

Luke 19:41-48

Theme: Christian concern.

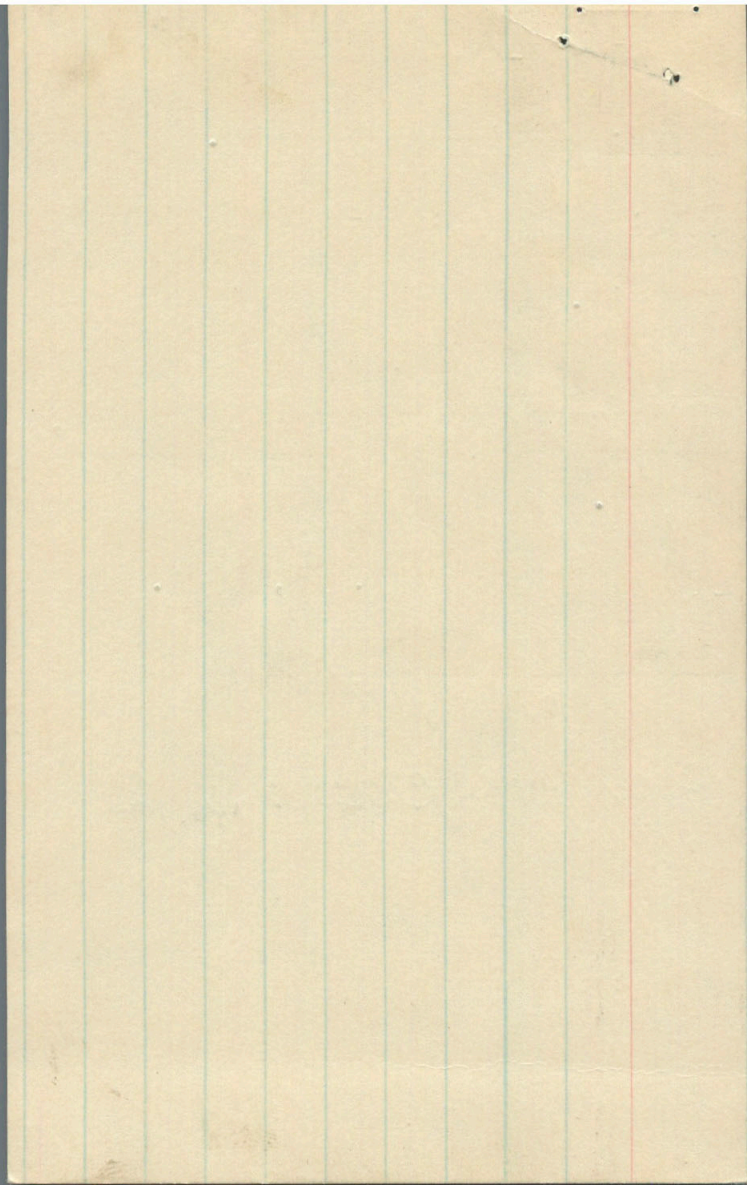
Text: Luke 19:41 -- "and when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it."

Proposition: Christ set the example of concern for others and for God, even at the cost of great personal danger.

Date written: Aug. 21, 1954.

Places and dates preached:

