

Theme: Doing things well.

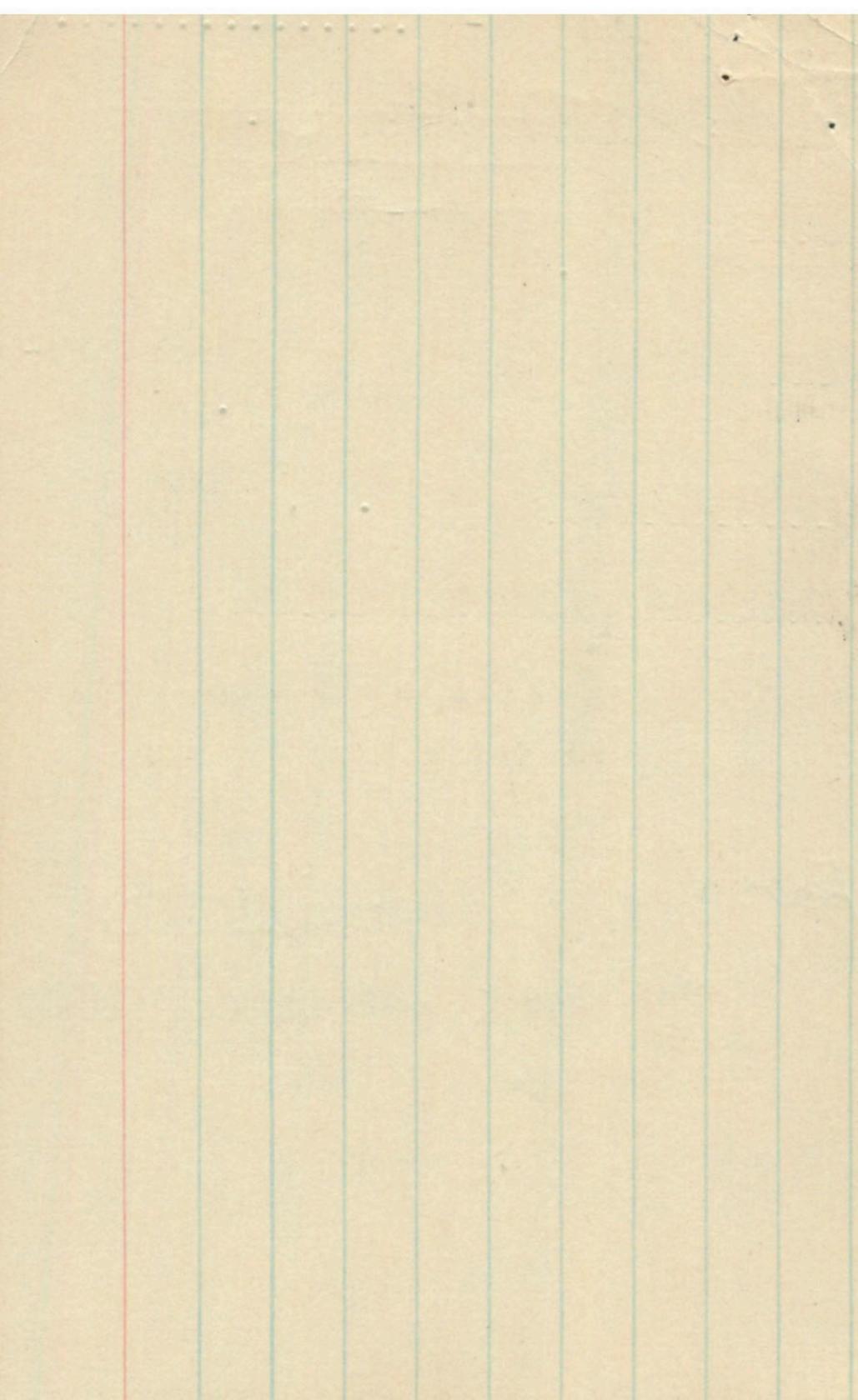
Text: Mark 7:37b--"He doeth all things well."

Proposition: Jesus has demonstrated how to do things well.

