Date: 28 Dec 1952

Quote Jesus: "How can you see the beam mote. etc." 4
(2) Always be willing to see the good points in your enemy
(3) When the possibility of defeating your enemy presents itself, you must not do it

This would not follow with all out war between nations. This deals with enmity between individuals.

IV Why Should one Love his enemy
(1) Because the process of hate for hate brings disaster to all involved
(2) Because hate distorts the whole personality
(3) Because love has within in a redemptive power

AD CSKC Sermon file, folder 1, "Loving Your Enemies"

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4 Cf Matthew 7:3-5

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After Christmas, What?

[28 December 1952]
[Atlanta, Ga]

During his holiday break from graduate school, King delivered a version of the following handwritten sermon outline at Ebenezer. He asks, "Will Christmas mean just another item in our social calendar or will it mean a new life and new attitudes resulting from our encounter with Christ?"

Luke 2:25-32

Introduction: For the past few days we have made our symbolic journeys and pilgrimages to Bethlehem. We have symbolically knelt before the infant Jesus at his manger. There we have beheld him in all of his grandeur and glory. And in the midst of this sublime experience we have sung melodious tunes that have shaken the very fiber of our soul. We have reached high heaven. Now as we make our way back to our various homes, we leave Bethlehem and make our way back to our various

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1 "After Christmas, What?" to Be Rev M L King, Jr's Topic," Atlanta Daily World, 27 December 1952. King also preached a sermon with this title as one of his final homilies at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in December 1959 (Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. Program, Sunday services, 27 December 1959).

2 "Then he took him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:25-32). Luke 2:25-35 concerns Simeon, a man who had been waiting for a messiah for Israel.
homes the question poses itself. What did we gain? What is the value of our meeting with Christ? What is Christmas going to do for us in terms of changed attitudes and better social conditions? Will Christmas mean just another item in our social calendar or will it mean a new life and new attitudes resulting from our encounter with Christ? After we have sung “[Joy?]” to the World” and “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” What then? After we have exclaimed “Peace On earth [remainder missing] good will toward men,” What then? Will we go back [remainder missing] home with our same old ways and our same [remainder missing] though? Or will or lives and thoughts be [remainder missing] transformed that men will be able to [recognize?] [remainder missing] that we have been with Christ? The test that [remainder missing] be the real test. The test of the value of Christmas [remainder missing] you will not be in terms of how many carol [you?] [remainder missing] have sung or how many eloquent [phrase?] words [you?] [remainder missing] repeated Text

I You must go away with the conviction that [remainder missing] is near. The men who beheld Christ in the manger [remainder missing] those who later encountered him were convinced that [remainder missing] brought God nearer to earth

(1) He represented a bit of [remainder missing] forth into time

(2) The Christlike goodness of God

(3) Jesus as the [supreme?] [remainder missing] of God

(4) Christianity has always insisted that God is [remainder missing] and concerned

(5) Aristotle God

(6) There are times [remainder missing] we doubt the [concern?] about God

(7) Christmas and [remainder missing] coming of Christ should dispel all our [remainder missing] No matter where I go God’s love is there [remainder missing]

II We should go away with the conviction that Christ is the revelation of what man ought to be. Jesus reveal not only what God is but what man ought to be

1 The gap between what we actually are and what we ought to be

2 Christ stand in judgment upon that which is law

3 When I stand in the face of Christ I am ashamed of myself. His noble character cause me to cry not “I thank God that I am not like other men but “God be merciful unto me a sinner”

We should go away with the conviction that Christ way is our eternal hope

AD CSkC Sermon file, folder 57, Luke 2 28

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3 A portion of the right margin of the paper on which this sermon was written was torn and is missing

4 Cf Luke 2 14

5 Cf Acts 4 13

6 In a paper written at Crozer, King noted “He is not the Aristotelian God who merely contemplates upon himself, not only is God a self-knowing father, but he is an ever [other] loving Father” (King, “What a Christian Should Believe About Himself,” 29 November 1949-15 February 1950, in Papers 1 281)

7 Cf Luke 18 9-14

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