Wheatland, Wyo., Aug. 22, 1954
Grace Church, Casper, Wyo., Feb. 16, 53



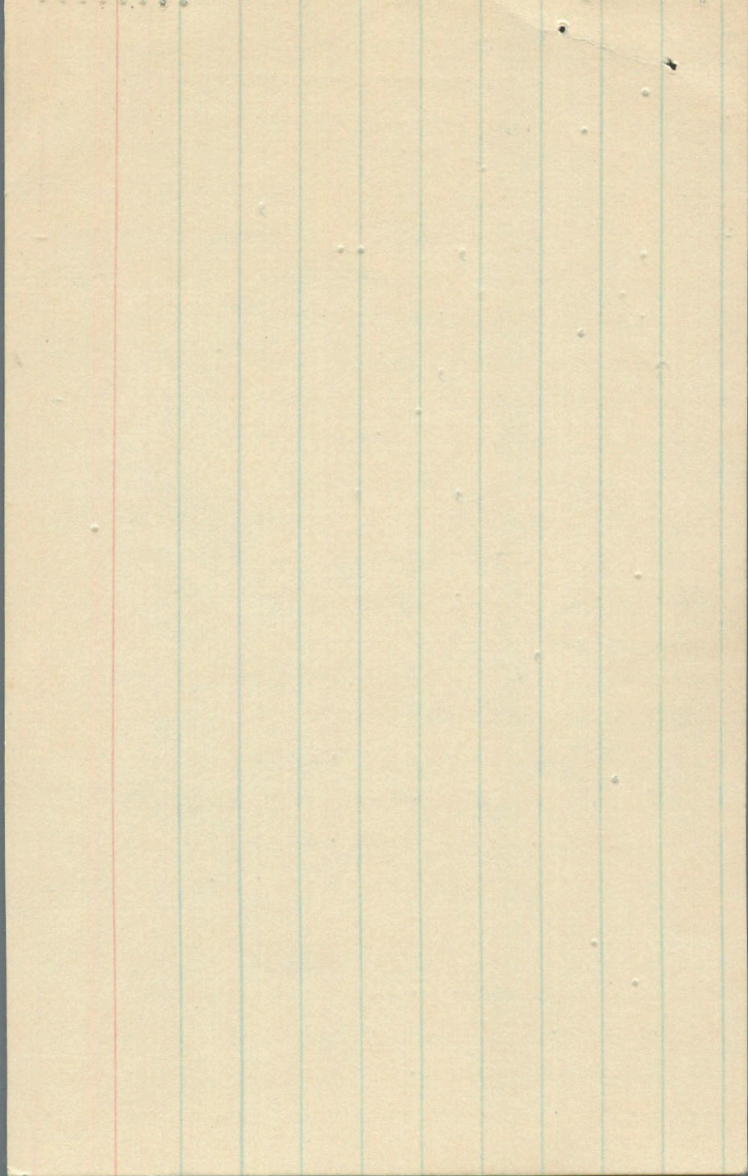
Luke 19:41

Introduction:

1. Armed-Forces day celebration in 1952. Self-importance of sitting near General. Kids getting thrill of climbing all over tanks, field artillery, AA guns, etc.. Free refreshments, bands, dances and other celebration. All in honor of armed forces and men, with gratitude for them emphasized. Tendency to forget the unhappy circumstances of world tension, war, and possible complete destruction of human race.

2. On Palm Sunday we stress Christ's glorious entrance into Jerusalem, but frequently neglect the theme of our Scripture, which in Luke is part of the Palm Sunday story. That theme is the fact of Christ's recognition of tragedy and opposition within the very city that was so well giving Him recognition.

3. The way that Jesus responded to His recognition of tragedy facing Him is of interest to us in understanding Him better and in finding an example for ourselves in



3 Luke 17:41-44
this matter of living.

I. Concern for the lives and projects of other people.

1. Scripture, v. 41-44.

a. Concern or compassion for lives of people. v. 44a -- "and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you."

