

Cover Page

Scripture: Matthew 21:14-17

(See, also, Lk.19:39, Ps.8:2)

Sermon-Topic: Goodness Can Make You  
Mad

Text: Matthew 21:15 -- "But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, 'Hosanna to the Son of David,' they were indignant."

Proposition: Goodness, as exemplified by Jesus when on earth and as attempted by many of his followers since, often makes people angry (mad), because (1) it contrasts drastically with their own living, (2) they see some failures in the efforts of those who are trying to live as Christians, and (3) sometimes the well-intentioned efforts of Christians do cause harm. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Nonetheless, Christians should continue their efforts at goodness.

Dates written: September 14-18, 1970.

Dates and places used:

Sept. 20, 1970, OAKLAND PARK, FLA. →

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Introduction:

1. A young woman was breezing along in the left hand lane of her ~~xxxx~~ side of a four-lane road, when suddenly and without warning she made a sharp right turn and almost slammed into another car.

"For Pete's sake, lady, why don't you signal?" yelled the other driver.

"Don't be ridiculous," came the indignant reply. "I always turn at this corner."

(from Dental Economics, in Quote for 9-13-70)

The driver who was almost hit had the ~~2~~ more reason to be indignant, not the young lady who swung across a righthand lane from the lefthand to make a turn. ~~xxxxxx~~ Like many people, she was indignant, angry, mad, over something said or felt by another, when she herself was in the wrong.

2. The Scripture that we read is an account of some people being indignant over something which it would seem to most of us should have made them happy, glad. They were indignant, like the young woman driver, ~~xxxx~~ in what would seem to be an unreasonable way. The chief priests and the



scribes are reported to **have** been indignant for two reasons at this first Palm Sunday incident: (1) because Jesus healed the blind and the lame who came to him, and (2) because the children who saw this healing were praising Jesus in the courtyard of the temple of God, crying out "Hosanna to the Son of David."

3. We think that they were angry somewhat because they considered this loud praise of Jesus as inappropriate within the temple, much as we of today have almost come to think that it is irreverent to applaud a sermon or anything else in the sanctuary of our churches. Another factor in the anger of the Jewish leaders perhaps was that they recognized in the way Jesus rode into Jerusalem, came into the temple and drove out the money changers and sacrifice sellers, and was healing the ill, the signs which identified the forecast Messiah whom the Jewish people believed would come to reestablish them in power, freedom and strength as a people and nation under God. The chief priests and scribes had made their truce with the ruling

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study and the objectives of the research. It also provides a brief overview of the methodology used in the study.

2. The second part of the paper presents the results of the study. It includes a detailed description of the data collected and the analysis performed. The results are presented in a clear and concise manner, using tables and figures where appropriate.

3. The third part of the paper discusses the implications of the study. It highlights the key findings and their significance for the field of research. It also discusses the limitations of the study and suggests areas for future research.

