"This man began to build but was not able to finish it". Luke 14:30

"SEEING THINGS THROUGH"

For some years travelled route from Albany to Kingston - Route 9W. Was a spot we approached every time with some degree of interest. A barn, lonely and neglected. Its gaunt ribs and rafters open to cruel jest and weather. Half finished! More than once was question raised as to history behind the unfinished barn. Was the farm sold? Did the money run out? Was there a family feud? Thought of stopping and enquiring but never did so.

But that unfinished barn always reminded me of words of our Lord - "This man began to build but was not able to finish it". What a revealing and sorrowful epitaph! Jesus was emphasising the counting of the cost - the cost of following Him. You see, His cause was becoming rather fashionable - Jesus was riding the floodtide of popularity. He was thronged by many who were hoping to fasten themselves to His cause and ride with Him to fame and fortune.

But to them Jesus hurls a challenge. Do they know the implications involved? Have they counted the cost? Are they willing to sacrifice themselves and loved ones if need be? Do they not know the birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to place His head?

YOUR PROBLEM AND MINE

Have they the ability to endure? Can they see things through? Have they the moral stamina to complete the job? Listen! Then comes the parable. Unless you think you can see thing through, you'd better go home.

Far be from us to join the jeering bystanders. Much better for us to realize that here is a common problem - for most of us, sooner or later, wonder whether we have the power to endure - the ability to see things through. Among us this morning are those of us who are wondering whether we have the resources to see things through.
"Hope that two thirds of my life is over, and I will not spend the remainder of my years in beating my head against a stone wall. There has been no consideration, no indulgence, no memory or gratitude—nothing but spite, malice and abuse. I am tired and dead, sick of it all and will not continue political life any longer."

"The cells sent on sleeping, the patis sent on stealing, much delighted were they, but preferred the old way!"
"Hope! my life is nearly over, and I will not spend the remainder of my years in beating my head against a stone wall. There has been no consideration, no indulgence, no memory or gratitude—nothing but spelt, malice and abuse. I am tired and dead sick of it all and well not continue political life any longer."

"The seas went on rolling;
The gates shut on stealing; Much delighted were they, But preferred the old way."
"This man began to build but was not able to finish it". Luke 14:30

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Our mood sometimes becomes one of quiet desperation. Others are in the forefront of the procession. They are the audacious. They forge ahead and surmount the barriers. They storm the gates leaving the rest of us far in the rear—and most of us are in the rather inglorious part of the procession that lags behind. Dreams show a tendency to collapse; and we are faced with a stern necessity to carry on. And life becomes so daily.

At this point we are tempted to stop building. Hope seems weak. Cynicism sours the spirit. And a sense of defeatism tempts us to abandon the project. We get tired of the opposition. We grow disgusted at the inertia of the rest of folks. We grow weary in well-doing. We say, "What's the use of it all?"

Of course, Jesus was talking about the Kingdom in this parable. He knew that people would grow weary in well-doing. Knew men would faint in the battle. Says one good man who has spent himself for many years in an effort to better political and social conditions; "More than two thirds of my life is over..." That is the temptation that assails those who work in community or in church. Jane Addams—still there.

It assails the preacher! He has his dark night of the soul. Of course he can call to memory the words of good St. Francis, who when he had tired of preaching to men, turned to preaching to fish. Got no lasting response there from the finny denizens of the deep. He records:

COURAGE NOT AN INSTINCT It takes courage to see things through. And by nature we are not brave.

Courage is not an instinct. Courage not a natural endowment. There may be dull minds that react slowly to a given situation. But by nature, man is afraid. And what is more, the finer our sensitivity, the greater our instinct of fear. We learn to be brave; courage is developed.

It takes courage. That fine and sensitive soul, that whimsical Scotsman who died some years
Should also remember that others are watching the fight we are making. Our loved ones — others — even those who have gone before. Writer of Epistle to Hebrews suggests that; "Therefore, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and run the race set before us..." We are not playing to the gallery; but there is a gallery just the same. Many eyes are upon us; many prayers for our victory are being offered.

