

5597a

Ministers:
Rev. J. Cashore
Rev. M. J. V. Shaver

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
320 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B. C. V6A 1P4

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1981

Evening Broadcast

7:30 P.M.

(Heard over CKWX at 8:00 P.M.)

Organ Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn No. 45 (210) "Stand Up and Bless the Lord" Thomas
Invocation
Programme Identification
Ministry of Music — THE SUN IS SINKING IN THE WEST BACH
Hebrew Scripture Jeremiah 20: 7 - 9
Gospel Lesson Matthew 16: 21 - 26
Ministry of Music PRAISE TO GOD — HANDEL
Prayer
Ministry of Music GOD IS MY SHEPHERD DVORAK
Sermon "ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND IT OR SAVE IT?"
Rev. Jack Shaver
Hymn No. 256 (367) "Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost"
— off air —
Offering: Prayer, Offertory, Doxology
Announcements
Hymn No. 489 (The Hymnary) "Behold, A Stranger"
Benediction
Postlude

A welcome is extended to all who are worshipping with us today. An informal Coffee Hour will be held after both services and all are invited to this time of fellowship.

Next Sunday

10:30 A.M. Rev. John Cashore

7:00 P.M. Chapel

8:00 P.M. Broadcast - St. Andrew's
Wesley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning's service
Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11:00

The Faces of Militarism
public workshops will
United Church Education
Wed. Sept. 23 - this
ment: the Face of Militarism

Worship Workshop - Saturday
Please sign up for it

One-To-One Visiting -
begin Oct. 14, 10:00
ation call Margaret F
needed.

Monday 1:30
2:00

Wednesday 1:15

Thursday 1:30
2:00

Saturday 7:30

Call to Worship

Ho every one who thirsts, come to the waters -
 and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk without money and
 without price - Why do you spend your money for
 that which is not bread and your labour for that
 which does not satisfy?

Hearken diligently to me and eat what is good
 and delight yourselves in fatness
 Seek the Lord while he may be found

Call upon him while he is near - let the
 wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man
 his thought Return to the Lord that he will
 have mercy upon you and to our God for he
 will abundantly pardon,

We Sing This Hymn of Praise H5 -

Stand up and Bless the Lord.

Ye People of his Choice

Stand up and Bless the Lord our God
 with heart and soul and voice.

Invocation - Almighty God → Break into our darkness
 with your light. into our turmoil with your rest,
 into our weariness with your power. Take hold
 of the minutes we have together and make our
 night spent with you.

Thoyd J. C.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Brookport

Sept 20 1981

Are You Going to Spend it or Save it?

Let me admit that the sermon title borders on -
trying to be smart. Like you are offered a choice
that turns into no choice at all.

Spend it or save it - which?

That might make sense about a lot of things -

But not about life - Life gets spent, ~~no saving it~~
even as you are trying to save it - maybe even
especially when you are trying to save it.

There's no way to stop life from being spent.

Our Gospel lesson ^{longer} contains some well known
words of Jesus.

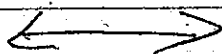
"Whoever would save his life will lose it

and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life
or what shall a man give in return for his life?

I think these words are worth sitting under for a while.

I suspect that these will always be a fresh word in them
for us. - maybe even especially for those
of us who have seen them and heard them around
for a long time.

In the living of our lives how are
we doing in the basic living contradictions
of saving and wasting them losing and finding
them.



Put it another way - Let's play this language game about saving and losing life for a while to see what light it will shed on the business of living - and on any current kinds in our living that have us out of sorts.

First - let's go back to where we started. The matter of there being no way we can stop our lives from being spent. All attempts to keep life from being spent are a choice for death. The choice to stay intentional is a choice not to be.

In the living of a life the only choice is the choice of what we are going to spend it on!

In Jesus words - →

What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and forfeit his life or what shall a man give in return for his life

What if we stated the problem of living in this way. What shall a person spend life on? —

What insights would it bring to all that we find wrong with our lives.

I think it would bring some light to our exploration for us to realize that throughout this little discourse ^{in Greek} the word for life is the Greek word ψυχή - root ~~was~~ ^{is} behind the English word psychology - psyche - and the Elizabethan scholar translated soul —

Mag of is revels - What will it profit a Man
R.V.

4 to gain the whole world & ~~lose~~ his Soul
or what shall a man give in exchange for his Soul.

But in the earlier sermons about
wherever ~~would~~ save his life would lose it
& wherever would lose his life for my sake
will find it, the great word is ~~progn~~
— translate that — my life have ~~cost~~
detestable trouble soul this with
Shifts the ~~focus~~ ^{of the discourse} around a bit.

} Sorry & ~~loose~~ for life } interchangeably
} loose & ~~loose~~ for soul }

~~more~~ ^{more} time time as to what is meant by ~~loose~~ ^{loose}
for life —
loose & ~~loose~~ for soul

↪ B States the question — What one you go to
To question — ~~this~~ — spend it on

What is worth spending it on

{ That's the setting — Self Denial Talk
~~from~~ ^{from} ~~himself~~ ^{himself}
blood — Take up cross & Follow me

some have it puts the great big price you pay
— Different light

puts all this ~~poor me~~ —
↳ look at this great big price of self and how ~~many~~ ^{many} ~~times~~ ^{times} ~~it~~ ^{it} ~~can be~~ ^{can be} ~~unreal~~ ^{unreal} ~~later~~ ^{later}
— a little off center —

What can be worth spending your
life on?

Matt has set his concerns about...

losing a truly self

On the occasion of Peter's Rebuke

→ Jesus begins the interpretation of
his imminent rejection, suffering & death.

Peter comes out with his Lord Savior.

- reproached with yet before we solve

- you are an offense
to the world

} not on God's
side - man's side

Stumbling Block

Obviously Jesus suffering & death was a
stumbling block to Peter.

Life is Stumbling Blocks }
Life's Hindrances

which are God's
which are on God's side

Cheminists that used a bit -

- What's worth it to spend your life on

Our lesson from the Holy Scriptures ^{taught} contains
Jeremiah protest over his ^{God's} ~~call~~ ^{not} ~~he~~ ^{having} ~~that~~ ^{much}
recuses God of deceiving him and to let
himself to be deceived. He says he has an
unpopular word, and again & again he ~~has~~
but to speak in ~~God's~~ ^{name} but he can do no other.
It is within him like a burning fire,
and to remove itself it is -

What keeps a call like that from
destroying a person? - What's worth it to
spend your life on - What can you give in return?

for your soul.

Most of us find life problematical in one way or another. It doesn't go right — it needs putting right all over the place. It disappoints us and we mess it up. One can get pretty tired of it all.

What else is brought to us straightening out, in that question what is worth spending your life on? — Think of the self-pity you would save.

Even though we did not read the Epistle lesson for this Sunday I want to refer to it for there is a charming line in it. In Chapter 12 of Romans Paul is telling a few things that he thinks would follow if we all spent our gifts on behalf of each other. His charming line goes like this — let he who does acts of mercy — do them with cheerfulness :-

If you knew what was worth spending your life on you might even get to spend it cheerfully.