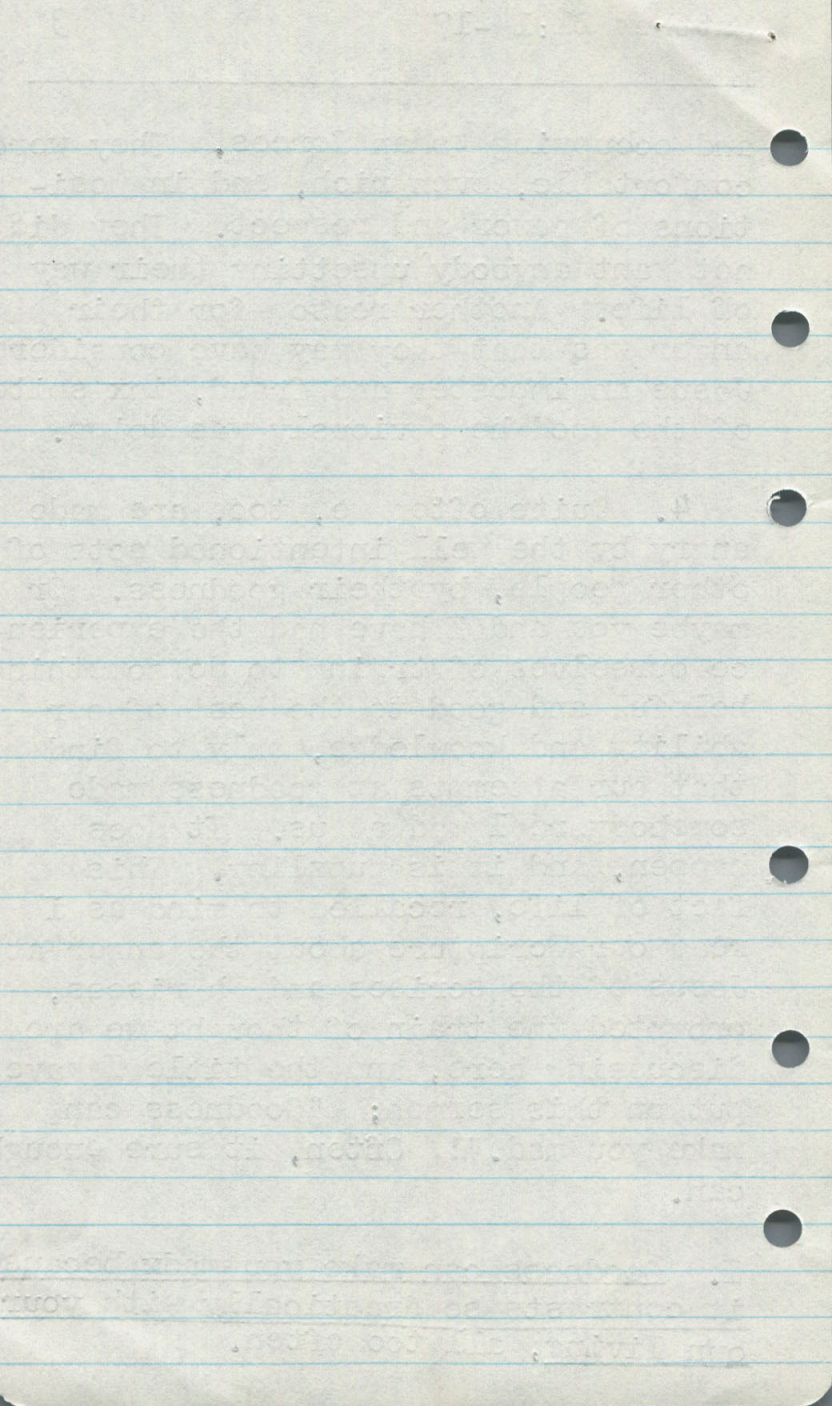
4. The final part of the paper provides a conclusion and a summary of the main points. It reiterates the importance of the study and the findings, and offers some final thoughts on the research.

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and occupying Roman forces. They were comfortable, even rich, and in positions of power and respect. They did not want anybody upsetting their way of life. Another reason for their anger was that they may have considered Jesus an imposter and fraud, in spite of the good he obviously was doing.

4. Quite often we, too, are made angry by the well-intentioned acts of other people, by their goodness. Or maybe you and I have had the experience ourselves of trying to do something helpful and good to the best of our ability and knowledge, only to find that our attempts at goodness made somebody real mad at us. It does happen, and it is puzzling. This fact of life, recalled to mind as I read our Scripture about the anger at Jesus of the scribes and Pharisees, prompted the train of thought we are discussing here, and the title I have put on this sermon; "Goodness can make you mad."! Often, it sure enough can.