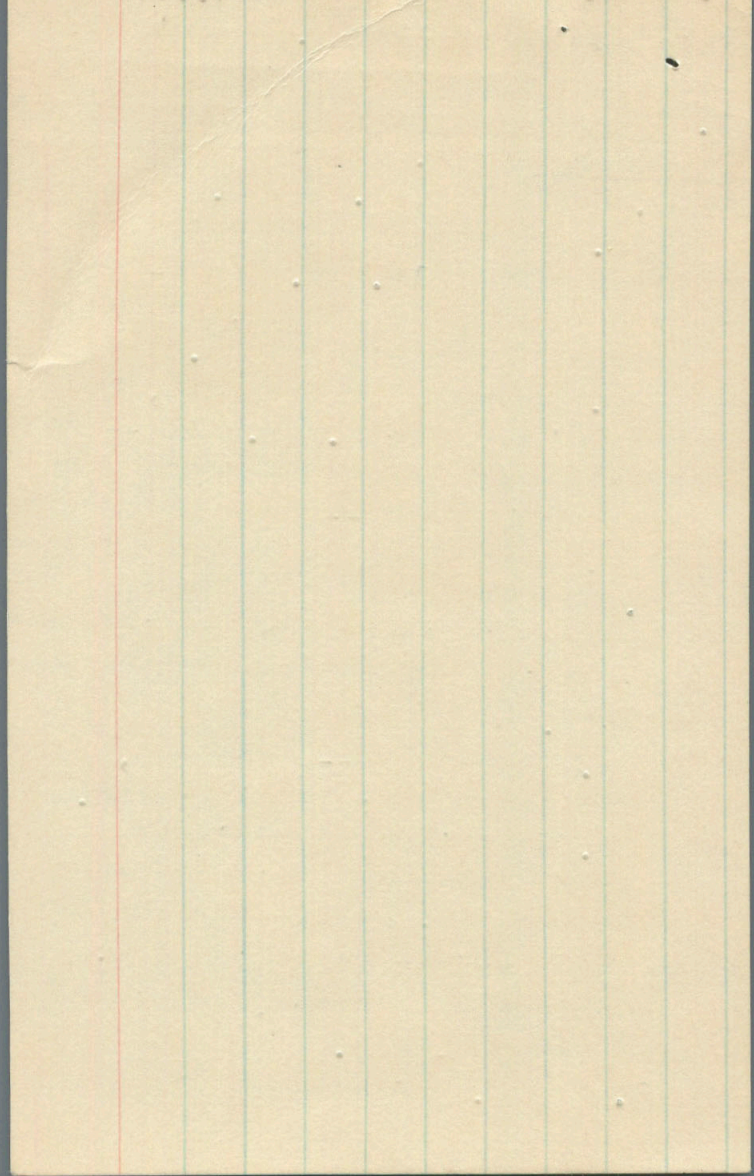
b. Concern for property, or people's projects. v. 44b -- "and they will not leave one stone upon another in you" -- concern for the city.

2. Gospel records of Jesus throughout indicate such an interest by Jesus in both people and their projects.

a. In people -- Zaccheus, Samaritan woman; healing; etc.

b. In things or projects: Helping Peter and friends fish successfully; water to wine at wedding ~~project~~ feast in Cana; teachings on divorce, on riches and rewards, etc.

