Houston Gulf Coast Crusade Rice Stadium, Houston, Texas Thursday, November 12, 1981

notehout

Pilwear on T.V.?

WHY I AM AN OPTIMIST

(13)

ILL: This week, <u>President Reagan</u>, in his news conference declared to the world:

"You can look pessimistically on the world today, or you can look optimistically at it.

- I chose the optimistic look."

Tonight I want to speak on WHY I AM AN OPTIMIST

TEXT: Psalm 102:6-7

ILL: Man at <u>Foyles Bookshop</u> in London, 1954 and 1955

The whole world is like a pellican, owl, and sparrow

ILL: "A Tale of Two Cities"

- Dickens wrote of the French
 Revolution in 1775
- "worst" of times

ILL: Damocles

- Fourth Century B.C.
- King of Syracuse

- ILL: Difference between an optimist and a pessimist was highlighted in one of our prisons
 - two convicts were looking out of a cell window one night
 - the pessimist saw only the bars
 - the optimist saw stars

In our world today we can see both.

Man Suffey from Deforescen
ILL: I heard of one pessimist who
jumped from the top of the Tall
Sears Tower in Chicago
but as he was going down
he turned into an optimist
and as he passed by a window
on the third floor he was asked
"How are you?"
- He replied,
9U. Paliem on Suich - The Batt
200 Blim one Suick - The Batt
Janfal en
Ulla Desertantian managed in England
ILL: Demonstration recently in England
(Birmingham)
on back of one T. Shirt
sewn in huge white letters
were the words "No Future"

- ILL: Here in <u>Houston</u> this week
 - we've been reading <u>headlines</u> and <u>stories</u> that state:
 - Future of mankind...
 - Deadlocked on the precipice of all-out war...
 - Pushing toward a nuclear showdown...
 - Disaster of catastrophic proportions...
 - People scared"

- ILL: Suicide /
 - Doctors are among society's worst!
 - They get terribly depressed when they can neither heal others totally nor themselves.

- ILL: Perhaps the most adulated and pampered woman of this century
 - just had a widely heralded biography published on her life
 - she is described as having
 - in her heart
 - been a "sad" person
 - really a chronic "hypochondriac"

ILL: Francois Mitterand, President of France

laments that ours is a

"tragic" world

- "everything is a struggle"

All. Hussy Have Toruft

ILL: After death of Sadat and Dayan

- who played such major roles at the Camp David peace offensive
- Lord Chalfont says
- the prospects for peace in the Middle East are
 - "really terrible"
 - "Now after one single act of violence and terror, the Middle East stands once more on the brink of war."

- ILL: <u>Jesus</u> once said there would be a time when
 - "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity"
 (Luke 21:25)
- distress
 - -- means "pressure"
- "perplexity"
 - means "no way out"

ILL: Matthew 24 Knocking at the Door

ILL: Assassination attempts

terrorist attacks

- Your own personal problems
 - boredom
 - children in rebellion

- of one of America's most wealthy
 and influential families (Alfred Bush Ford)
 - who left America for India
 with this resolve
 - renounce capitalism.
 - I renounce communism.
 - I come to India to settle here permanently to have the grace of the supreme god -- Krishna."
 - And with this he assumed the name Ambarish Das.

Drugs

ILL: Elvis

ILL: Mick Jagger

-- Keith Richards

- Unemployment
- The pinch of inflation
- Bad health

Here in Houston - one of great Medial Contain of Walf- All Arous Hore ILL: Mayo Clinic

An unfulfilled longing in your soul

ILL: Man with Limberger Cheese under nose whole world smells bad.

ILL: New York taxi driver

- asked me if anything to cheer about where I live
- 🥕 said, "Yes"
 - "Several things that Jesus said."

be forgiven thee"
(Matthew 9:2).

- Man sick of palsy
 (paralytic)
- Jesus knew deeper needs
- "Man cannot live on bread alone" (Matthew 4:4, NEB)
- "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15).

- "There is <u>no peace</u>, saith the Lord, unto the wicked" (<u>Isaiah 48:22</u>)
 - "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7)

- Man is trapped in sin.
 - ILL: A featured film in Houston
 this week is
 "The first deadly sin"
 - and sin yields guilt

ILL: A swinging single wrote to
Ann Landers (Nov. 11, 1981)

- -- of one night stands
- -- the dilemma
- -- is the <u>temptation</u> greater
 - -- or the guilt that always follows

-- both are devastating.

ILL: We saw today the account of a
54 year old who beat up his
91 year old mother

- to get money
 - \$1200
- then from the torture of his guilt he committed suicide.

- The Bible, thank God, assures there's glad forgiveness for all sin!
- -- "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered" (Romans 4:7)
- God can forgive sin because of the cross.

ILL: United States Air Force

- who was <u>lost</u> in flight
- cost \$10 million for one man

for each of us.