I. Goodness can make you mad because it contrasts so drastically with your own living, all too often.





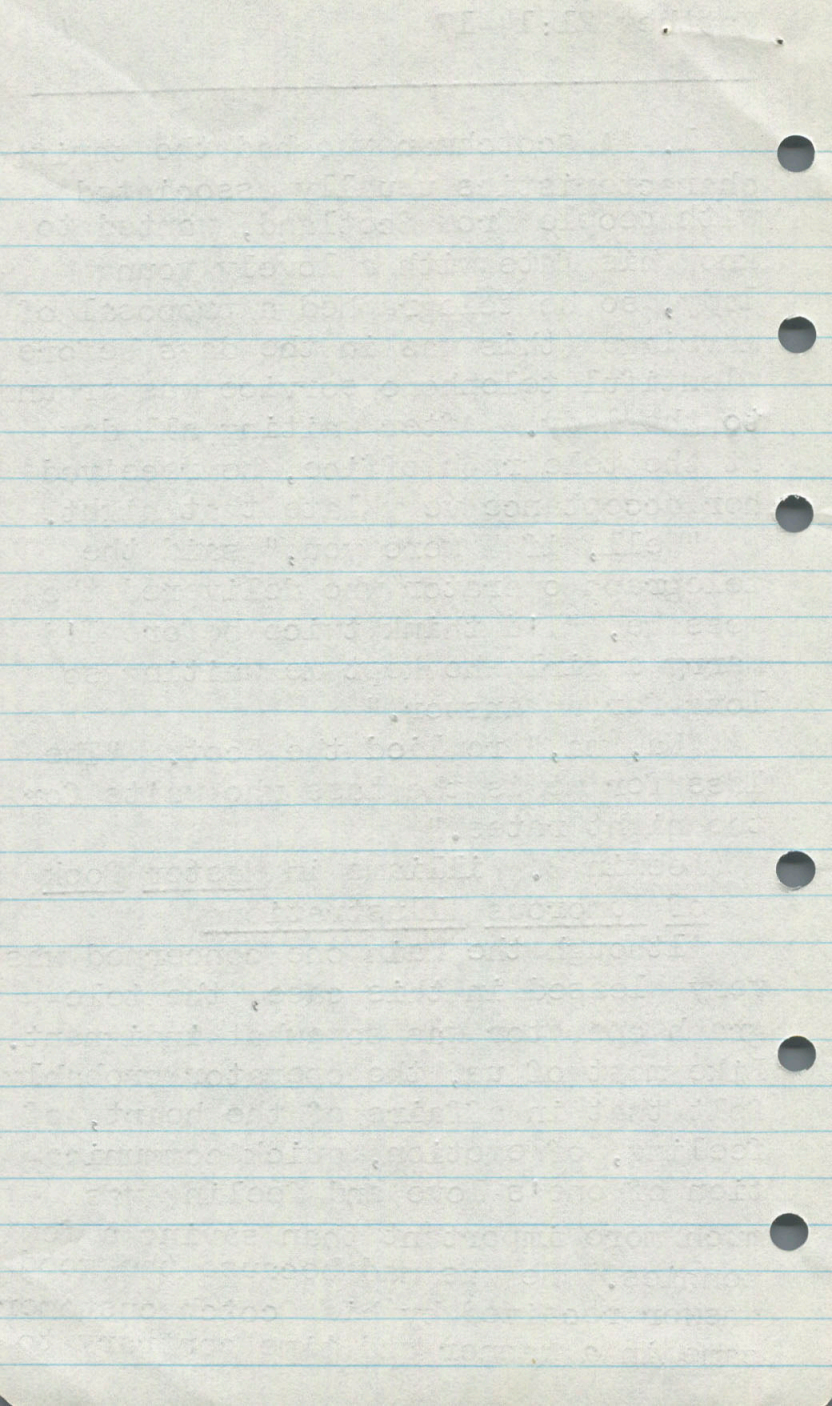
1. A Scotchman who had the thrifty characteristics usually associated with people from Scotland, wanted to know his fate with a lovely young lady, so he telegraphed a proposal of marriage (this was in the days before plentiful telephone service was around ~~to~~ the lady. After waiting all day at the telegraph office, he received her acceptance very late that night.

"Well, if I were you," said the telegraph operator who delivered the message, "I'd think twice before I'd marry a girl who kept me waiting so long for an answer."

"Na, na," replied the Scot. "The lass for me is the lass who waits for the night rates."

(Leewin B. Williams in Master Book of Humorous Illustrations)