Date written: Sept. 3, 1954

Dates and places preached:

Sept-5, 1954, Wheatland, Wyo., A.M.  
New Year's Eve Watch service, Dec-31,  
1955, Grace Methodist Church  
Feb. 8, 1959 - Wyoming State  
Girls School, Sheridan, Wyo.  
6:30 p.m.



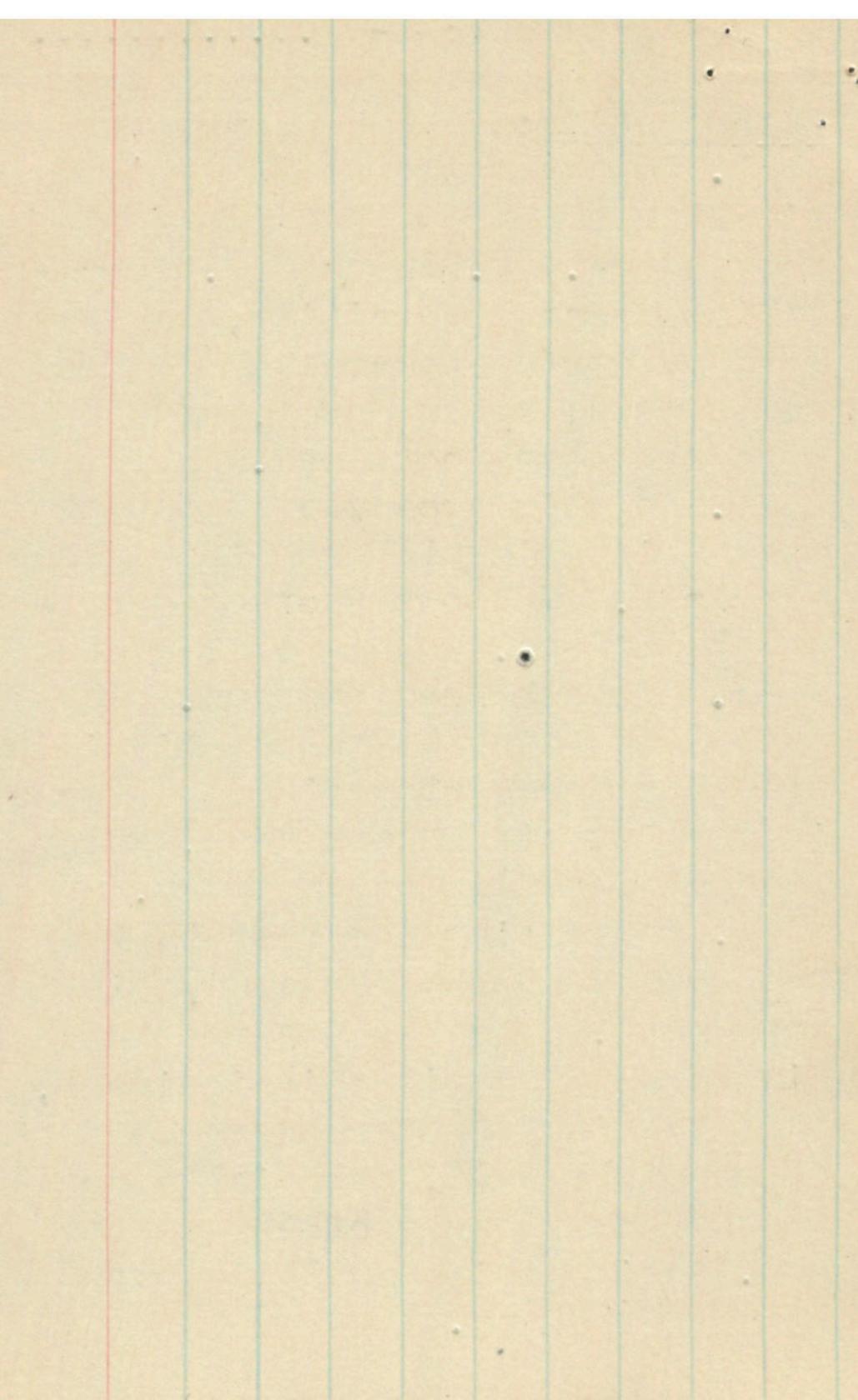
Introduction:

1. In the prime of Christ's ministry the Scriptural incident took place. V.31 (read ). "Decapolis" means "ten cities," a Greek word referring to area where people were Greek, spoke Greek, and for most part were not Jews.

