

Meet Yourself!  
Luke 15

Amsterdam 7/18/43  
Hudson Falls 8/43  
First Pittsfield 9/1/46  
5th Ave State 10/10/48  
Broadcast



H. W. GRIFFIS  
FIFTH AVENUE-STATE STREET METHODIST CHURCH

Service for Broadcast on October 10  
-----

Invitation and Invocation	1:20
Hymn—O Day of Rest and Gladness	2:16
The Scripture	1:35
Anthem—There Were Ninety & Nine	2:40
The Prayer	1:50
Hymn—Just As I Am	3:15
The Sermon, Closing Prayer, Benediction	9:10
	-----
	22:06

INVITATION AND INVOCATION

We invite you to join in the worship of the Troy Church of the Air. Your minister is the Rev. Harold Griffis, pastor of the Fifth Avenue-State Street Methodist Church.

O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth; for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled

Let us Pray:

Almighty God, who hast given a day of rest to thy people, and, through thy Spirit in the Church, hast consecrated the first day of the week to be a perpetual memorial of thy Sons' resurrection; grant that we may so use thy gift that, refreshed and strengthened in soul and body, we may serve thee faithfully all the days of our life; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who hast taught us to say:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

1:20



And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger? I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck and kissed him. ... And the father said to his servants Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

1:35

MEET YOURSELF!

"And when he came to himself..." Luke 15:17a

What do you look like? How does your voice sound to other people? What sort of person are you? Many years ago Robert Burns wrote his famous lines:

"O wad some Power the giftie gie us  
To see ourselves as ithers see us!"

Just this week I noticed a larger trailer parked near my office. It was surrounded by a crowd of people. When I got near enough to discover what was going on I found that it was a telephone exhibit and that a man was recording the voices of people in the crowd and then was giving those people the opportunity to hear their own voices. That is a revealing experience. I remember being a part of a group where this was done and strangely enough we recognized every voice but our own. Man after man spoke about the naturalness of every voice but his own.

Just as it is difficult for us to know how our voice sounds to others it is also difficult for us to know how our actions appear to others. So often we criticize others for the faults of which we are most guilty.

Our age seems bent on letting us know just what others think of us. I have already spoken of the voice recorder. The psychologist has devised tests so that we may indicate to ourselves how we look to others; Almost every popular magazine contains such tests. We are pitifully eager to discover what others think about us.

Yet, after all, it is not enough to simply get the opinion of other people in order to see our real selves. Too many times our appearance does not indicate what is really us. I have a friend who likes to play tennis. One day, at the resort where we were staying, he was invited to play in a doubles match. He did not meet his partner until it was time to play. I shall never forget the dismay that registered in his face when that partner walked out on the court. He had on a pair of heavy, rather nondescript pants held up by old fashioned wide suspenders, he wore a colored neckband shirt without a collar. On his head was a panama straw hat. He came out on the court with an awkward rolling gait holding a rather ancient tennis racket in his hands. My friend shook his head and settled down for a weary afternoon.



His expression changed, however, when they began to play. That man could really play tennis. He and my friend won their match and it was not because of the skill of my friend. We cannot always judge by appearances.

In VanDeusen's life of Thurlow Weed this incident is recorded - "Weed's prominence being what it was, it was only natural that a lanky Illinois frontiersman, taking the stump for Taylor in New England, should think it wise to call on the Whig leader in Albany. The westerner was taken to meet Fillmore, he was bade goody, and in the course of time he was forgotten. Benjamin Franklin would have put this last down as an erratum, for the rawboned backwoodsman with the high voice and the deep-set, melancholy eyes was not a man to be forgotten with impunity. His name was Abraham Lincoln. Appearances may be deceiving. We must get at the real individual back of the surface appearance.

Jesus once told the story of a man who met himself! We read this story as our Scripture lesson. There are many truths in the parable of the Prodigal Son. I heard a man say, once, that the entire Gospel was contained in this parable. The key to the whole transformation which took place is found in the 17th verse, "And when he came to himself..." Here he gets beyond the opinion of his friends, beyond his false notions of himself. He met himself. It was more than a matter of what he was wearing, of his social pose, of his relationship to his social group. He saw himself as he was and as he was supposed to be.

Harry Emerson Fosdick says: "The beginning of worthwhile living is thus the confrontation of ourselves--unique beings, each of us trusted with the makings of personality." God is always waiting to show us ourselves. He shows us our real selves, a picture of reality untouched by flattery or envy. The picture does not reveal all goodness. Nor, for that matter, is it all bad, but rather it indicates great potential goodness. In the quiet of your home, this morning, I invite you to meet yourself--to look at yourself as God sees you.

First, you are better and greater than the place where you live. Edgar Frank has a little poem which I like:

"How can you live in Goshen?  
Said a friend from afar.  
This is a wretched little place  
Where people talk about tawdry things  
And plant cabbages in the moonlight. .

But I do not live in Goshen, I answered.

I live in Greece  
Where Plato taught and Phidias carved.  
I live in Rome  
Where Cicero penned immortal lines  
And Michelangelo dreamed things of beauty.

Do not think my world is small  
Because you find me in a little village,  
I have my books, my pictures, my dreams,  
Enchantments that transcend Time and Space.  
I do not live in Goshen at all,  
I live in an unbounded universe  
With the great souls of all the ages  
For my companions."

I do not like this poem because it indicates an escape from the reality of the place where we live but because it does indicate that we are bigger than that place. Too many of us allow our city, our address to determine what we are. Certainly today too many of us allow the circumstances of our day to determine what we are. Meet yourself! You are greater than the place or the time where you are living.

