

Denver
noted

Rocky Mountain Crusade
Denver, Colorado
Saturday, July 18, 1987

Denver no. 2020

LONELINESS

ILL: Neville Shute

~~—~~ "On the Beach"

~~—~~ loneliness

ILL: ~~"The Day After"~~

TEXT: Psalm 102:6

ILL: Man at Foyles ~~—~~ *Low 2m*

(Possible opening for LONELINESS sermon) - *Denver*
7/18

1-A
Roger Palms

~~We were told that~~ there are *many troubles*
~~of~~ people here this evening.

Yet, I know that if I could sit
down next to each one of you and ask:

- "Are you lonely?"
- many would answer "Yes."

For even in a crowd this large, you
can feel so alone.

Or when you go home, you are alone.
Even if there are people there -- your
family -- you can feel alone.

- Why?
- You are lonely for God.

ILL: We've just completed ^{MISSIONS} ~~Crusades~~
across this whole part of middle
America

-- and many people came to Christ.

-- They would tell their counselors,
-- "I'm so lonely."

ILL: You can be walking down the
16th Street Mall, right here in Denver
-- where there are all those people
-- those colorful sidewalk cafés
-- and you feel lonely.

loneliness....2

ILL: Watched Elvis Presley film

~~—~~ used to stare at the wall

~~—~~ or hug a teddybear

ILL: Barbara Hutton *(A Wealthy - Lonely Woman)*

~~—~~ paid teenagers \$1000 a night to
come in and talk to her.

~~—~~ One of supreme human problems of
modern society is loneliness.

~~—~~ Modern city a lonely place

~~—~~ Here in America, 70% more people living
alone in one person dwellings than
10 years ago

loneliness....3

ILL: New York psychiatrist said

-- "New York City is the loneliest place in the world for millions."

ILL: An American university study

-- reported that university students are the loneliest people in the United States

-- followed by divorced people.

Here in Denver more than half families are Single Parents

ILL: Singles -- 51% in Denver - one of the Highest Single Concentrations in America

loneliness....4

ILL: One of the principle causes of both
alcoholism and drug use

~~→~~ alcohol and drugs are efforts to escape
loneliness

~~→~~ drugs take you on a trip

~~→~~ and being drunk makes you feel
you've got someone with you!

~~→~~ On the other hand

~~→~~ going with Christ is a trip on which
you really always have Jesus the Lord
with you.

loneliness....5

~~--~~ You cannot drink your way out of
loneliness

~~--~~ Most young people turn to drugs for kicks
~~--~~ then get hooked
~~--~~ but thousands turn ^{To Drugs} because of
loneliness

ILL: Magazine cover story

~~--~~ "our neglected children"

~~--~~ It's said that actually "Most of them are
properly clothed and fed, but
"something" is missing in the lives of
countless children."

loneliness....6

~~It's a neglect of the spirit~~
~~which leaves them 'lonely'~~
~~and prone to drugs and alcohol~~
~~and all too often it leads to~~
~~suicide.~~ --

~~After^{so} all,~~ that's what ~~too~~ many of their
heroes have done: --

- John Belushi
- Jimmy Hendrix (Love In)
- Janis Joplin (Soul)

~~One of the key words in the Bible is~~
~~"Communion"~~
~~from which we get our word~~
~~"communication"~~

loneliness....7

~~→~~ Reconciliation to God

~~→~~ the cross

~~→~~ two arms.

II. LONELINESS OF SOCIETY

ILL: Homeless people on streets of big city

~~→~~ I talked to man on 5th Avenue
just before Christmas
(after giving him \$1 in his
outstretched hand)

~~→~~ I asked him what his main problem
was, and he said "I am all alone."

loneliness....8

~~--~~ Jesus Christ once looked at a helpless,
paralyzed man who said

~~--~~ "Sir, I have no man when the water
is troubled to put me into the pool"
(John 5:7)

~~--~~ For 38 long, weary years

~~--~~ this bundle of loneliness and human pain
had been buffeted by the surging tides
of people

~~--~~ Jesus singled him out

~~--~~ He became his friend that day, and
healed him.

~~--~~ He can become your Friend tonight.

loneliness.....9

ILL: President Eisenhower

2nd. What ~~you~~ is ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~heart~~

~~—~~ baptized

~~—~~ chose: "What a Friend we have in
Jesus."

