

4/15/59

We sat there one time and listened to General McClain, the Comptroller General of the army, talking about the plan for mobilization, for training of young men, (3 3/4) the whole of his subject matter, anxious that the country be defended in what he thought the right way. Six months later I picked up the New York Times and in that same issue of the Times I found both these men mentioned, whom I had been with there at the same time, just six months before. Dean Roberts, a man about my age, had come back home from his work and had just suddenly dropped dead. And the very same day General McClain, who had been in Washington to testify before a Congressional Committee--a week before that he'd been testifying and he had been taken ill and went to the hospital and they found he had leukemia and he'd spent that week every second that he could writing vigorously to try to get down the message, everything that he was so anxious to get across to the American people. He knew he didn't have many hours left and he wanted to get it down, get it available to them, because he couldn't speak about it any more, he couldn't testify about it any more, and on that same day the two men were just cut off, out of life.

Death is a present factor, a factor always. It is a vital matter of life which affects everyone. And it is very important that one who is going into the Christian ministry have a clear idea, a clear understanding, of his relation to this fact, because for him it is not simply something that comes into his life once in a long time, but if he is going to serve the Lord as he should, here of all times he has opportunity to reach people, to help them. He has the need of helping them, he has the opportunity. Now when death comes into the home, people wonder what's beyond. Now they think of eternal things. Now they feel the reality of the unseen. Now they need comfort, now the minister must be prepared. And if he is prepared he can reap fruitage for his Lord. Now perhaps beyond most any other time. It's good then for us to think occasionally, in our chapel services, about this fact. A fact which we like to push aside, we like not to think of, but it's a reality to every one of us. It will come to us, it will come to our loved ones, if the Lord tarries.