2. In this area deaf man with speech impediment brought to Jesus for help. Unknown whether man was Greek or Jews.

3. Jesus helped the man. The method by which He helped him illustrates a frequent method of Jesus in dealing with human need, and sets an example for us today.

4. In meeting the need of the deaf and dumb man Jesus did his work well. Good for us to study his way of work in this incident, that we might better know how to do our jobs well, especially our work of service to others and to God. Doing things well is our Labor Day theme.



I. The method used by Jesus.

1. v.33a--"and taking him aside from the multitude privately,..."

a. Doesn't mean that Jesus never helped in public.

b. Does suggest that He demanded faith in Him by the individual coming for help.

2. He used the natural methods of His day.

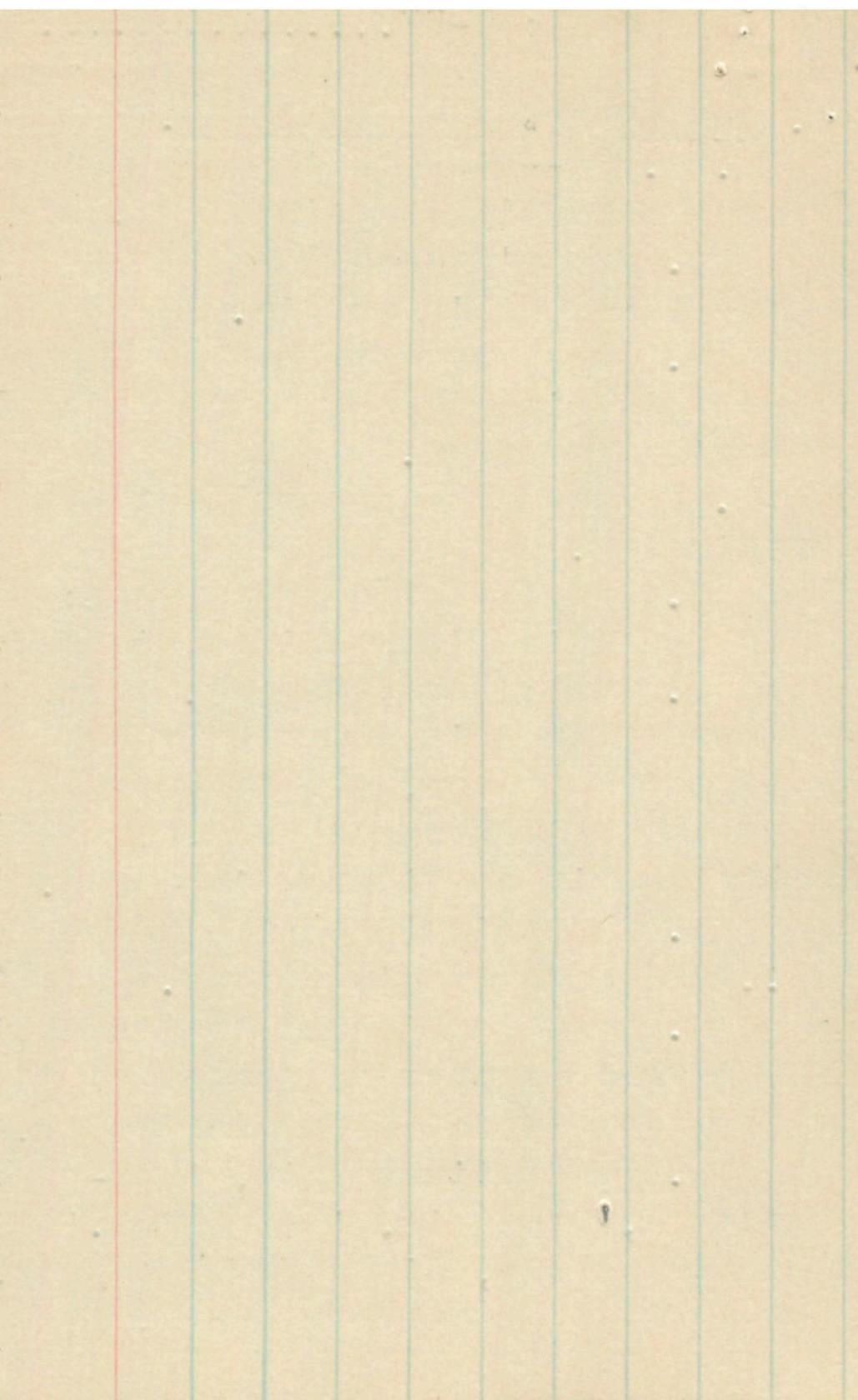
a. Examined the man's ears: "he put his fingers into his ears"