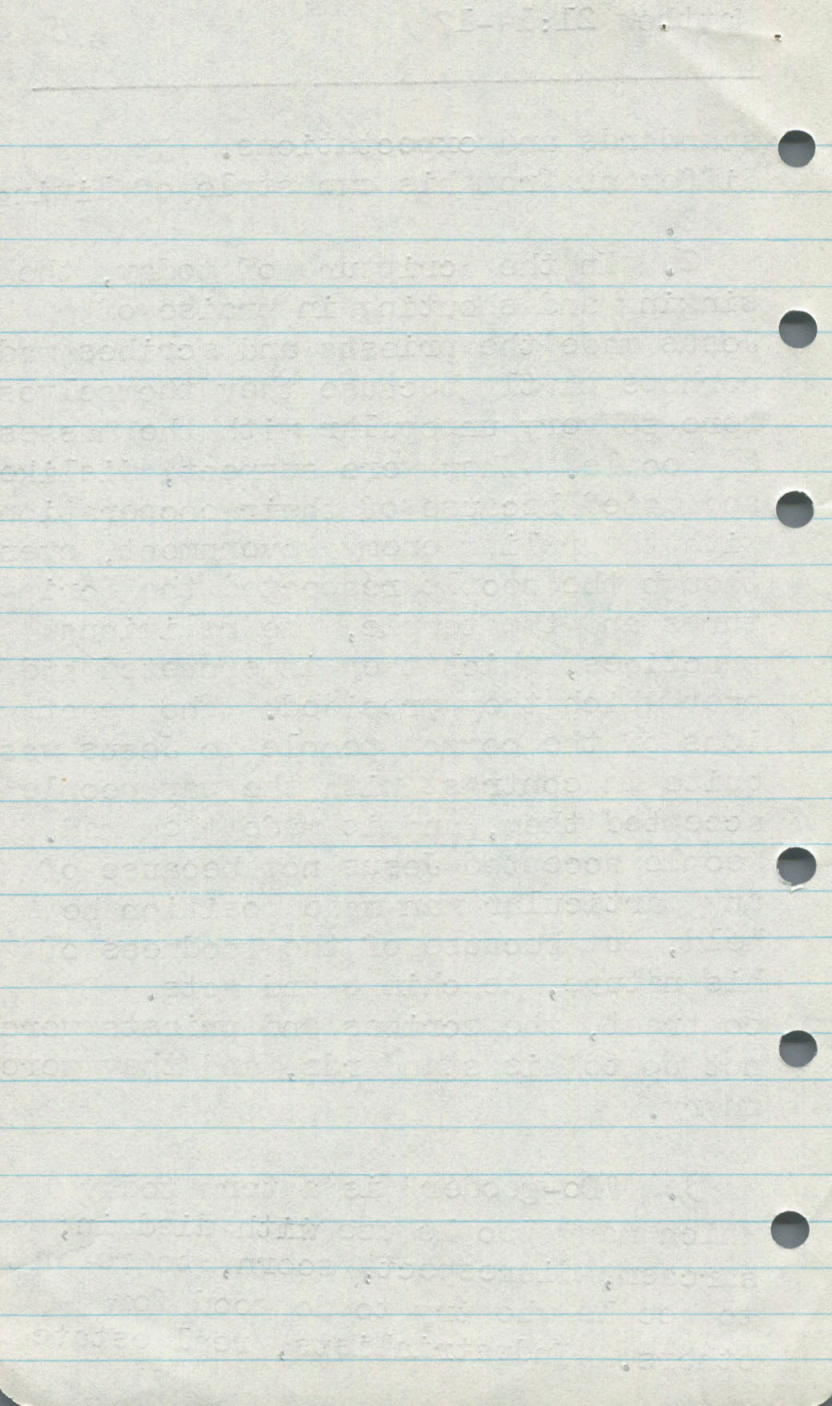
Although the main one concerned was very pleased in this case, the telegraph operator was somewhat indignant. Like most of us, the operator probably felt that in affairs of the heart, of feeling, of emotion, quick communication of one's love and feeling was much more important than saving a few pennies. He was mad because the good answer received by his Scotch customer came in a manner and time contrary to



<sup>HIS</sup> standards and expectations. It was different from his own style of living.

2. In the Scripture of today, the singing and shouting in praise of Jesus made the priests and scribes mad perhaps partly because they themselves were so very unpopular with the masses of people. They were suspect, dislike and hated because of their cooperation with the ruling enemy government, even though the people respected the Scriptures and the temple, the religious practices, which they interpreted and over which they presided. The reactions of the common people to Jesus was quite in contrast with the way people accepted them, and it made them mad. People accepted Jesus not because of any particular man-made position he held, but because of the goodness of his nature, teachings and acts. By contrast, the scribes and priests were not up to his standards, and they were angry.