2nd

~~—~~ "That Christ may settle down and
be at home in your heart" (Ephesians 3:17)

ILL: ~~Dingy~~ apartment dweller who never
receives a letter

~~—~~ nor a handclasp of a friend.

ILL: The ~~Bronx~~

loneliness.....10

ILL: Wealthy society leader whose money
has brought everything but happiness

~~men and women~~

~~going to party after party~~

~~"What a bore."~~

ILL: The country girl seeking fame and
fortune in the big city
~~disillusioned,~~ and disappointed.

~~Christ can be your friend.~~

ILL: Loneliness is found even in the
intimacy of marriage.

loneliness.....11

~~—~~ Loneliness is an inner dimension

~~—~~ a thirst of the spirit

~~—~~ the roots of loneliness are within
each of us

~~ILL:~~ A poll recently revealed that fear
and loneliness take over a child's life
when a parent suddenly vanishes from
the scene

~~—~~ whether it's a mother or father.

~~—~~ a romance breaks up

~~—~~ a job is lost

loneliness.....12

~~•~~ a grown child leaves home

~~•~~ a death

2
III. THE LONELINESS OF SUFFERING

~~•~~ When you are suffering

~~•~~ the world ends at the foot of your bed.

~~•~~ "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans_8:18).

loneliness.....13

~~--~~ Revelation 21:4

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

3
IV. LONELINESS OF SORROW

ILL: The older I get

~~--~~ the more funerals I am attending,
or should attend, as friends die.

~~--~~ Jesus wept at funeral of friend.

loneliness.....14

~~2~~ He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26).

4
V. THE LONELINESS OF SIN

ILL: Professor of psychology says

~~2~~ two basic causes:

1. Feeling that we don't belong
2. No one understands

loneliness...15

ILL: There was an article in the press

(by Ellie ^{In England} Teshner)

~~—~~ on the punk rock kids

~~—~~ ^{The White} ~~she~~ says they're a generation of
alienated young

~~—~~ who are "going nowhere, looking
forward to nothing."

~~—~~ So they dress, act, and sing (as a
representative of their number said):

~~—~~ "We all wanted to look like
warmed over death.

That's how we all feel when we
aren't high on drugs or booze."

loneliness....16

- ~~→~~ The deeper and more basic root of loneliness
- ~~→~~ is a sense of isolation from God.

ILL: Loneliness began in the Garden of Eden

- ~~→~~ ~~man and woman~~ living together in perfect harmony with each other and with God.
- ~~→~~ Something devastating happens
- ~~→~~ a "declaration of independence"
- ~~→~~ God comes to the Garden calling
- ~~→~~ "Adam, where are you?"
- ~~→~~ and man tries to hide from God.

loneliness.....17

~~--~~ Roots of loneliness were planted in
the human soul

~~--~~ and have been inherited by every
inhabitant since

~~--~~ Loneliness has never been a
respector of persons

~~--~~ world's greatest artists
~~--~~ writers, and composers

~~--~~ kings, queens, carpenters, and plumbers

loneliness.....18

*Redirections*ILL: John 13

-- the Last Supper

-- prophecies betrayal of Judas-- he went out, and it was night.

-- Perhaps there was a time that you
knew the fellowship of God's people
-- and you had peace with God.

Bapti - Confirmation

-- But you "went out" from the presence
of God

-- and you ^{have} found that it was night.

-- You have neither "the fellowship of
Christians"

-- nor the "fellowship of sinners"

loneliness.....19

~~and certainly you no longer have the
fellowship of Christ.~~

~~Perhaps there is no loneliness quite
so bitter as the loneliness of a
backslidden Christian.~~ *Who Has Never Had
Chit Personally*

● ~~ILL: Straddling fence~~

~~ILL: When I was a boy~~

~~"on certain issues"~~

~~I didn't know answers.~~

~~Sin makes us lonely~~

~~because it separates us from God.~~

loneliness....20

✍ Never God's intention for man to be lonely.

✍ Hundreds of surveys ^{In America} prove that our society has not made us a better adjusted or happier society

✍ Fleeting moments of sensual satisfaction
✍ creates a bitterness and a loss of
the sense of pleasure
✍ that no psychiatrist can cure.

✍ The Bible says that

✍ "The wicked are like the troubled sea,
when it cannot rest, whose waters
cast up mire and dirt" (Isaiah 57:20).

loneliness.....21

✓
VI. THE LONELINESS OF THE SAVIOR

~~—~~ spent much time in the company
of the lonely and the outcast

ILL: Woman at the well

~~—~~ "He is despised and rejected of men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with
grief" (Isaiah_53:3).

