HYACINTHS TO*
Sermon Subject: White hands can feed the soul

If I had two loaves, I would sell one of them and buy five more to feed my soul. From ^{ancient} ~~ancient~~ *Persian* philosophy came these ^{the thought} ~~words~~ *expressing this thought.* ~~But~~ Jesus brought that thought to the fore; ~~made it~~ *white hyacinths* an issue of life when he declared "Man shall not live by bread alone."

He It was illustrated ^{this} one day when ~~one of the experiences of his life~~. There was a family who lived in ~~back of me~~ *Bethany* who was very dear to Jesus. He went there quite often ~~and~~ *in his moments* in which he was to spend time ~~in solitude~~ *retreat*. He turned from companionship with others to those who accepted him for what he was. Mary and Martha lived in the village of Bethany and quite often he would go to their home.

On one afternoon Mary and Martha were seated ~~at~~ *on the lawn* and ~~in the shade of the tree~~ looking ~~out~~ into the distance. ~~When they saw the figure coming into sight~~; ~~they~~ *recognized immediately* that it was their Lord. Martha ~~had not been~~ *was* prepared for company. The house

had not been ~~kept up to its usual place~~ *kept up to its usual place* of readiness for visitors; ~~there was little~~ *to be* ~~saved for an evening meal~~ and she realized that if she ~~was~~ *was* to be ready for him, she must make haste. ~~And so she jumped up and ran into the house~~ and began working. Mary waited for Jesus and as he ~~came in~~ *came in* in her presence they sat down together. It had been a tiresome journey for him. ~~And he sat, there~~ *gazing about*, at the thoughts that were uppermost in his mind, sharing them with Mary as she ~~was seated at his feet~~. *listening to every word that he spoke, taking in every thought that he shared.* Martha was ~~inside~~ *inside*, cleaning the house + preparing the food. ~~And she looked through the doorway and saw Mary~~ *reclining there* while she was doing all of the work. ~~And so she welled up with anger~~ *and* went through the doorway and turned to Jesus. ~~and said, Rebuke my sister for wasting her time, tell her to come and help me prepare for the evening meal.~~ *And* Jesus ~~sadly~~ *sadly* looked up into the face of Martha and said "O Martha, You don't understand. Mary has chosen the better way."

William Wordsworth ~~expressed~~ *lamented* the way that we ~~get~~ *get* caught up in living ~~that~~ *the melatonin of* we miss the real opportunities ~~that~~ *that* come into our lives. When he said "the world is too much with us." Soon and late ~~getting~~ *getting* ~~wasting~~ *wasting* to ~~for~~ *for* "We see so many of ~~the~~ *the* things in life that appear to be ~~pleasant~~ *pleasant but produce little* and we are so caught up in them. Giving our time and our energy to these things that the real values that life offers to us often go unnoticed. We never take advantage of them. One of the saddest phrases that anyone of us could ever use is to say "I'm too tired" This becomes an impediment to so many experiences into which we can enter and enliven our lives. To bring joy to a greater depth. To experience the sublime things that we otherwise can never find entrances into our conscience. The other evening we were looking at some old home movies that we had made when our little boy was just a toddler. He is becoming quite a young lad by now, and as we looked at those old movies that we hadn't seen for years suddenly a wave of nostalgia swept through me and I felt more about these years gone. It seemed only a moment since he was ~~holding~~ *holding* about. Now these years ... ~~have~~ *have* I shared ~~some~~ *some* with him? ... is there a consciousness of relationship that has extended over these years while he somehow has moved in and out of my life, and I've missed so much of him. I could remember so vividly the only other things that were a part of these years. But suddenly here was a boy and I felt lonely. And then a few days later I was seated in my chair reading when my son came up to me and said, "Daddy, go out and play ball. And hardly pausing, I said "no, son I'm busy, I can't" But suddenly that movie springs forth and ~~burst~~ *burst* into my mind without hesitation I laid down the book and I

was for unexpected guests

hearts at long to prepare for her guest.