3. Roy L. Smith's article about

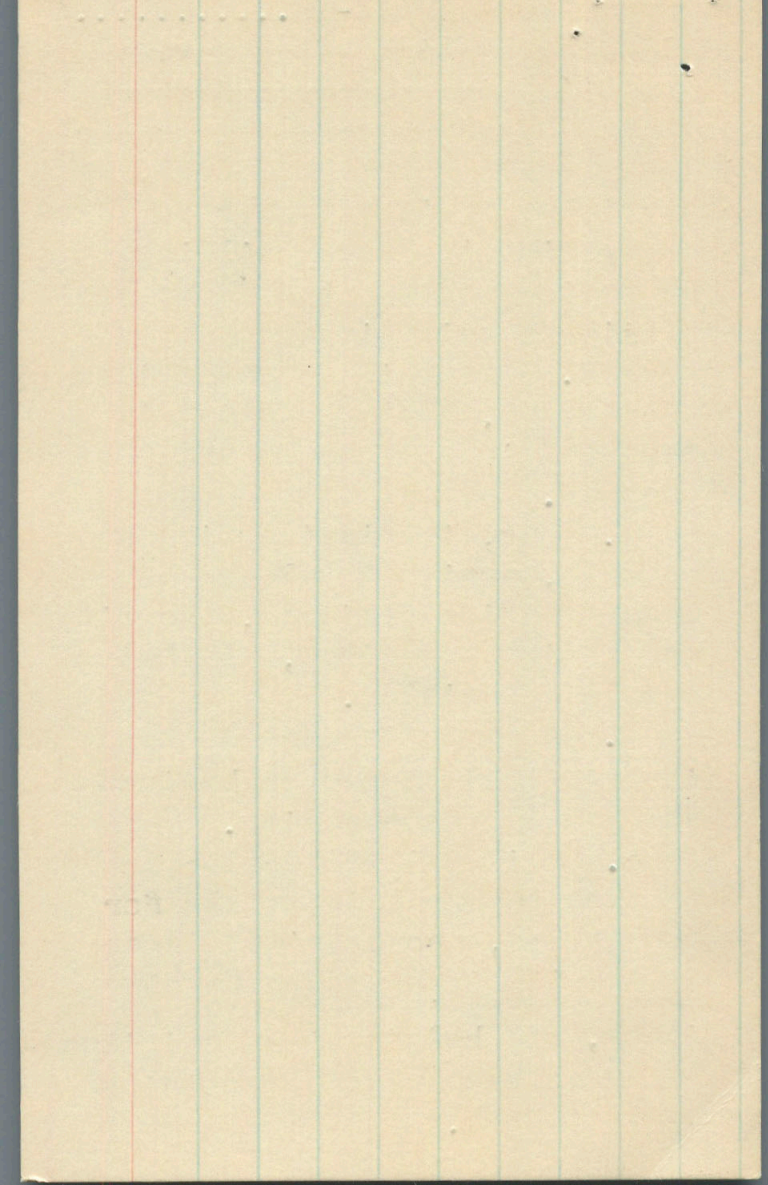


small congregation after several years still in large basement of what was to have been large church if congregation had but grown, and comparison of it with strong Texas congregation in large building busy saving souls but with no social emphasis as being in another type of basement. Story illustrates idea of Scripture, that Christian is interested in both souls and project of people.

a. Thus, in mission fields schools, agricultural and home demonstration projects, hospitals and medical services, all help people materially.

b. At same time access to persons in spiritual manner emphasized and usually made easier.

c. On individual scale we need to show interest in people for themselves, prove friendliness by showing interest or helping people in their worthwhile projects, and helping them spiritually by an example of practicing Christianity.



d. Concern for others and their projects is an example set by Christ. It also gets one away from undue emphasis on self, thus becoming a potent preventive of mental disorder.

II. Concern for the nature of the church, or for the purity of worship --love for God.

1. Scripture, v. 45.

a. "My house shall be a house of prayer" -- the purpose of a church.

b. "but you have made it a den of robbers" -- the danger, still present.

c. Action to make the temple what it should be: "and he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold,"

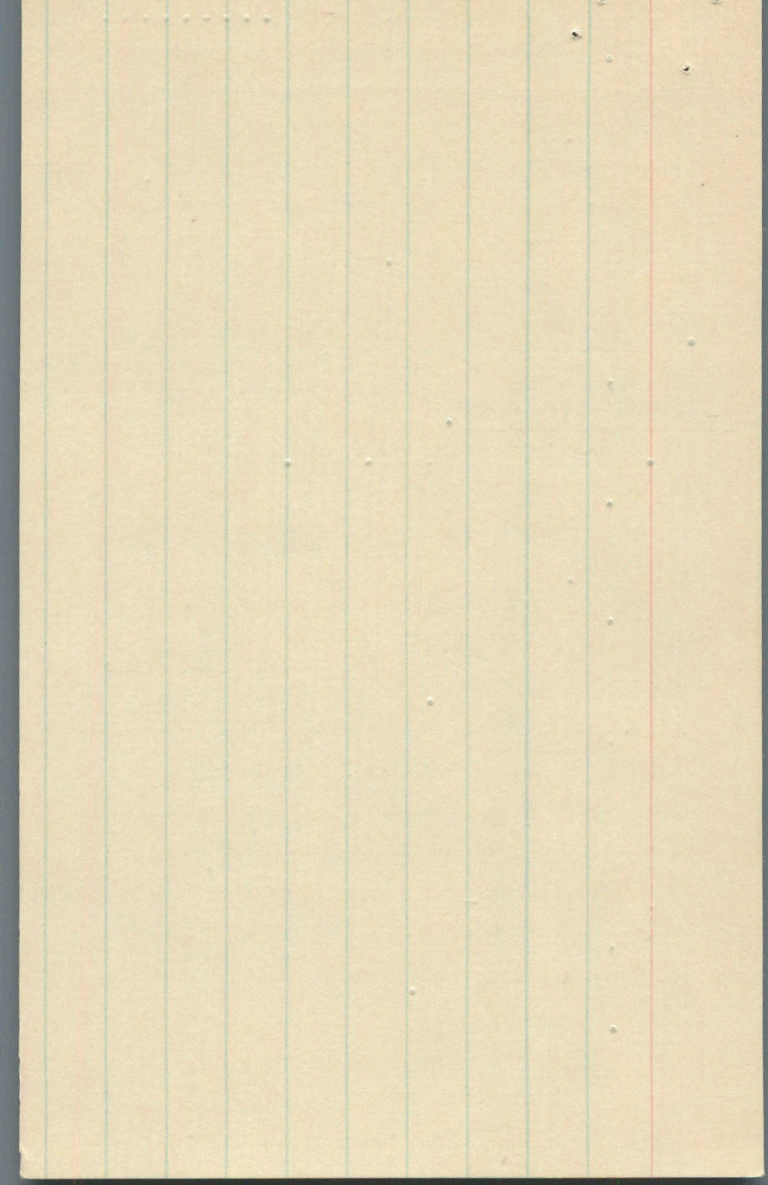
2. Present-day condition of our church, thinking both locally and on a large scale.