b. Spat: "and he spat." In Jesus' day spit supposedly had curative powers, and this act no doubt impressed the man, giving him confidence in Jesus.

c. He manipulated the tongue .."and touched his tongue."

d. "and looking up to heaven," giving idea that He needed divine help and expected to receive it.

e. "and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' Used Aramaic, His natural tongue. Even if the man were Greek, he



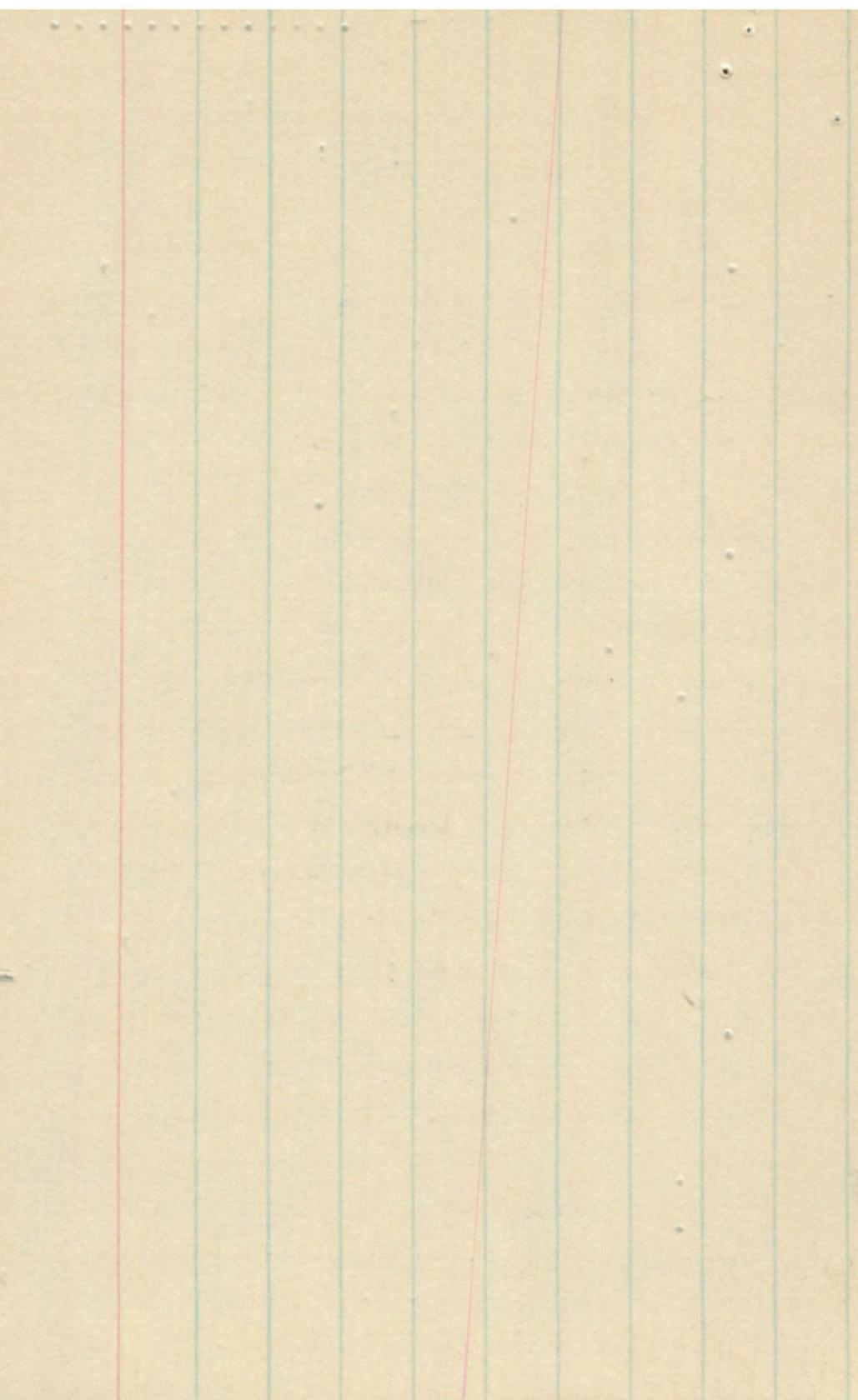
was deaf and it wouldn't have mattered if he didn't understand the Aramaic.