3. "Do-gooder" is a term today which many people use with disdain, sarcasm, disrespect, scorn, to refer to people who try to do good for others. Industrialists, real estate



developers, planners and workers in the various types of transportation, people responsible for disposal of the mounting masses of trash and sewage, often are so concerned with the pressing problems which they are hired to solve that they become very angry at conservationists, anti-pollution people, mental-health people who are concerned with damage to persons from the pressures of civilization, and others whose fears and principles get in their way. ~~Depending on~~ What you get out of a ~~thing~~ set of circumstances may well determine your reaction to the efforts of people who are right. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Our self-concern, usually dictates ~~our~~ feelings more than we like to admit. One way of "putting down," of discrediting, a person whose intent seems to be good but with whom we disagree is to call him a "do-gooder."

4. This is especially true when the "do-gooder" begins to interfere with things that you enjoy. An even worse term, even today, than "do-gooder" is "prohibitionist." People of 50 years ago who were successful in having alcoholic beverages outlawed were then and are even now increasingly vilified

The first part of the report discusses the  
 various types of errors that can occur  
 in the laboratory. These errors are  
 classified into two main categories:  
 systematic errors and random errors.  
 Systematic errors are those that  
 are caused by a consistent bias in  
 the measurement process. They can be  
 caused by a variety of factors, such  
 as a faulty instrument, a defective  
 reagent, or a consistent mistake  
 in the way the experiment is  
 performed. Random errors, on the  
 other hand, are those that are  
 caused by unpredictable fluctuations  
 in the measurement process. They  
 can be caused by a variety of factors,  
 such as a change in the ambient  
 temperature, a fluctuation in the  
 power supply, or a change in the  
 concentration of the reagent.  
 The second part of the report  
 discusses the various methods that  
 can be used to minimize errors in  
 the laboratory. These methods include  
 the use of standard procedures,  
 the use of high-quality reagents,  
 the use of calibrated instruments,  
 and the use of statistical methods  
 to analyze the data. The third part  
 of the report discusses the various  
 factors that can affect the accuracy  
 of the measurements. These factors  
 include the quality of the reagents,  
 the stability of the instruments,  
 the skill of the operator, and the  
 environmental conditions. The fourth  
 part of the report discusses the  
 various methods that can be used to  
 improve the accuracy of the  
 measurements. These methods include  
 the use of standard procedures,  
 the use of high-quality reagents,  
 the use of calibrated instruments,  
 and the use of statistical methods  
 to analyze the data.

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because of their efforts to remove from beverage usage the drug alcohol. Too many people like it in various forms, and too many other people like to make money selling the beverages to the users, to countenance prohibiting it, no matter what the facts are about adverse effects. Yet, many of these same users and sellers are extremely judgmental, condemning and stern towards those who experiment with, use, and sell other drugs, such as marijuana, even though the proven ill effects of the latter may be no worse - perhaps not as bad as the effects of alcohol. Goodness in others can make you mad, even when it is intended to help you, because it contrasts so drastically with your own living.

II. Goodness can make you mad, also, because there are failures and weaknesses, imperfections in the lives of those who try to do good.

1. There was a man whose nagging wife scolded him on every occasion. After she passed away, while the graveside services were being conducted, there was suddenly a great

The first part of the report discusses the  
 background and objectives of the study.  
 It also outlines the methodology used in the  
 research and the results obtained.  
 The second part of the report focuses on the  
 analysis of the data and the conclusions  
 drawn from it. It also discusses the  
 implications of the findings and the  
 recommendations for further research.  
 The final part of the report provides a  
 summary of the key findings and the  
 overall conclusions of the study.

The following table shows the results of the  
 analysis of the data. It is divided into  
 two columns: 'Group A' and 'Group B'.  
 The rows represent the different variables  
 measured in the study. The data shows that  
 Group A generally performed better than  
 Group B across most of the variables.  
 However, there were some exceptions, such as  
 in the case of variable X, where Group B  
 performed significantly better than Group A.  
 Overall, the results suggest that Group A  
 is more effective than Group B in most  
 aspects of the study.



rolling peal of thunder and a jagged lightning bolt streaked across the sky. The bereaved husband contemplated this phenomenon for a moment. Finally, turning to the minister, he said, "Reverend, I think she made it."

(Modern Maturity, Aug-Sept. 70)

Here was a man who probably had a wife who tried to make him good by nagging and driving. He could see ~~xxxx~~ her sharp tongue and loud words coming still, even in her achievement of a good eternal life!