And we would also remember that there is a divine approval for which we are working. Said Paul, and he was ever in trouble, "With me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of any man's judgement. He that judgeth me is the Lord". Paul was working for God's approval. That was the tribunal before which Paul flung himself - God's tribunal not man's. Paul sought the divine applause not the applause of men.

In closing let us refer to the parable once more. Over against the indictment "This man began to build but was not able to finish it", we would place the words of Jesus as He faced death by crucifixion - "Father, I have finished the work thou gavest Me to do". And on the Cross itself, on the dread Cross, He could cry out "It is finished!" Finished! After a hazardous ocean crossing we can understand the relief and gratitude of the captain of the liner as he brings his ship and cargo safely into port. Through all the storm, and salt-spray, and fog, and danger, at last it is finished; he is home. Likewise, Jesus after all the storm, the fog of misunderstanding, the danger and the death, could say it is finished. Jesus had seen things through!

What of us? We must not give up. There can be no discharge in this war. Christ Himself has given us our commission; and only into His hands can we place our resignations - hands with print of nails upon them - sign of love's uttermost giving. Life has given you a Cross; God will also give you a crown - a crown for faithfulness.

* The Cross spoke of love longer than His enemies could show hatred. Love held on - love saw it through.
ago spoke of courage in that memorable address to students of St. Andrews. "All goes if courage goes. And be not merely courageous, but be light-hearted and gay". Went on to speak of Henley in hospital and suffering acutely, yet able to write the triumphant and even defiant poem "Invictus". You know how it goes - "Out of the night that covers me". Henley a Stoic; note of serenity seems to be missing; but there is courage there and a desire to see things through with dignity.

Barrie closed that address with these words; "Courage is the thing. It is greater than death or time. Courage is the word. It greets the unseen with a cheer". Barrie himself had courage. Shy and lonely; but courageous.

THE GLORY OF GOING ON

It takes courage; takes persistence. But there is a glory to it. Forefathers used to preach and talk about the "Perseverance of the saints" - whatever that is. But I am amazed at the dogged persistence of the ordinary person. He does not wear his heart upon his sleeve. She might be wearing hidden sackcloth; but there is no complaint - just a going on from day to day - and a glory that shines out.

Story of doctor who had breakdown in middle thirties. Ordered to lonely farm in highlands of Scotland. Bored by inactivity. Decides to do that he had always wanted to do. Goes to village and purchases exercise books - he would write a novel. Wrote for three months. Decides it is worthless. Throws manuscript into wastepaper basket. And goes out to talk with John Angus.

Angus had Scotsman's reverence for literature and learning. Angus disgusted. "You may be right and I may be wrong doctor; but my father ditched this bog all his days and never made a pasture. But pasture or no pasture, and here he stamped his foot on his spade, I cannot help but dig; my father knew and I know that if we dig long enough, a pasture can be made". Cronin went back and rescued his manuscript and completed the novel which made him famous. Cronin saw things through.
ARE COMPASSED ABOUT WITH SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT... AND RUN THE RACE SET BEFORE US; LOOKING UNTO JESUS". A GREAT PICTURE THAT! NOT PLAYING TO THE GALLERY; BUT DOING OUR BEST BECAUSE GOD IS WATCHING US IN OUR EFFORTS. PAUL HAS A GOOD WORD FOR US IN THIS CONNECTION: "WITH ME IT IS A VERY SMALL THING THAT I SHOULD BE JUDGED OF YOU, OR OF ANY MAN'S JUDGEMENT. HE THAT JUDGETH ME IS THE LORD". HE WAS WORKING FOR DIVINE APPROVAL. FELT RESPONSIBILITY TO GOD. THAT WAS THE TRIBUNAL - GOD'S. HE WAS SEEKING THE APPLAUSE OF GOD AND NOT OF MEN.