promise

said, " no I'm not busy, let's go play ball. There for awhile we shared one another. Too busy. Too busy to enjoy our children. Too busy to linger for just a moment looking out into the west and enjoying the rays of the sunset. How long has it been since you've seen a rainbow in the sky? Or stood on a mountain and looked up into the heavens and watched for a shooting star. All of the beauties of God that are constantly coming into place and we don't find time to enjoy them. Sometime ago Time magazine had a article on Millionaires who had gained their first million by the time they were thirty years-old. all of them having begun with nothing and gained a midlion dollars and .And they tried to assess these lives to determine those qualitiés that had enabled them to become millionaires There were many complementary attributeds that came to the surface . There were two things that were common to them all. One was that they did not have time for religion. The church had no place of importance in their lives. The other they did not have time for family life. One of them was so gracious enough to say that every year on his son's birthday he took the afternoon off drom work and spent it with his son. These representative possing so much wealth when in reality they are improverished above all. Rime to feed the soul. When Jesus was delivering relations we would remember the sermon on the mount. He was speaking at this very point the lives of all his hearers . He said, " Do not be caught up in all of these insignificant things that become primary in your life. Do not thing about self. life, do not thing about food and raiment and drink. But seek ye first the kingdom of Godthis is the primary thing in life. And all these other things will fall simply into place. Putting the emphasis on the primary and letting that which is secondary remain in the back ground. But we havn nt learned this even yet. All of us are caught up even now pursueing that which is secondary and letting that which is primary lie untouched in the recesses of our lives. comes and we haven't really learned haow to live. That which we have fought for , that which we have lived for when we have attained it has given so little satisfaction to our lifes. Jesus said, "Don't be anxious about life. But today that which marks th elives of most of us is the fact that we are aimious. There is an anxiety that reaches deeply into our lives. affecting almost every aspect of our being. Sometime ago a young man in Texas went on a rampage , and on the top of a tower from the University of Texas took a toll of those walking casually by leaving them dead upon the ground. All this is to establish a cause, a motive for this horrible thing. There were those who said, he was overworked. He was trying to do too much. Sttess came into his life when he broke up with the strain of it all. But this is a story that is told over and over again every day. Something sanpping within a perxon because he has become so tense . with the problems of living. So that a recent article representing the Americans Medical Association stated that most than 50 % of the pwitients in hospitals today are there because of an illness that had a psychosomatic beginning. That is not to say that the illness is simply in the mind , it is to say that that illness, as real as it may be did not have a physical orgin but it had a mental orgin. We can become to tense about living , so caught up in the anxiety of the day in which we live that we become physically unable to go on. We break under the strain of it. We all know that our memtal institutions today are receiving more and more per capita. because of the time in which we live and the heavy demands upon our lives. We should realize th n Jesus was speaking about this very thing when he said not to get caught up in the anxiety of living, and he said don't put too much importance upon mate rialism We are to establish in our own minds what it is that prompts us to work to the extent that we do each day , what are we driving for perhaps we would have to admit to ourselveds it isn't because we need a new home ~~or~~ its because we need ani

we a newer a tomobile.

~~What~~ a nicer home. It isn't that we need a new automobile, its that we
~~It isn't that we don't have clothes to wear, but our~~ It isn't that we don't have clothes to wear, but our
clothers do not measure up to the clothes that other people are wearing.
It isn't that we ~~go~~ hungry, but our taste are developing for more exotic foods
~~and~~ we are not satisfied with the commonplace. And so we drive ourselves
deeper and deeper into the objectives of getting etter and better things by which
we can become satisfied. Jesus said, "Don't think about clothing,
~~walk~~ leasurely through the fields and look at the lilies that are growing there.
There not living out their lives ~~job~~ are attired in beauty, and yet God has
made them more beautiful ~~than~~ than even the greatest in wealth. Even the
riches of King Solomon could provide for him. He said, don't think too much
about what you are going to eat or drink Consider the birds as they fly through
the air...they find food, they find drink they are not so preoccupied with
finding food and drink that they don't have time for else. And if God is this
gracious towards the beasts of the fields, the animals, the birds of the air,
the flowers that grow, how ~~ju~~ much more gracious he is to his own children.
Yet our point of anxiety reaches into the point of provide for ourselves
the very things that God gives in abundance. Jesus said, becoming anxious
about ~~one's~~ life will not give him one bit of power in living, but it takes
away province. For which said, By thinkong and working who can
add one inch to his height. on one day to his life. Seek yefirst the primary things
the hyacenthos for the soul ~~and~~ all these things will be added unto you.
When we talk about the improverished people of the world and develop economic
programs that are to eliviate the poverty that we see so many caught up in,
we have not yet the real problem that faces people.
That is the spiritual poverty of life. Here is where we come to grips with the
real drama of life. God has opened various ways through which we can enter
into fellowship with him. These hyaclynths upon which we can feed and the
boyleing thing about these doorways into abundant living they are really
the common place things in life are all about us if we will only become conscious
of them. and take advantage of them. One of these pathways to spiritual abundances
is friendwhips with one another. It was no accident that when someone said
to Jesus What is the greatest commandment of them all? And he declared
a love for God" is the greatest commandment of all. Thou shalt love this
God with the totality of thy being. There will be no point at which you would
hold anything from him. Thus you have established this loyalty to God there is
one other commandment that is slightly less than the first... and is the most
important of all others Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is a derth
of love in the world today...we need to take hold of the fact that we can grow
in communion with oneanother and build upon our fellowship with oneanother.
To discover new insights and ~~what~~ we could never get alone. So often we
alienate ourselves frlom oneanother so that we become detrimental rather than
uplifting to oneanother. It is one of the secrets of the success of Jesus.
As he met people, ^{Suddenly} there was an empathy established that the people could
feel. Here is somebody who cares. And for a people who were living under
the hand of Rome, to find someone who could look into their hearts and welcome
was to catch them at the top of their greatest needs and wherever he went
people flocked out ~~and~~ in multitudes to hear him. When he came into the presence
of someone who was sick he was compassionate towards that person and he
would lift up his hand and touch that person and ~~he would lift up~~ make him whole.
He would restore sight for the blind. hope for the hopeless, that's why they
sought him out, because he gave them a sence of ;nderstanding. and of love.

