

CHAPEL SERVICE

Southeastern Theological Seminary

February 21, 1969

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

SILENT MEDITATION

on Hymn #357  
"Take My Life"

UNISON PRAYER OF PENITENCE

O God, we thank you that you have not treated us as we deserve.

We thank you that, though you are Creator, Judge and King, you are also Father, so that, though we are wandering children, there is always a road back to our Father's house.

You have spoken to us,  
In the voice of conscience,  
In the words of your Book,  
In the promptings of your Holy Spirit,  
And yet we have not obeyed your voice.

You have shown us the best,  
In the ideals which still haunt us,  
In the life and example of godly men,  
In the pattern of Jesus,  
And yet we have not followed it.

You have tried to teach us,  
In the events of history,  
In the experiences of life,  
In the wisdom of the sages, the prophets and the saints,  
And yet we have not learned your lesson.

You have called us to the life of love,  
To the forgiving of each other,  
To the helping of those in need,  
To the caring which is like your care,  
And yet we have lived in bitterness, in selfishness and in heedlessness of the appeal of need.

We have nothing in our hands to bring. We have no merits of our own. There is no plea of self-defence that we can offer. So above all else we thank you for Jesus Christ our Saviour, who died that we might be forgiven. So for his sake hear us as we say: God be merciful to me a sinner.

And when you hear,  
Forgive and save.

This we ask for your love's sake. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE

## MEDITATION

## UNISON PRAYER FOR SELF DISCIPLINE

O Lord Jesus Christ, give us in all our life the discipline which will enable us to walk in your footsteps, and which all your true followers should show.

Help us to discipline our passions and desires, that we may never in an unguarded moment do that which we would afterwards regret.

Help us to discipline our appetites, that greed and gluttony and self-indulgence may have no part in our lives.

Help us to discipline our speech, that no false or untrue word, no soiled or impure word, no bitter or angry word may ever pass our lips.

Help us to discipline ourselves in our work, that slackness, idleness, laziness and carelessness may find no place in our lives, that we may not try to find how quickly we can do a thing but how well we can do it, that we may be more concerned with how much we can put into a task than with how much we can get out of it.

Help us to discipline ourselves in our pleasure, that no pleasure may ever so master us that it takes away the will-power to resist it.

Help us to discipline ourselves in our devotion, that we may faithfully share in the public worship of your people, and that no day may ever pass when in the silence we do not speak and listen to you.

Help us to discipline even our thoughts, that they may never move in any forbidden pathways or linger on any forbidden thing, so that we too may be pure in heart and so see you.

This we ask for your love's sake. Amen.

~~FORM OF DEDICATION "Fate of Life" # 351~~

## TIME OF MEDITATION UPON CERTAIN QUESTIONS

Is it possible that the observance of Lent, as practiced in the liturgical churches, should be adopted, voluntarily, by me, an individual member of a non-liturgical church?

What concept of "Giving Something Up" in the name of Christian Discipleship, do I hold? What am I "Giving Up" these days?

Is just "Giving Something Up" enough? What do I put in the vacuum?

As I sing the Hymn of Dedication, what discipline do I have in mind, to train my hands so that they may skillfully move "at the impulse of thy love"?...to train my feet to become "swift and beautiful for Thee"?...to train my voice to "sing, always only for my King"?

As I sing, "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite will I with-hold", what will I mean by this? and, what of "My moments and my days"? and, "My will"?, "My heart"?, and "My life"?

Can, in fact, God "Take" from me that which I do not "Give"? And can he use that which is not disciplined and trained?

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

(The prayers for this service are taken from, Prayers for the Christian Year, by William Barclay.