2. ~~xxxxxx~~ We can discern some imperfections in anybody, no matter how good they are or try to be. But some people seem to see in this fact of life ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> basis to discredit the sincerity and intent of imperfect persons who try to do good. And even tho there are a few hypocrits who pretend to be trying to accomplish good things but really are not, that is no sign that most people are that way.

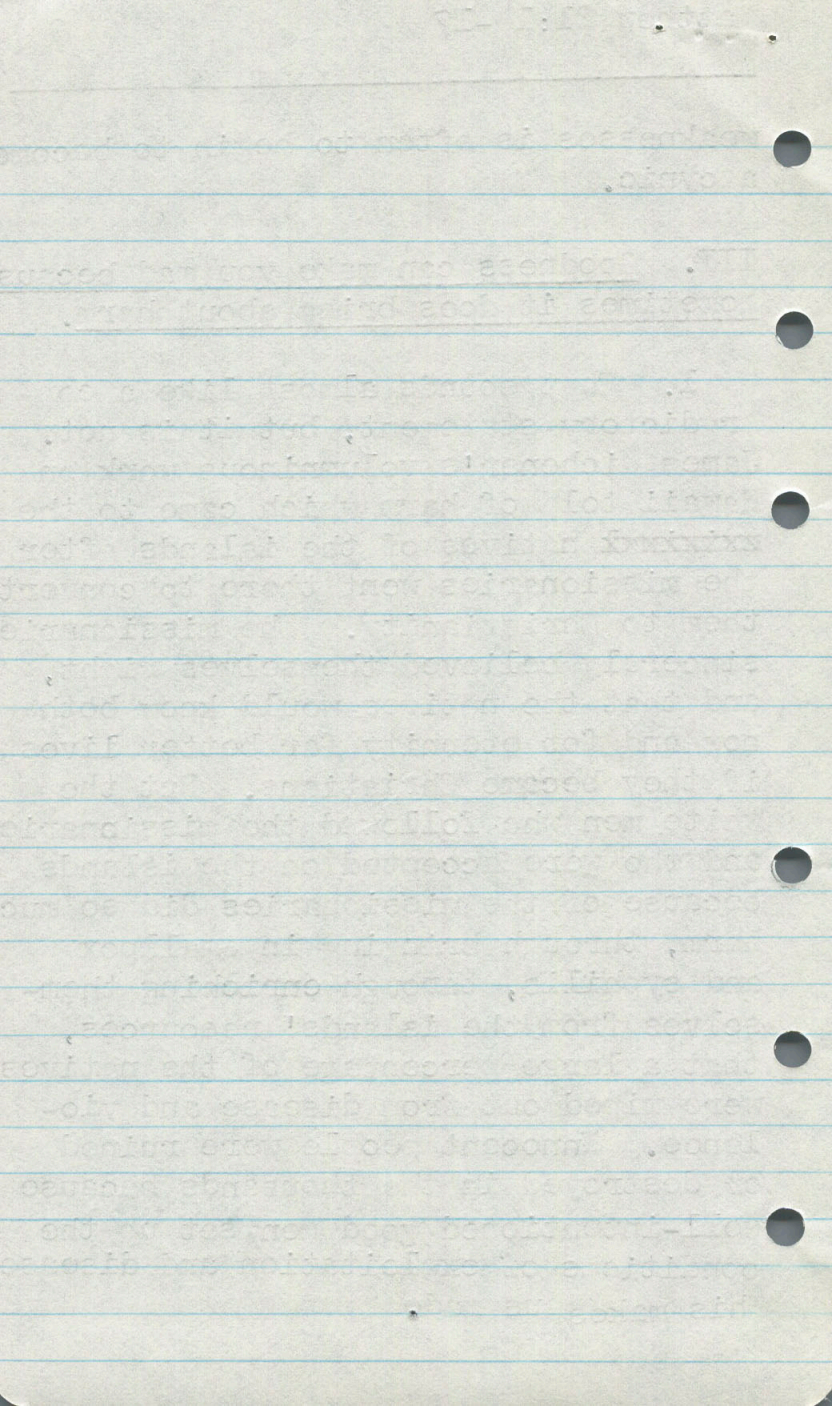
3. Nevertheless, it can make you made to see a flaw in someone whom you think should be better than that --in a parent, a minister, a teacher, a doctor. To become aware of their

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The first part of the book is devoted to a general introduction to the subject of the history of the world. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life and the development of the human race. He also touches upon the different stages of human civilization and the progress of science and technology. The second part of the book is a detailed account of the various civilizations that have flourished throughout history. The author describes the achievements of the ancient Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans, and the Chinese. He also discusses the rise and fall of the great empires and the impact of the Crusades and the Renaissance. The third part of the book is devoted to the modern world. The author discusses the scientific revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the rise of the nation-states. He also touches upon the challenges of the modern world, such as the atomic bomb, the space race, and the environmental crisis. The book is written in a clear and concise style, and it is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the history of the world.

weaknesses is often to begin to become a cynic.