~~—~~ Even though great crowds surrounded Him
at times

~~—~~ He was alone.

loneliness....22

Even at the end, the Scripture says
"All the disciples forsook him,
and fled" (Matthew_26:56).

The crowds who had recently shouted
"Hosanna"

that very week shouted
"crucify Him."

At last we hear Him cry out
"My God, my God, why hast thou
forsaken me?" (Matthew_27:46).

loneliness....23

- ~~✶~~ Christ hanging on the cross is the loneliest person in the world.
- ~~✶~~ He experienced ultimate loneliness as He died for you and for me.
- ~~✶~~ Through His death, Christ dealt with the primary cause of human loneliness
~~✶~~ separation from God.
- ~~✶~~ Hell, essentially, is separation from God
~~✶~~ hell is the loneliest place in the universe
- ~~✶~~ Jesus suffered its agony for you.

loneliness.....24

V. THE LONELINESS OF DEATH AND JUDGMENT

-- my grandmother, father, mother

VI. THE LONELINESS OF YOUR DECISION

-- Cannot depend upon parents or friends

-- you must make this decision about
Christ yourself.

-- Our reaction to loneliness is often
to deal with the symptoms rather than
the cause.

loneliness....25

~~→~~ Please

- ~~→~~ We get involved in our work
- ~~→~~ we throw ourselves into a social whirl
- ~~→~~ we read one of the best-selling books which urges us to take control of our lives

- ~~→~~ Any attempt to deal with sin without conversion (new birth)
 - ~~→~~ is like struggling in quicksand.

- ~~→~~ If we search for an antidote to loneliness in drugs, alcohol, sex, encounter groups, psychological experiences
 - ~~→~~ it often only serves to mire us deeper in despair
 - ~~→~~ without remedy.

loneliness.....26

~~—~~ Through Jesus Christ we can have the most fundamental relationship in life restored.

~~—~~ "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:
if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation_3:20)

ILL: Psalmist who was so lonely

~~—~~ also wrote Psalm_43:5

'Oh my soul why be so gloomy and discouraged. Trust in God.

I shall again praise him for his wondrous help. He will make me smile again, for he is my God."

not
KJV
or NIV

loneliness....27

- ~~--~~ Loneliness is often God's way of letting us know it is time to "reach out."

- ~~--~~ Christ experienced the greatest loneliness the world has ever known
- ~~--~~ so that we would never have to be lonely again.

BG/sw
7/21/85

xeroxed from Anaheim 85
7/9/89

Last night, I preached on John 3:16
and the people here said it all together:
"For God so loved . . ."

and more than 1,700 people responded to
the invitation to accept Christ.

A few weeks ago in one of our Crusades,
a man looked at that same verse and the
counselor told him, "You can put your name
in that verse, you are the 'whosoever.'"

He did put his name in John 3:16, and
then he read it and said with a grin on
his face, "I like that!"

Devised 7/18
Loveliness

27-B

(2)

You can put your name in that verse
tonight in the same way as all those
who came last night.

"For God so loved you that He gave
His only begotten son . . . "

ILL: A couple of weeks ago I
received a letter which said:

- About a month ago, my wife and I separated.
- She moved out of our house saying she could not stand to be around me anymore.
- We had gotten to a point where we could not communicate with each other anymore.
- We were throwing accusations, some founded, some not, and bitter, spiteful words at each other.
- So she moved out and went to live with another man, until she could get an apartment of her own.

Loneliness
used Denver - 7/18/87 - 2 -

- On June 8, 1987, I had come home
from work and after dinner . . .
I felt a compulsion to turn on the
tube.
- I attributed it to the loneliness and
frustration I was feeling.
- Sometimes the tube can be an
excellent fire escape (for a short while)
- But it is not a good fire extinguisher.
- Anyway, I turned the set on and
randomly flipped the dial
- the station I had chosen was just
announcing the beginning of
"The Billy Graham Crusade from
South Carolina."

- . . . I don't mind telling you I was more than a little skeptical about televised religious programs. . . but I continued to watch . . .

- At the end of your sermon, which I felt was directed at myself and my situation

- when you called those people who wanted to change the direction their lives were going, to come forward and receive Christ as their savior . . . I hesitated, but then I did . . .

- At this time my wife and I are starting to put things back on track. (She hasn't come home yet, for she hasn't let God into her heart. But I know He is working on it.)