We need to love one another. Jesus said, how can you say you love God when you don't love your fellow man. When you haven't even seen God and yet you live with your fellow man; and if you cannot love those with whom you live, how can you love one who you haven't even seen. So Jesus ~~xxx years~~ ~~xxx~~ said here is a place to establish whether or not you love God... do you love your fellow man? Ah, that great poem by Riley, to which the Queen through which is my name written upon the book. No, it was not there. When said he, let it be said, that he loved his fellow man. And on that ~~day~~ when the book was opened low, his name was ahead of all the rest. Here, is the way in which a man's love for God is determined. Does he love his fellow man? a worthy transition for your life. is the point of all of our life to feel worthy of this and that is something else. Is that for which we are giving all of our time and energies worthy of the cost that it is making upon us. Objectives for which we give all of our time, our talents our energy, but Jesus said, start by establishing first of all the kingdom of God and the second thing. And then there is a through which we can enter into spiritual abundance. the beauty of God's creations. God wasted himself when he created the world. He caused the little wood violets to grow and bloom and waste themselves unseen. He caused a mountain stream to tumble down a mountain side without one to stand nearby to hear its rumbling over rocks to put his hand in the cold stream. Wasted since there is not anyone there to enjoy it. A waste of God's love for beauty. He could have created the world devoid of all of that which pleases the human heart but here was the most abundant expression of God's creation that we can find any place else. It worries me to hear people complaining about the money that is put into the building of beautiful churches. Someone will always look upon a beautiful edifice and say If all of this money were not wasted on a church building, think how much it would do for helping the people of the world who are in need. We take that which the soul feeds upon, translate it into that which the body feeds upon, ~~just to~~ ^{end} destroy one of the most beautiful gifts of God. Remember works of God when ~~than~~ in a more beautiful way than in the singing of the great anthems of faith, ~~looking upon the~~ or looking upon the beautiful handiwork of God. My Father was buried this past week. And as we sat there hearing the funeral oration the minister said many comforting things, but there was nothing that was quite so comforting as ~~that~~ ^{when} at the close of the service, the organ burst forth in the great, mighty strains "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth". Suddenly here was a conviction that could be expressed in no other way. At Christmas time when we think of all the beauties of the coming of the Christ Child into the world, nothing expresses it more beautifully than "Handel's Messiah". But which of you have plucked a rose and held it tightly, looked into a daisy and felt the simple beauty that is there. To feed our souls upon the ~~white~~ and know God. And then finally there is that faith in God that brings spiritual maturity. But that is exactly what we have been talking about here everything else is ~~bringing the body~~ ^{brought in to focus}, but there is just one aspect of living a dynamic faith in God without that faith, that trust, that confidence in God what ever we seek to do is but to nought. On, y upon the framework of faith in God can all things be ordered. significant reality. Our souls are truly hungry, but we can't find them we can't find that which will satisfy the inner need of man in any other place. Except in God.