III. Goodness can make you mad because sometimes it does bring about harm.

1. That sounds almost like a contradictory statement, but it is not. James Michener's voluminous work on Hawaii told of harm which came to the ~~xxxxxxx~~ natives of the islands after the missionaries went there to convert them to Christianity. The missionaries sincerely believed themselves right, and that the natives would know both now and for eternity far better lives if they became Christians. But the white men who followed the missionaries and who were accepted on the islands because of the missionaries did so much harm, through bringing in smallpox and syphilis, through ~~enriching~~ <sup>innocently</sup> themselves from the islands' resources, that a large percentage of the natives were wiped out from disease and violence. Innocent people were ruined or destroyed in the thousands because well-intentioned good men <sup>innocently</sup> set up the conditions of exploitation and disease. This makes us mad.



2. Those who opposed prohibition and who still criticise and oppose laws which prohibit or control <sup>ALCOHOL!</sup> drugs, prostitution, gambling, high interest rates, and so on, frequently do so on the grounds that such laws set up ~~the~~ conditions that breed disrespect for law and <sup>PROMOTE</sup> open law-breaking. Sometimes they are right, depending on the integrity of the law-enforcement and judicial system, on the support of a community or area for the laws on the books.

3. We could go on and discuss many ways in which goodness makes you mad, on very personal levels. The sexually continent and moral person may be very intolerant of another who is highly sexed and occasionally loses in the struggle of self-control. That type of condescending moral righteousness makes you mad, even though you know that the effort must be made at such control, if society is to survive as a family-centered system. Those who watch their language and try to keep it free of obscenities and blasphemies, may in very proper language be much more cruel and rejecting than the filthy-mouthed person. That kind of

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The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the plane was the cold air. It felt like a blanket of ice. I had heard that the weather in the mountains was unpredictable, but I didn't realize it would be so harsh. The wind whistled through the trees, and the snow was falling in soft, silent flakes. I had come here for a peaceful retreat, but it felt like I had entered a different world. The landscape was breathtaking, but also intimidating. I had to remind myself to breathe and to enjoy the view. The mountains were majestic, and the snow was pure. It was a beautiful sight, but I also felt a little lost. I had never seen anything like this before. The air was so clean, and the silence was so deep. It was a strange feeling, but I was starting to relax. The sun was shining through the clouds, and the snow was sparkling in the light. I had found a little peace in the mountains. It was exactly what I needed.