ILL: The Los Angeles pundit

- Alice Ramirez
- wrote in her syndicated column this week
 - in this year of the handicapped
 - she spent a day in a wheelchair
 - as an assumed paraplegic
 - perspective of what it means to be handicapped.

- God in Christ came down and became a man
 - just <u>like us</u>

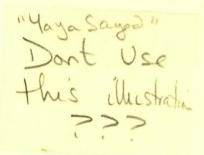
 only <u>without sin</u>
- and finally <u>died on a cross</u>

- I Peter 1:18 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, ... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot"
 - -- (Criswell note)

- Revelation 1:5 "Jesus Christ...loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood"
- ILL: The press this morning carried pictures of Lisa D'Amate
 - of New York Senator D'Amato
 - She had walked out of the shower
 - where she had spent 121 hours and one minute
 - into the Guinness Book of World Records.
- That was a long wash.
- Jesus Christ can wash away your sins forever in an instant.

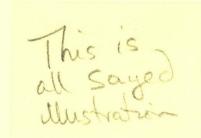
ILL: Yaya Sayed (Sa-eed)

- -- gave testimony in our recent
 San Jose Crusade
- -- former world class soccer player
- -- drinking
- -- drugs



- ILL: Mrs. Reagan has been speaking out to the parents of America this week
 - -- warning that "drugs and alcohol" are perhaps
 - -- "the most serious problems
 our country faces"
 (Nov. 10)

- -- gambling
- -- girls
- -- thinking suicide



- -- injured in car accident
- -- in <u>hospital</u>
 - -- team mate who he hated
 - -- "I love you"
 - -- and gave him Bible
- -- he hated Christians, who were stoned back home
- -- faced jail
- -- money frozen in banks
- -- accepted Christ

cut out

- Ya Ya Sayed Mustration

- -- Went home to visit dying mother in hospital
- -- she said if he would not <u>reject</u>
 Christianity
 - -- "out of my room!"
- -- Arrested, beaten
- -- released, with two weeks to reject Christ
 - -- or jail for life
 - -- or killed
- -- skipped the country!
- -- Promised Christ to tell people about Him for rest of life.

II. "Be of good cheer; it is I; be
not afraid" (Matthew_14:27; Mark_6:50)

- We have already seen that these are troublesome times.
- ILL: We often hear people say
 "If only Jesus were here now"
- > We need not brood
- He is here
- He is alive!

- ILL: John Wesley on ship
 - May 24, 1738 (243 years ago)
 - he was clergy, and missionary
 - but had not totally committed to Christ

- ILL: Bravery of five year old boy
 - walking by cemetery at night
 - -- holding on to his father's hand
- ILL: We will all walk through
 Valley of death
- "Be of good cheer; I am with you; be not afraid"

You have God's presence in persecution, suffering, heartache

Houston this week is

George Greeley's

"How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?"

Jesus can.

He came "to heal the broken hearted"

Telephre

bereavement

nd death

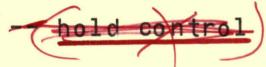
- "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil" (Psalm_23:4)
- ILL: Corrie ten Boom once said
 - men Christ is in the heart
 - the worst can happen
 - but the best remains
 - "and the best is yet to be"

"In the world ye shall have tribulation"

the world" (John_16:33)

- Jesus made statement just before Gethsemane and Calvary
- had warned disciples
- as the world hated me it will hate you.
- Uses the Greek word "kosmos"
- this is all the evil in the world

- Satanic cosmic principles of
 - force
 - greed
 - selfishness
 - ambition
 - and pleasure



- the world system is powerful
- it is often outwardly religious
 - scientific
 - cultured
 - and elegant
- but seething with rivalries, ambitions, lust, hate, and greed

- And is upheld in any crisis most of the time by armed force
- Dominated by Satanic principles
- Jesus met the world
 - the flesh
 - -- and the devil
 - and conquered.
- He also conquered death
 man's last great enemy.
- to the world.

- For us, Christ "disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them"

 (Colossians 2:15, RSV)
 - Our authority over the world is the Name of Jesus Christ.
- IV. The Coming Again of Christ
- "Let not your heart be troubled"
 (be of good cheer) 91/14

"Ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.
"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3)

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be <u>punished</u> with <u>everlasting destruction</u> from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

- 1. Choose you this day

 Joshua
- Why halt between two opinions?
- No man can serve two masters
- "Enter ye in at the strait gate:
 for wide is the gate, and broad
 is the way, that leadeth to destruction,
 and many there be which go in thereat:
 Because strait is the gate, and
 narrow is the way, which leadeth
 unto life, and few there be that
 find it" (Matthew 7:13.14)

- (1) two gates (7:13,14)
- (2) two trees (7:15-20)
- (3) two foundations (7:24-29)

BG/sw 11/12/81