ALSO NEED TO REMEMBER THAT GOD IS GOING TO SEE US THROUGH. HE IS GOING TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH - IF ONLY WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR TASK. AND WE CAN COUNT ON THAT - GOD IS BEHIND US IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR WHAT WE KNOW IS RIGHT. THERE IS A PURPOSE IN LIFE - THAT PURPOSE IS GOING TO TRIUMPH EVENTUALLY. WE CAN TRUST IT. THEREFORE WE MUST DO OUR SHARE. EDITOR OF COUNTRY PAPER RECEIVED THIS LETTER: "DEAR MR. EDITOR; I PLOWED MY GROUND ON SUNDAY. I WORKED MY CROP ON SUNDAY. AND IN OCTOBER GATHERED AN ABUNDANT HARVEST ON SUNDAY. MY NEIGHBOR ACROSS THE ROAD WOULD NOT WORK HIS CROP ON SUNDAY, BUT ALWAYS WENT TO CHURCH, AND HE GOT A VERY POOR HARVEST. HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF THIS?" EDITOR PUBLISHED THE LETTER. THEN MADE THIS COMMENT AND REPLY: "MY DEAR SIR; GOD DOES NOT MAKE FULL SETTLEMENT IN OCTOBER". WHAT HE WAS SAYING WAS THIS; NOTHING IS FINISHED UNTIL GOD GETS THROUGH WITH IT. HE IS LORD OF ALL LIFE. HE WILL WORK THINGS OUT. HE IS FAITHFUL AND WE MUST BE THE SAME.

OVER AGAINST THESE WORDS OF JESUS IN STORY, "BEGAN TO BUILD BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO FINISH IT" WE MIGHT PLACE THE WORDS OF JESUS AS HE FACED DEATH: "FATHER, I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK THAT THOU GAVEST ME TO DO". AND ON THE CROSS HE COULD CRY OUT "IT IS FINISHED". FINISHED! WE CAN UNDERSTAND SOMETHING OF THE RELIEF AND GRATITUDE A CAPTAIN OF A TROOPSHIP FEELS AS HE BRINGS HIS SHIP AND CARGO INTO PORT. THROUGH STORM AND DANGER. AND JESUS AFTER ALL THE DANGERS AND TEMPTATIONS OF HIS LIFE COULD CRY OUT WITH TRIUMPH - "FINISHED."

"NO DISCHARGE IN THIS WAR". THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO CAN TAKE FROM OUR HANDS THE PROPOSAL TO QUIT - CHRIST HIMSELF. INTO HIS HANDS WE MUST PLACE OUR RESIGNATION - HANDS WITH NAILPRINTS!
I wrote and asked the editor if I should come to London, and he said no, so I went, laden with charges from my mother to walk in the middle of the street (they jump out on you as you are turning a corner), never to venture forth after sunset, and always to lock up everything (I who could never lock up anything, except my own heart in company).

Nearly forty years later, he gave his testimony to the values of perseverance during the lean years of one life:

Doubtless God could have provided us with better fun than hard work, but I don't know what it is. To be born poor is probably the next best thing. The greatest glory that has ever come to me was to be swallowed up in London, not knowing a soul, with no means of subsistence, and the fun of working till the stars came out... I did not even quite know the language. I rang for my boots, and they thought I said a glass of water, so I drank the water and worked on.
Remembered and Honored

ANY they were and young; strong and full of zest for life. Plans had they for years to come and hope that spurred them on to noble purpose and endeavor high. Much their future seemed to hold in store. The goals which they had set themselves made us proud to call them "our boys."

Came war; the call to arms; a sober mood. The young men knew that they must step into the breech. Theirs to labor, suffer, struggle, fight, perchance to die, that justice and freedom perish not. Theirs the honor to serve in danger for a noble cause.

Answering their country's call our young men responded and went to their deadly task with grim determination. Well they knew that the privileges and blessings we in America enjoy were bought at a great price and that they can be retained and made secure only as each succeeding generation is willing to walk the way of sacrifice.

