

— Editorial —

When you make a mistake

Only those who never do anything can claim the doubtful honour of never making mistakes. Good intentions are no guarantee against making wrong decisions. Sooner or later, poor judgment gets most of us in trouble. Our mistakes usually involve others who are required to suffer because of our oversight and lack of wisdom.

Jesus recognized our human limitations here when he included in His prayer the portion, "Forgive us the wrong we have done, as we have forgiven those who have wronged us" (New English Bible). Jesus knew that even when the heart was right, the head could lead one into error.

At least three courses are open to us when we make a mistake. One, we can lay the blame on others, and seek in this way to escape responsibility for it. This response is as old as man, for in the beginning Adam said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Later in Bible history, it was the King of Israel who, when caught with the evidence of his own error, said, "But the people took of the spoil." This is the course of weakness, reflecting an inner instability and immaturity.

A second course is to minimize the wrong we have done by saying, "Oh, it was only a small thing, after all. Why be upset over nothing?" But it is not our privilege to determine the amount of anxiety and embarrassment our mistakes bring to others. What is small and of little consequence to one can be of major importance to another. This second course is no better than the first.

To say, "I was wrong. I am sorry. Forgive me" is the response which reveals a real man. This method meets our mistakes and errors "head-on" and solves them in the only manner becoming to Christians.

A man is revealed for what he is, then, not so much by the fact that he makes a mistake, nor altogether by the magnitude of the mistake, but rather by the manner in which he chooses to face it.

Our mistakes are good for us, for they teach us something about ourselves. They also teach us to have patience with the mistakes of others. A mistake should not upset us to the point where we cease to venture again. On the other hand, we should not ignore it and act as if it did not exist.

CANADIAN FEDERATION ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS MEETING IN EDMONTON

The Canadian Federation on Alcohol Problems has accepted the invitation of the Associated Temperance Forces of Alberta and will hold its Annual Convention in the Corona Hotel, Edmonton, on November 18, 19, 20—1963.

Some features of this important national assembly of temperance workers will be: Panel on Alcoholism; Panel on "The Churches and the Alcohol Problem"; reports on the Toc Alpha and the Allied Youth movements; address by R.C.M.P. Supt. H. G. Langton on "Drinking and Driving". The closing banquet will be addressed by Dr. Robert D. Russell, Assistant Professor of Health Education, Stanford University, California.

"Are we living so close to society that we do not dare to vigorously condemn the sins to which society itself is given? The church may face the time when it picks up the microphone to address the world — only to find that it has nothing to say."

G. Weldon Gatlin.

I NEEDED THE QUIET

I needed the quiet, so He took me aside
Into the shadows where we could confide;
Away from the bustle, where all the day long,
I hurried and worried when active and strong.

I needed the quiet, though at first I rebelled,
But gently, so gently, the cross He upheld,
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things.
Though weakened in body, my spirit took wings
To heights never dreamed of when active and gay.
He loved me so greatly He drew me away.

I needed the quiet, no prison, my bed,
But a beautiful valley of blessing instead,
A place to grow richer, in Jesus to hide—
I needed the quiet, so He took me aside.

—Author Unknown

SHAMEFUL RECORD

"Five nations lead the world in alcoholism, a high divorce rate, juvenile delinquency, and mental illness. These are the United States, Switzerland, Britain, Denmark, and France. These are the western nations which have it made. None of us are starving. But not all is well with us. What we are going through is a religious conflict. Physically, we are advancing. Every day there is a better chance we will live longer. We have improved social skills. And we are intellectually gifted. Any generation that can invent something to wipe out civilization isn't stupid.

With all this the prevailing mood is that we are specks thrown on a third-rate star, and life is empty and without meaning or purpose. The ultimate thing about a culture is its religion. What does it believe? What are its values? What is its faith?"

—Bishop Gerald Kennedy

RATES AND RATIOS

"The death, crime, and accident rates in a given community vary according to the average alcohol consumption; and when alcoholism decreases so do death, crime and accident rates; and relaxation of restrictions on alcohol is followed by a rise in commitments to asylums, hospitalization, and delinquency".

Dr. E. M. Jellinek

The King's Highway

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