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Today or Tomorrow

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It is always dangerous to say Tomorrow because, in the first place, life is so brief and transitory.

*"The clock of life is unwound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour."*

—(B. Meyer)

In the Bible there are almost a score of metaphors which express the brevity of life, the frailty and unreliability of tomorrow. How striking those metaphors are! This is one of the great ideas that the Bible seeks to impress upon us more than almost any other. And that is the reason it speaks this truth in so many different ways, and with so many different figures of speech. It is like a swift post horse or dromedary, galloping across the desert, and quickly disappearing. It is like the weaver's shuttle, playing rapidly to and fro on the loom. It is like the shadow that declineth, the shadow of the hills falling rapidly as the evening comes on. It is like water poured out on the ground that cannot be gathered up again. It is like the breath in man's nostrils. It is like the morning mist. That is the reason James says that men ought not to count on the morrow because they cannot tell what or where they will be on the morrow. "What is your life?" he says. "It is but a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." It is like the fog, the mist, which on one of these autumn days lingers over our city and at noon hath vanished. The very sound of the word that James uses here, brings out that idea of frailty and unreliability. He says our life is like an *atmis*, a vapor.

The other reason why it is always dangerous to say, Tomorrow, is because the disposition of the heart changes. Tomorrow, and even tomorrow may come, but without today's conviction, without today's earnestness, without today's hope, without today's longing, without today's spiritual desire, even although it was but a smoking flax or a broken reed of holy aspiration. Tomorrow comes, but spiritually it is a dead tomorrow, as dead as yesterday. The Holy Spirit calls again, but this time none answers.

For you and me it is still today, and the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." If there is a chain of evil habit that ought to be broken, break it now. If there is redress, or restoration, or amendment that ought to be made, today is the only time for that. If there is some gentle ministry of love and affection to one upon whose brow is coming down the halo of another world, then do not wait until tomorrow to perform that ministry, for tomorrow your friend may say to you as Christ said to His disciples in Gethsemane, "Sleep on now, and take your rest."

If there is a desire to serve your Redeemer's cause, to do something for His Church and Kingdom, then do not wait for another year or another week, or another day. Who knows whether there is to be a morrow of opportunity for you?

There is only one acceptable time with God, and that is now. There is only one day for repentance and for faith, and that is Today. "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him While He is near."

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