We saw the young men go, their heads held high. That some would not return we knew full well. Yet none would hold their loved ones back. The price that we must pay for all we are and have is sacrifice; sacrifice of treasures and of lives; and no one expects to be spared.

Today our thoughts are centered about those who did not return, men in our several wars, and women too, who served their country in the danger zones. One and all they hold a place of honor in our nation's memory. Our gratitude to them is equally true whether they fell in the present war or whether their names have long since passed from the memory of living man.

*We thank Thee, O God, for America and for the men and women of each generation who have made the supreme sacrifice that freedom and justice may continue in our land.*
ORGAN PRELUDE Cavatina Raff
CALL TO WORSHIP - By the minister
HYMN 15 Angel voices, ever singing
INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER
* RESPONSIVE READING 22nd Sunday - page 588
GLORIA PATRI
APSTLES' CREED
* SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 14:25-35
UNISON PRAYER FOR THOSE IN THE ARMED SERVICES
O Lord of Hosts, grant to those who have gone forth to
fight our battle by land, sea, or air, Thy protection in
danger, patience in suffering and moderation in victory.
Look with compassion on the sick, the wounded, and the
captives. Sanctify to them their trials, and turn their
hearts unto Thee. We beseech Thee to comfort and bless
the dying; have mercy upon the widow and fatherless, and
give the assurance of Thy presence to all who mourn.
And, O God, who makest wars to cease in all the earth,
restore to us the blessings of peace; and grant that our
present trouble may be overruled to thy honor and glory;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
* ANTHEM Teach Me, O Lord Attwood-Mueller
PASTORAL PRAYER
ORGAN OFFERTORY Largo Moussorgsky
PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS
HYMN 180 Breathe on me, breath of God
SERMON “THE POWER TO ENDURE”
HYMN 235 Thou my everlasting portion
BENEDICTION AND DOXOLOGY
ORGAN POSTLUDE March Wagner

MAY 23, 1944 - CALENDAR FOR TODAY
10:30 Morning Worship - sermon by the minister.
11:00 Primary and Junior church.
11:45 Church School; classes for all ages.
7:30 Union Service under the auspices of the Gloversville
Ministers’ Association. Guest preacher is Rev. Christian H. Walvoord, pastor of the Reform-
ed Church, Canajoharie. The patriotic orders in
the city will be present for this special event.

THROUGH THE WEEK AT FREMONT

MONDAY 3:45 Junior Choir rehearsal.
7:00 Girl Scouts.

TUESDAY MEMORIAL DAY.

WEDNESDAY The Mid-week Service at the church at 7:30.

THURSDAY 6:30 The Winning Six Class will hold a Hot
Dog Roast at the home of Mrs. Charles
Roach, 7 South Boulevard.
7:30 Chorus Choir rehearsal.

FRIDAY 6:30 The Harmony Class will have a Covered
Dish Supper at the church.

Altar flowers today are given in memory of
Miss Anna Mosher by the Anna Mosher Class.

COMING EVENTS
Children’s Day and Promotion Day will be held in Fre-
mont on June 18th. Sacrament of Infant Baptism.

Baccalaureate Service will be held in our church, Sun-
day evening, June 25th.

We extend a cordial welcome to all strangers and visit-
ors who worship with us this morning. Come again.
A Million Prayers

Many people are today thinking about the Father of our country, about America, a land where freedom is enthroned. Most of these are perhaps aware that the United States has come to occupy a position of utmost importance in world affairs. They also sense that our government daily is confronted with problems and difficulties requiring for their solution more than human wisdom and understanding.

