

Commencement Address
of the
Unification Theological Seminary
given by
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June 28, 1986

Barrytown, NY

Distinguished faculty, members of the graduating class, ladies and gentlemen:

I am truly grateful that once again I have come to this sacred institution of higher learning to give this commencement address. I would like to give my heartfelt congratulations to the 41 members of the graduating class, out of which 18 have completed the three year divinity course, for your outstanding accomplishment and achievement during your years of study here.

I would like to also congratulate the parents and families of the graduating students for bringing up such wonderful sons and daughters. They have been through a very unique course of study and have accomplished a difficult standard to be receiving this recognition today. I would like to congratulate the faculty members for their meritorious work and dedicated teaching in order to produce such outstanding young leaders.

I am especially grateful to God Almighty that this institution could celebrate its Tenth Commencement. During this time, tremendous blessing has been bestowed, and we have witnessed the steady development of the Unification Theological Seminary into one of the most extraordinary institutions of higher learning in our world today.

In the first decade, we have built the tradition and laid the foundation. We are now embarked upon the second decade, and we are reaching for the stars.

God Created One Family of Man

In the beginning, God had an ideal. That ideal was the creation of one world inhabited by one family of man. If our human ancestors had been truly obedient to God, this would have come about. We would be living in a perfect world--a world of one family of man, sharing one language and culture, in which every member of the human race would be knit together as brothers and sisters. This family of man would have been united, achieving a perfect harmony and peace centered upon the true love of God.

The world we find today is far from that world of God's ideal. Instead, we have at hand a world of division. One brother is turned against another, one nation is turned against another. Human history has been stained by unspeakable bloodshed; and the tragedy of struggle has been the human reality.

The Unification Church, however, is based on the knowledge that the will of God is to bring about the ultimate restoration of his original ideal. That is

also, therefore, the only hope of humanity. Furthermore, Unification teaching clearly states that we are living in the last days. This does not mean that we will all perish, however, but rather that human history has come to the end of its long, tortuous journey. The nightmare of fallen history will soon come to an end. The new day of fulfillment of the ideal of God is large on the horizon.

The Unification Church is heralding to the world the message of hope. We are the harbingers, and also the pioneers. We are the advance party of history. Out of chaos, a new world order is on the horizon. The day of the dwelling of God among men is here, and every man and woman can share in this transformation. We are here to ignite a spiritual revolution--the remaking of the individual, the community, the nation and the world in accordance with the original ideal of God.

For this, we need leadership. Without leaders, very little can be achieved, even with the highest ideal. We need an institution where we can train the leadership for the new age. That is the purpose of the Unification Theological Seminary. For that purpose I founded this institution. We have graduated a large number of excellent individuals who are presently in the field, working tirelessly to meet the standard of new age leadership.

Today we are adding to that cadre of leadership a distinguished group of 41 upright men and women. They will join the crusade of kingdom building. I am deeply satisfied on this occasion.

The Mission of America

I believe that the history of America is closely intertwined with Divine Providence. This nation has a destiny in God's will. The Pilgrim Fathers of America came to this new land seeking religious freedom. They acknowledged God as the central authority of their lives.

These founding fathers made a covenant with God that America would truly become "One nation, under God, with liberty and Justice for all." I believe that God heard their prayers, accepted their commitment, and gave His abundant blessings to this country.

America's blessings, however, are not for the sake of America alone; they are for the sake of the world. America is playing a great role in the dispensation of God's providence today to make possible one world under God. Knowing that this is the will of God, I came to America, even though I knew I would be persecuted and suffer, even possibly going to prison. This is what has come to pass.

Today America is facing two Goliaths. One is certainly communism. Communism is the enemy of God and humankind. The evil of communism stems out of its militant denial of God and its militant persecution of religion. Communism has set its sights on world conquest by any means possible, and has spread totalitarianism and terrorism to every corner of the globe, even on this very continent. In this century, the human cost of communism has already been 150 million lives, and the spread of this God-denying ideology has deprived countless millions more of spiritual life.

Who shall stop this enemy if not America, the nation which God has raised up as He raised up David? America is the hope of freedom-loving people everywhere. What shall be our strength? Our strength shall be that of David; we must confront the enemy fearlessly with faith in God. I fervently ask you to take the role of David in America and in the world.

America at the same time faces another Goliath. The second Goliath is even more difficult to fight against. That second Goliath is the internal decay which has afflicted this nation and our Western society.

America is under spiritual attack today. I have heard that soon over half of the children in this country will be raised in single parent families. Drug use and crime are at record levels. Material success has become much more important than spiritual principles. All this is happening because God has been forgotten. He is no longer the central authority in American life.

Let me ask you: Who is God counting on to turn the tide of evil to good? Is it the President? The Congress? The courts? It is you, God's shepherds, who must bravely and faithfully stand up to this awesome challenge of two Goliaths.

America is at the Brink

America is at the very brink. Her future as God's champion for goodness, righteousness and freedom are at stake. America must repent. As God told the Israelites, "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." America has broken its covenant with God. Who shall renew that covenant? It must be you, the Unification Theological Seminary graduates. You must go down on your knees before our Heavenly Father and once again renew the covenant which America has made with God.

This is the very message God told me to take to the shores of America. As you know from the story of Jonah, it is very difficult to take the message of God to a foreign land. For the last 15 years I have given everything I have for the sake of the salvation of this country. As a result, thousands of young people's lives have been turned toward God. Millions of dollars have been spent on ecumenical, educational and service projects. The entire Unification Church movement exists in this country not for itself but to help America fulfill her mission in front of God.

What greater challenge to America than the call to sacrifice, unity, and hard work? When has the world embraced the message of sacrifice, and when has religion prospered without sacrifice? But which shall we heed, the world or God?

The people of Nineveh listened to the word of God and humbled themselves. Let America be a modern day Nineveh rather than a modern day Sodom and Gomorrah. Let a great, new and powerful spiritual awakening sweep this nation. Let this nation be a model of true Christian love and service to the world. Let us stand strong against the destructive forces of totalitarianism and terrorism. Let us begin together. Let us begin today.

Conclusion

This is my message to you today, when you are about to undertake a great challenge in the world. You are my hope. You are my champions. Our world will be brighter because of you. I want each one of you to become a leader who will bring joy and comfort to God and be counted as a citizen of heaven.

May God bless you and your work.

Thank you very much.