

Gilbert A. Sullivan, Jr.

GEMS

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2. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
3. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem;
4. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
5. O house of Jacob, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord; yea, come, for ye have all gone astray, every one to his wicked ways.

ISAIAH 2: 2-5



A LETTER TO A BOY AWAY FROM HOME

May 25, 1966

Dear L-----,

Your letter of May 13th came several days ago and was read with pleasure. In answering, I am going to devote most of my time to the subject which you brought up, which I know has been a source of frustration to you for a long time. It is summed up in your statement, "Is it right for Daddy to leave his family and deprive his children of his companionship and love." Of course you say much more, which I cannot fully consider now.

Do you remember that Christ was married and had children? What did His children think of Him? He was absent doing His Father's business most of the time. Did His children wonder about His neglect of them? Did they miss Him? How could it have been otherwise? Yet, His mission to mankind was so necessary, so sublime, that His children were privileged to make some small sacrifice, also. Was it not wonderful that they could have such a divine character for a father? Is it possible that they were grateful that they could contribute in some small measure to His great mission by a little personal sacrifice?

Now, I need not compare your father with Christ, but your father has a mission too. And no man can help build up the Kingdom of God without devoting his life to that end. All truly great men have dedicated their lives to the good of as many as possible. For everything we gain, we must lose something else. And it is good for us to choose that which will be the most beneficial in the establishment of God's purposes, and the helping of His children. Yet, no matter what we do, we, and others concerned, must lose something. Wise indeed are the children who can contribute to their parent's sacrifice to the glory of God.

Mothers and wives generally contribute most to this end. The burden of bringing the children up in paths of righteousness rests heavily upon them in the absence of the head of the family. They are blessed, and wise, indeed, if they can make their sacrifice that God may be glorified in their lives, too.

I remember my father. He was Speaker of the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho. At that time, he held many other State and Church positions. He was seldom with his family. Yet, we who knew him nearly idolized him, for he was the very epitome of virtue and goodness. If there were those in his family who complained, they were the ones who couldn't sacrifice their own desires and time in order to be near him, for father was never too busy to help us, but he was too busy to go hunting us up at our convenience in order to ask if there was something wrong. If we needed guidance, we had to ask him for it. We wanted his help badly enough to pray for it. And when we did, how graciously and ably he gave us his assistance.

Our Heavenly Father tells us, "For all the good that I bestow upon you it is required at your hands that you must ask it of me, for I, the Lord, shall be enquired after." The blessings of God and the devotion, and love, and companionship of a good and devoted father on earth must be earned. They must be anxiously sought after. We cannot, we must not anticipate that it is always possible and/or that it is our father's duty to be at our side at that very moment that we feel the need for him, that we can go

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