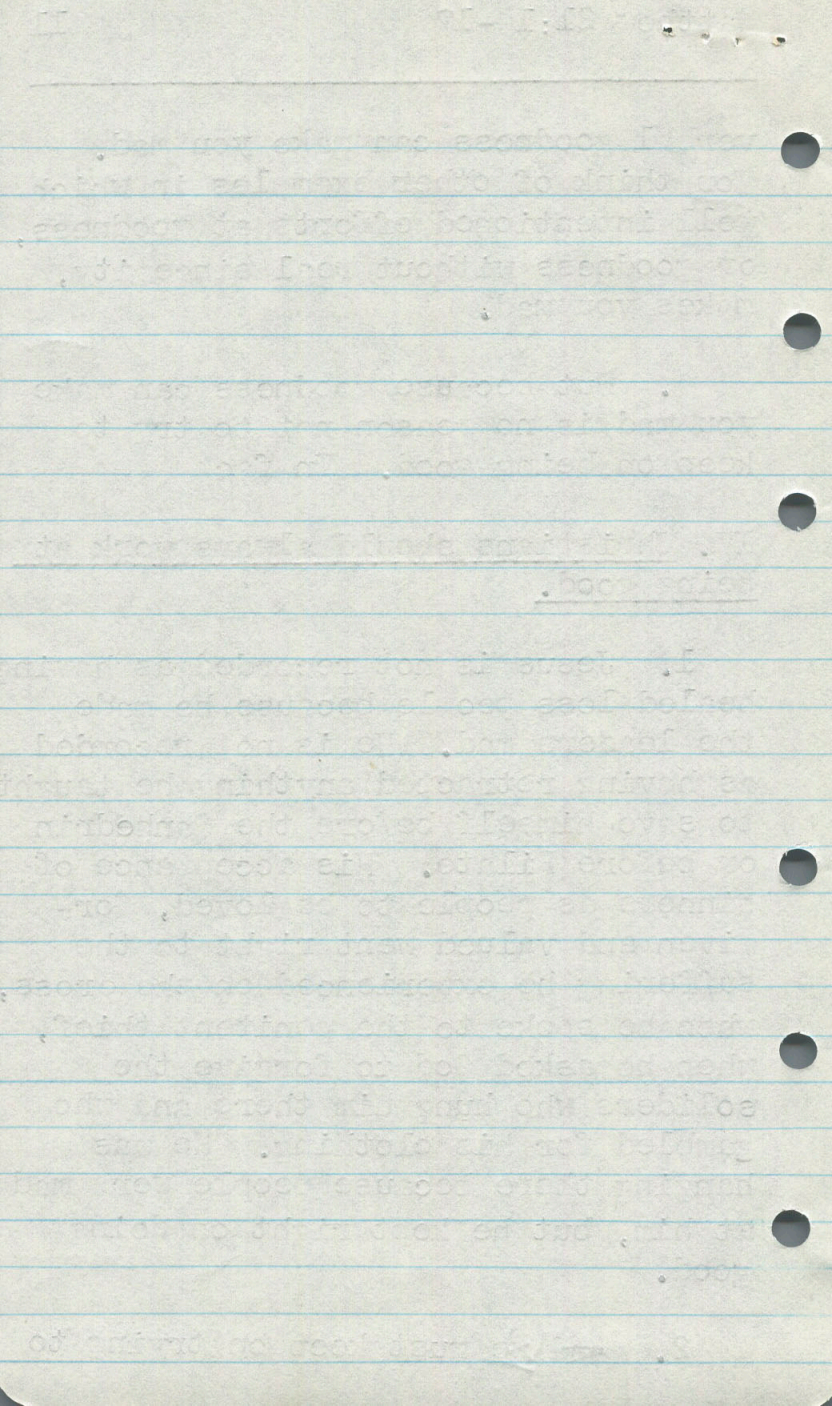
verbal goodness can make you mad. You think of other examples in which well-intentioned efforts at goodness, or goodness without real sincerity, makes you mad.

4. But because goodness can make you mad is no reason not to try to keep on being good. In fact

#### IV. Christians should always work at being good.

1. Jesus is not recorded as having healed less people because he made the leaders mad. He is not recorded as having retracted anything he taught to save himself before the Sanhedrin or before Pilate. His acceptance of sinners as people to be loved, forgiven and valued went right to the suffering he experienced on the cross, when he spoke to the penitent thief, when he asked God to forgive the soliders who hung him there and who gambled for his clothing. He was hanging there because people were mad at him, but he kept right on doing good.

2. ~~And~~ we must keep on trying to





practice goodness too, if we would follow him.

3. One of President Woodrow Wilson's favorite stories was about a group of college professors at a certain university who were in the habit of meeting to consider any acts of misconduct on the part of the students. One afternoon they were talking about some act by a certain student, and one professor who insisted upon a severe punishment for the lad said, ~~xx~~ "After all, God has given us eyes."

"Yes," replied one of his colleagues of a kinder nature, "and eyelids!"

(Good Reading, 8070)

### Conclusion:

1. In ~~all~~ our efforts at goodness we should strive to keep the touch of kindness toward those whose conduct we cannot approve. They are still people, ~~and~~ quite often our close relatives, and it is not really ours to judge.

2. In so doing, perhaps we can take the edge off the tendency people have for our efforts at goodness to make them mad.



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3. Goodness can make people mad. It can make you mad. But you as Christ's follower have to keep on trying to be good, and take that risk. ~~But~~ Do it in the spirit of love that Jesus did. If you do that, probably the chief people you'll make mad are self-righteous people, who don't see themselves as others see them.