In this situation Christians are in a unique position. When wisdom beyond the capacity of man is needed, God alone can help. And He will help in response to the prayers of His children. Whoever reads these lines will serve his country and the world well by earnestly praying the following prayer, not once, but repeatedly, remembering that the "effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Almighty God, everlasting Father, in the hollow of whose hand lie the destinies of all nations: The troubles of the world are well known to Thee, so also are the sins, the shortsightedness and the helplessness of man. Have mercy upon us, O God, in our blundering and ineptitude, in our selfishness and pride. Overrule every plan and undertaking of man which does not further the cause of peace. Bring to naught the evil counsels of those who seek not the welfare of all. Direct the thoughts and actions of all those in the government of America and other lands to whose guidance have been entrusted the affairs of the nations and the world. Give them wisdom and understanding, patience and endurance. Cause them to strive for that only which is right in Thy sight and which will bring to all people a full measure of Thy bountiful blessings. O Lord, strengthen and uphold the hands of those who strive for righteousness, justice and peace. And let Thy mercy be upon us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
FREMONT STREET METHODIST CHURCH
Gloversville, New York
Fred Clarke, Minister
Minister of Music
Janet Price Davis
Church Secretary
Grace L. Gifford
Minister's Assistant
Alicejoy France
Lewis Cunning, Sexton

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE - "Andante Religioso" Thome
CALL TO WORSHIP - By the minister
HYMN 4 - "O worship the King" Lyons
SURSUM CORDA:
Minister: The Lord be with you.
People: And with thy spirit.
Minister: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up unto the Lord.
Minister: Let us give thanks unto the Lord.
People: It is meet and right so to do.

DOXOLOGY - To be sung by all

RESPONSIVE READING - 8th Sunday - page 571
GLORIA PATRI :: APOSTLES' CREED
SCRIPTURE LESSON - 1 Corinthians 13
ANTHEM - "O Thou from Whom all Blessings Come" Tchai-kowsky
PASTORAL PRAYER :: LORD'S PRAYER
ORGAN OFFERTORY - "Come, Holy Ghost, Lord God" Dupre
OFFERTORY ANTHEM - "I Waited for the Lord" Mendelssohn
PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
HYMN 185 - "God calling yet"

SERMON - "SEEING THINGS THROUGH"

HYMN 235 - "Thou my everlasting portion" Close to Thee
BENEDICTION :: CHORAL BENEDICTION
ORGAN POSTLUDE - "Prelude and Fuge in E Minor" Bach

Interval for Ushering

THE NEW UPPER ROOMS ARE IN THE UPPER HALL

FEBRUARY 22, 1948 - CALENDAR FOR TODAY

10:30 Second Sunday in Lent - Morning Worship with sermon - "Seeing Things Through".
10:30 Church-time Cherub Hour for small children.
11:00 Junior Church with Miss France.
11:45 Church School; Mr. S. W. Fear, Superintendent.
Our Goal: 75% average attendance; 50% increase in enrollment by Easter Sunday. Can you help?
6:00 Youth Fellowship for high school youth. Topic of discussion, "The Church Needs Us All".
7:30 Union Evening Service at First Baptist Church; the Rev. Harry L. Luerich is the preacher.
8:00 Couples' Club meets at the parsonage, 10 Fifth Avenue. Hosts and hostesses are Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Wille, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson and Miss Alicejoy France. Program: "A Question Box".

Altar flowers are given by Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Reynolds in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Schermerhorn and Mr. and Mrs. David Reynolds.

THROUGH THE WEEK AT FREMONT

MON. 11:00 Weekday School; grade 10.
1:00 Boy Scouts; Parents' Night. All invited.
3:30 THIRD UNION METHODIST LENTEN SERVICE at "North Main" with Dr. Frederick Stamm of Chicago as the guest preacher.

WED. 2:30 Weekday School; grades 4, 5 and 6.
7:45 Men's Lenten Lunch and speaker at the "Y".

THURS. 7:30 Youth Lenten Morning Service at Fremont.
NOON Men's Lenten Lunch and speaker at the "Y".
3:30 Minister's Membership Class.
7:30 Fremont Choir rehearsal.
8:00 Werner Workers meet at the home of Mrs. Jay Thompson, 86 West Street.

FRI. 11:00 Weekday School; grade 9.
1:00 Weekday School; grades 7 and 8.
3:30 Chapel Choir rehearsal.

SAT. 9:30 Carol Choir rehearsal.
7:30 Couples' Club Party at the church.