a. Purpose

(1) Prayer

(2) Worship

(3) Christian education



- (4) Christian fellowship
- (5) Planning and executing social action.

7b. Dangers:

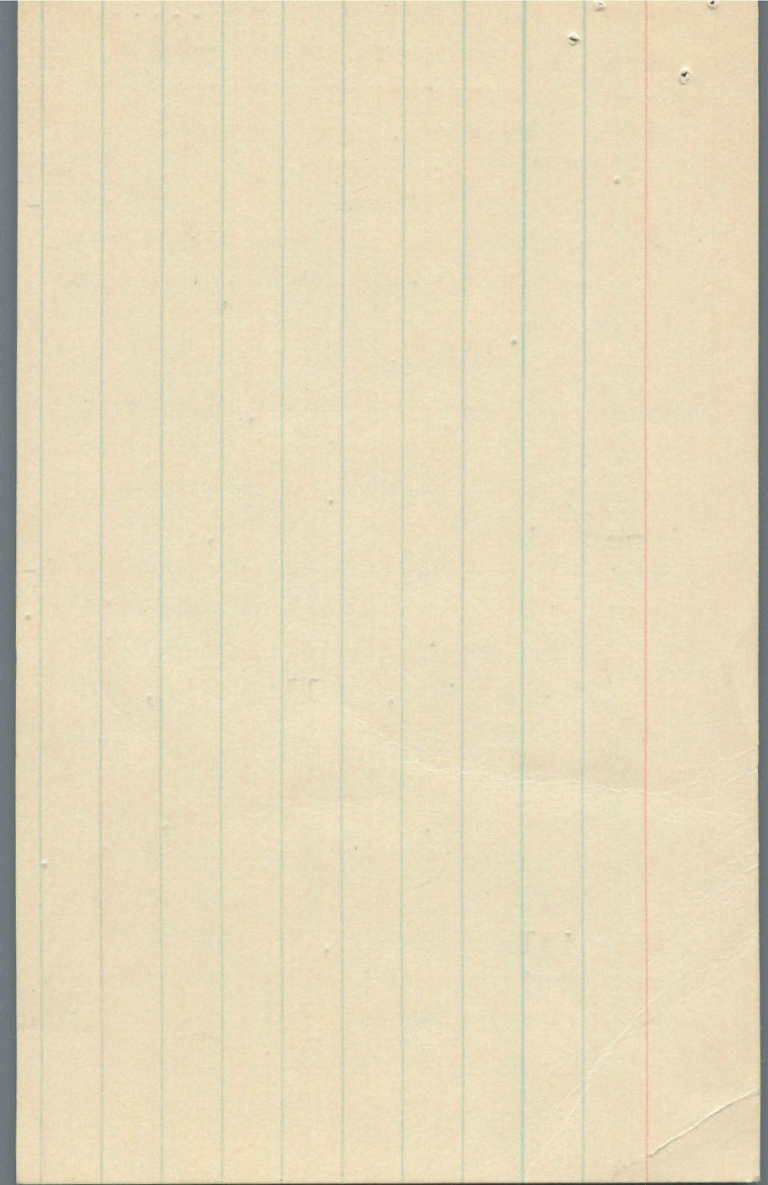
(1) Attendance at the formalism of prayer and worship without the feeling that should go with it.

(2) Emphasis on pleasing and having large numbers, and not enough on education about the Bible and Christ. Teachers preparing inadequately, and shirking acceptance of responsibilities of Christian education.

