The Moment of Truth

Mt. 11:1-11

Intro. A. Hear great deal of moment of truth
1. Moment when reality, truth, eternity break thru sham, pretence, misinformation, deception, masquerade of life.
2. May refer to contest, election, ball game, tested friendship or marriage, a person in temptation.

B. In Christ there is such a moment.
1. In closet, Bible or lap, or church, at work.
2. Appearances fall away; all deeds forgotten, excuses stick in throat, yesterday + tomorrow unreal.

C. Task of preacher to bring this moment.
1. Some fail because too concerned with appearances, has job not mission, exchange lamps of current fads. Tinkle for flashbulbs
2. Some succeed. One such was John Baptist.

D. Condition of time was appearance and excuse. Pride of hypocrites and pride of those who need this as excuse.

E. Came pro. Shaft of light, plumb line.
1. a flame not a candle; no fancy dishes, but bread with bare hands; no diplomat-served subpoenaes; no polish, only rough grain of his character.
2. No man in fine raiment, no reed shaken by wind.

I The Message of Truth.
A. Kingdom at hand. God in the present tense not past buried safely in past or in hazy future. God had seen in present at work. Tell-Know any thing bad he done in your lifetime.
B. Axe at root of tree. Claims of kingd and connections and positions valueless. One question - what

fruit. Now is the crisis. Fan and threshing floor.
Ill. = Raindrops at gable of house.

C. Prepare to be a part of God's eternal program. Open hearts, turn, life bear evidence of presence of God.

II The Moment of Truth.

A. The poor came. Had their moment. They always come. Welcome. But need to face truth: ① Poverty no excuse for not meeting God's demands; ② Poor can be as greedy as rich.

B. Soldiers. Surprised that beneath armor a conscience? Wrestle with real issue of life, death.

C. Publicans came. Rich. Why? they have all? No. Still search for market where life, love sold. Learned friend, love, time, rain, bird, salvation, not bought.

House on hill became tent; closet full of rags.

D. Pharisees there. Reduced God to verses; morality to rules; good to ritual; saved to me + my home.

Zora Hale's parable.

E. Sadducees there. Skeptics. How safe to be agnostic! Questioned to upset believers. Built house of here + now and called it practical. But came to hear one speak of wrath to come. Why there? Palace of doubt now leaks and rent due. Stands on shore of time, hears ocean of eternity break against shore of time, tide slurp, "I'll return for you," feels mist in face, fog in throat.

Concl. - A. Thus the moment of truth. You, alone, before God and He has but one concern; cannot be engrossed by anything else. Better to be a pagan in pathless jungle than to arrive at this hour and close the eyes.

B. Jesus and Peter by the sea. "Do you love me?"