3. Jesus' method of helping, as illustrated in our Scripture, was quietly and efficiently to use the best and the known, natural methods of His day, while praying to God for help and guidance.

4. We usually prefer such a manner today by those upon whom we depend.

a. Want the doctor to use proven but up-to-date methods in treating our illnesses, and expect him to keep confidences, and not to get undue publicity from his attendance upon us, unless we authorize such publicity. Helps tremendously if we feel the religious faith and moral character of the doctor is good.

b. Expect the school teacher to use proven pedagogical method, and not to publicize the effort to the point that teaching is



interrupted.

c. Naturally suspicious of the novel and highly advertised.

## II. Jesus' methods were effective.

1. v. 35 -- "and his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly."

2. The peptomist: (p.7, 400 More Snappy Stories that Preachers Tell):

An unfortunate motorist was bogged won in axle-deep mud. Soon a gib car stopped, and a pleasant voice said: "Don't worry; you'll get it out all right." It was the voice of the optimist, who hurried on. The next car was operated by a pessimist, who said to the man in the ditch: "Brother, you'll never get it out; you may was well give up." Finally a jalopy stopped. The driver saw what was needed, tied a stout rope to the bogged-down car, and soon had it on terra firma. The driver of the jalopy was a peptomist.



Story illustrates effectiveness of natural method without need for undue words. This is the method of Jesus and is effective.

### III. The news of Jesus' effectiveness spread.

1. He had no desire for publicity: "and he charged them to tell no one."

2. Nevertheless, the news spread as exciting and unusual news naturally does, accelerated by the unusualness of his modesty.. "the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it."

3. In everyday present life effectiveness in doing ones task well becomes known, even if one doesn't seek such publicity:

a. Doctor

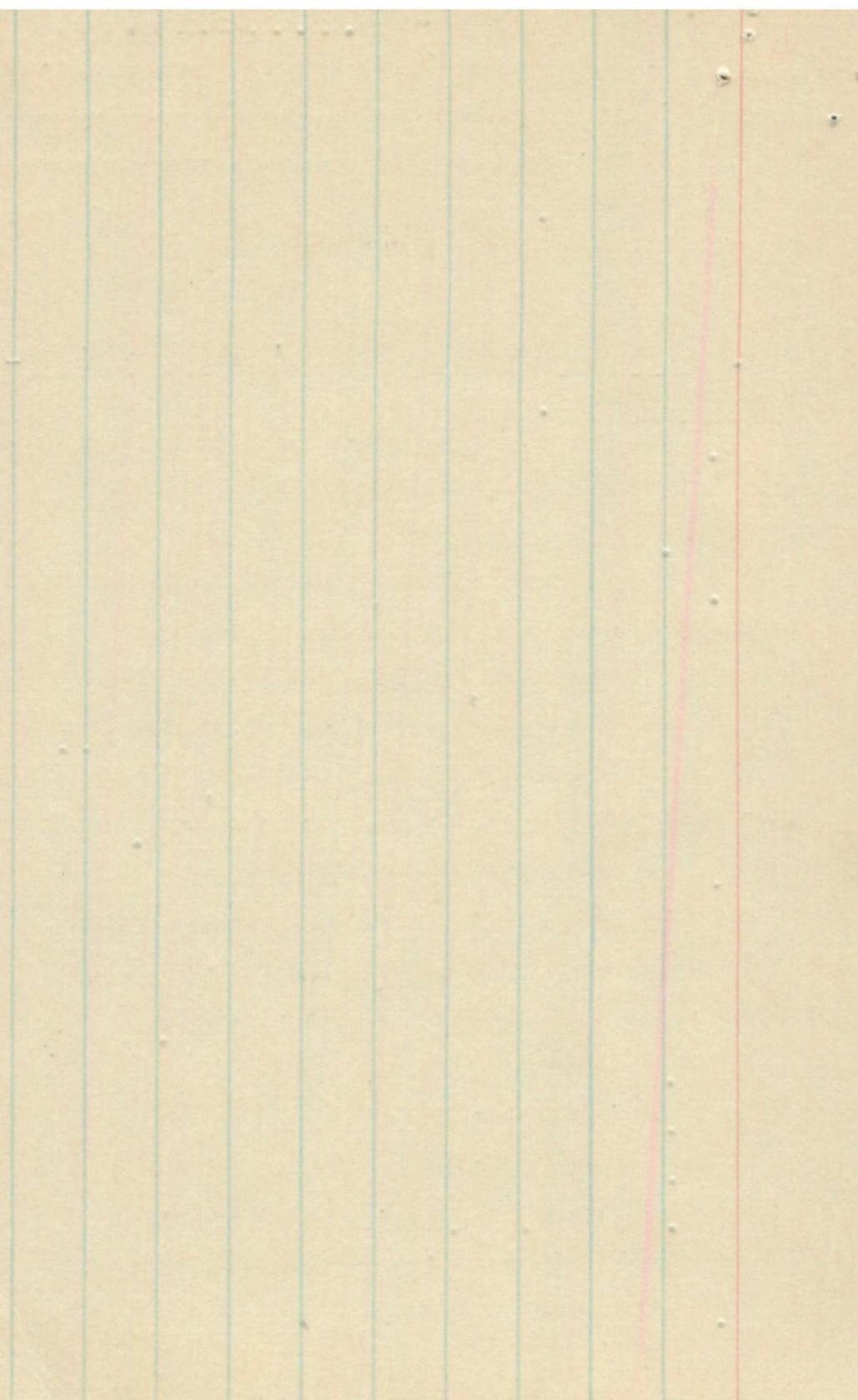
b. Scientist

c. Mechanic

d. Chas. A. Lindbergh's

modesty made him more newsworthy.

4. The more unusualx the action



the faster the news spreads.

a. "and they were astonished beyond measure."