(3) Putting major emphasis on recreation, fellowship, and neglecting major tasks of church

(4) Contentment with things as they are, or fatalism about them to point of doing nothing.

(5) Financing of church by special projects, which can be community services and can create wonderful fellowship but should not be used in lieu of



adequate personal giving and tithing to support the church and its work.

c. Action -- finding place one likes to serve and can serve in God's work, and that means at least some job in the church, and doing it responsibly and dependably.

III. Opposition often comes because of ones concern for others and for God because it hinders the selfish interests of some.

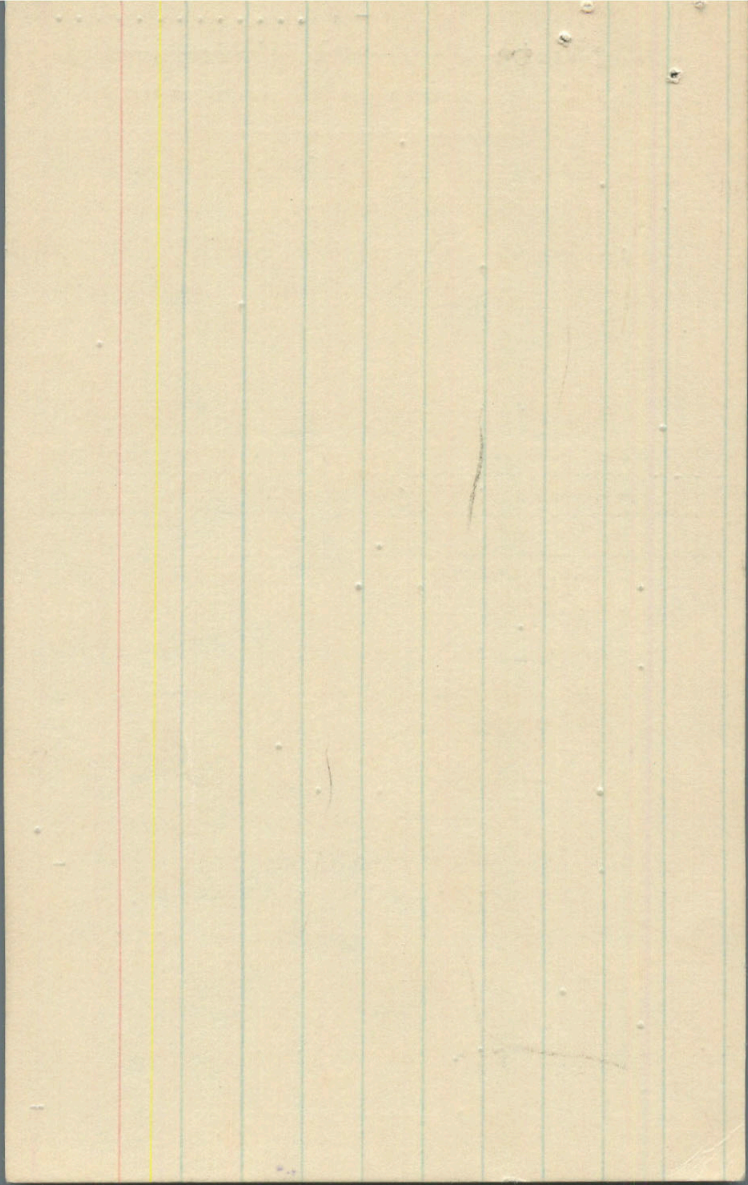
1. Scripture, v. 47 -- Jesus met opposition.

2. Good-will and help from those for whom one has shown concern prevents ultimate tragedy.

a. Scripture, v. 48 -- help of people for whom He showed concern.

b. In resurrection and ascension the divine Christ overcame the worst that human opposition can do.

3. Those who are opposed to liquor traffic on religious and moral grounds, believing God disapproves the use of alcoholic beverage



and that they do far more harm than any possible good that can come from their use and sale, are often attacked by the liquor interests as selfish and power-seeking. Yet, these liquor interests obviously are the ones who gain most by the sale and use of alcoholic beverages. Selfish interests frequently oppose those who are concerned for God's way and for the welfare or salvation of others. The brave and conscientious Christian will stand by his cause regardless of this.

Conclusion:

1. Text. (v. 41).
2. Proposition.