Second, you have the possibility of being a much greater person. Be sure not to misunderstand what I have said. I didn't say wealthier, or more powerful in the sense of being able to control the wills of others. The Prodigal's life was changed because when he met himself he met the son of his father! All through the New Testament this refrain is sung--the possibility of becoming--the possibility of becoming. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be" The possibility of becoming. YOU have that possibility--it is a part of your essential nature. No matter where you are or what you are YOU have the possibility of becoming a much greater person. Meet yourself!



Third, you possess the power of motion—shall I say, spiritual motion! If you make up your mind to leave pigs and corn husks you can do it. Our greatest difficulty in these days is in our feeling of hopelessness and helplessness. That is because we are pagans living in a pagan world. Paganism says you must remain where and what you are. Christianity says that you can move. But it rests with you. I may sit in the most powerful car that is made. The tank may be filled with gas, the battery charged, the motor in perfect condition but until I have turned on the key and pressed the starter nothing happens. Nothing happens in your life until you decide to move. You may go on just as you are—full of fear, unhappy, unsatisfied. But you do not have to go on that way. You possess the power of spiritual motion. ~~You may~~ Meet yourself!

8:30

PRAYER -

"O God, who has put a song in our hearts, we give thee thanks for every voice that praises thee, the Author of all things good: for the sunlight which brings life to the world: for everything that grows, and lifts its head toward thy light: for the stars in their courses, proclaiming a divine hand in their order: for the kindness in human hearts, that cannot be crushed: for the hopes which though crushed, rise eternally towards better things; for the deep impulses of the soul which set towards thee. We thank thee that above all the bewilderments of life rises the song of man's unconquerable faith—his assurance that thou art the Eternal Spirit of Good; that thou hast better things in store for thy sons than they can ask or desire; and that through darkness and through light thou art the abiding Friend of all the sons of men. Put that song in our hearts this day as we gather in the spirit of worship. Give us the spirit of praise and accept the devotion of our hearts to thee and to thy purposes.

...inspire, we pray thee, the minds of all to whom thou hast committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsels all nations may work together in true brotherhood

Teach us day by day what thou wouldst have us to do, and give us grace and power to fulfill the same. Make us ready for the great adventure of living. Among the perplexities of daily life give us self-control. Make us to lift up our eyes and behold, beyond the things which are seen and temporal, the things which are unseen and eternal.

1:50



## CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

O God, our true and highest Life, by whom, through whom, and in whom all things live, which live truly and blessedly; we humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen

: 40

## MEET YOURSELF!

"And when he came to himself..."  
Luke 15:17a

### I. Introduction

A. The coming struggle of our time will be in the area of individualism

B. What is the place of the individual in a planned society?

C. Of one thing we may be sure-- the importance of the individual will be stressed more and more.

D. Religion must provide people with an adequate individuality.

### II. People are funny!

A. Robert Burns wrote many years ago:

"O wad some Power the giftie  
gie us  
To see ourselves as ithers  
see us!"

B. Bishop Quayle looks into a full length mirror for the first time

C. Voices are recorded and we recognize every one but our own

D. We criticize others for the faults of which we are most guilty.



Van Dusen's life of  
 Thurlow Weed —  
 Lanky Illinois frontiersman  
 rawboned backwoodsman  
 high voice, deep set, melancholy  
 eyes campaigning for Taylor in N.E.  
 Weed didn't bother to  
 see him  
 in the course of time he  
 forgot him. This was an error  
 Abraham Lincoln could not  
 be forgotten with impunity.

III. Yet it is not enough to simply  
 get the opinion of other people in  
 order to see our real selves.

A. Other people do not see our  
 real selves.

B. It is difficult for us to see  
 other people also for we cannot  
 judge by appearances.

1. Hanford's tennis partner
2. Hearing K.Q. preach at  
 Silver Bay
3. - see across - Weed & Lincoln

IV. Jesus once told the story of a  
 wanderer who one day met himself.

A. The Story of the Prodigal Son  
 as found in Luke 15

B. "And when he came to himself..."

1. Not his own opinion
2. Not the opinion of his friends
3. God had waited for an  
 opportunity.

V. Meet yourself!

A. Fosdick says: "The beginning of  
 worthwhile living is thus the con-  
 frontation of ourselves--unique  
 beings, each of us, trusted with  
 the makings of personality."

B. God is always waiting to show  
 us ourselves.

C. A picture of reality



1. Not all good
2. Not all bad
3. Most of all great potential goodness.

VI. Meet yourself!

A. First, you are better and greater than the place where you live.

"How can you live in Goshen?  
Said a friend from afar.  
This is a wretched little place  
Where people talk about tawdry things  
And plant cabbages in the moonlight. .

But I do not live in Goshen, I answered  
I live in Greece  
Where Plato taught and Phidias carved  
I live in Rome  
Where Cicero penned immortal lines  
And Michelangelo dreamed things of beauty  
~~Because you find me in a little village~~  
Do not think my world is small  
Because you find me in a little village,  
I have my books, my pictures, my dreams,  
Enchantments that transcend Time and  
Space.

I do not live in Goshen at all,  
I live in an unbounded universe  
With the great souls of all the ages  
For my companions."

--Edgar Frank.

1. That's it
2. You are greater than the place where you live
3. You are greater than the age or time in which you life.

B. Second, You have the possibility of being a much greater person

1. Now, I didn't say wealthier

2. I didn't say more powerful in the sense being able to control the wills of others

3. You have the possibility of becoming--of becoming--  
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:

C. Third, You possess the power of motion--shall I say spiritual motion

1. If you make up your mind to leave pigs and corn husks you can do it.

2. Our greatest difficulty in these days is in our feeling of hopelessness and helplessness

3. Paganism says--you must remain where and what you are---  
Christianity says you can move