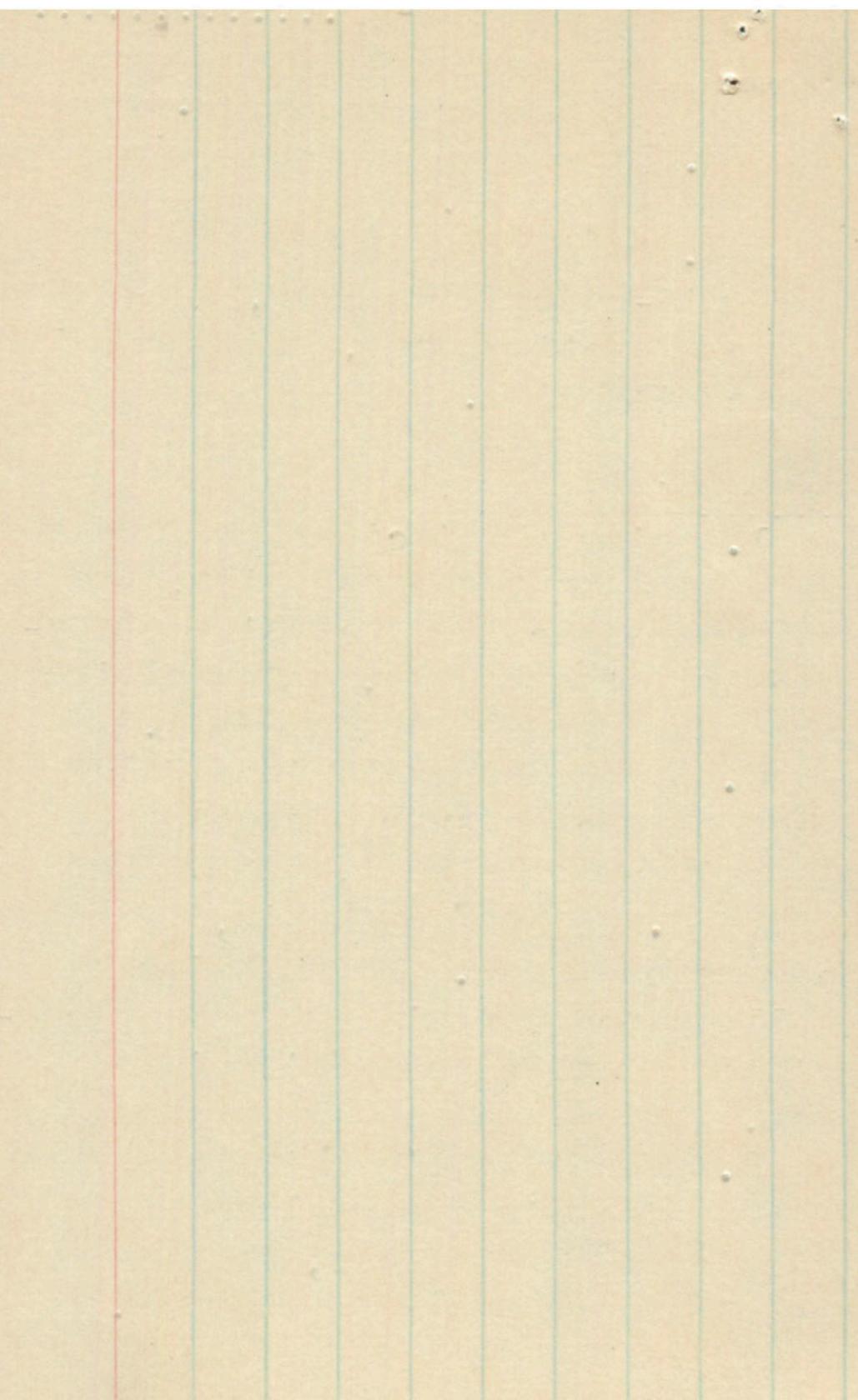
b. Openheimer (physicist of atomic-bomb fame) case, publicised for effective work, and for being security risk.

Conclusion:

1. Using the incident before them as a prod to their memories, the onlookers recalled Jesus' performance of other tasks, and exclaimed "He has done all things well."

2. Labor Day emphasis usually has been on necessity of treating laboring people well, and with respect. A good emphasis, but it can be overdone. Doing things as well as one can will get one recognition whether you desire it or not.

3. Especially is this true where the project is one of love and service of God or man, and where one looks to God for guidance.



a. Alexander Hamilton: "Men give me credit for some genius. All the genius I have lies in this: When I have a subject in hand, I study it profoundly. Day and night it is before me. My mind becomes pervaded with it. Then the effort which I have made is what people are pleased to call the fruit of genius. It is the fruit of labor and thought

4. Study the problem, choose a way, use the most natural methods at hand, don't seek unnecessary acclaim, as God's blessing, have service of God and others as the goal, and you will be following Jesus' example in doing things well.

