THE COST OF THINGS

STAR POINT CEREMONY

Suitable for Friendship Night

One or more people may participate in this ceremony simply by dividing the paragraphs or verses. In this manner the Presiding Officer or another selected person may present the complete ceremony, or two people may alternate the paragraphs, or as many people may take part as there are paragraphs or verses.

Frequently, we hear it said that wealth is not everything, and there is not one among us who does not know how very true that statement is. On the other hand, each of us knows that things of value have a cost and that the price is very important to the purchaser.

The individual who wishes to make something, whether it is a dress, a coat, or an addition to the home, must go through a process of planning, selecting the materials, and finally, the individual must pay the cost of securing the materials themselves. And, if you are like me, you like to make sure that the materials you pay for are actually worth the amount of money you are spending.

When we shop for materials, we make sure that the article we are considering is genuinely as it is represented to be. No one wants to pay the price of one hundred per cent virgin wool and then discover that the material is really reprocessed wool and cotton. The expert shopper makes sure that he is buying good products and not some shoddy substitute for the real thing.

However, I wonder if we are as careful and conscientious in the acquiring of the materials that we use in making the garment of our own life.

The things which each of us needs to make our own cloak of life are things of real value and yet, they may not be purchased at the counter nor can they be paid for with dollars and cents. However, this does not mean that they do not have a cost, for they surely do. Let us consider for a moment, what materials are essential to the well-rounded, worthwhile life.

First of all, there is friendship. We often talk about friendship but seldom if ever do we consider what living would be like if we never knew the comfort of friendship. It is almost impossible to imagine what life would be like without the companionship of another human being who also shared our ideas, our hopes and our discomforts. But, if the individual wishes to enjoy the satisfactions of a truly worthwhile friendship with another, he must first of all be willing to pay the price of friendship itself. First of all, you have to make the expenditure of time and effort to meet your friend more than half way down the street of life. To me, friendship has always seemed like the blanket or quilts one makes for his bed—it's the part that hangs over that keeps a person warm.

Sometimes we are puzzled that we do not seem to be able to acquire the kind of friendship that we really want. As the years pass, we gradually see the wisdom of our parents' homely advice, a "man's known by the company he keeps." Sometimes it is impossible to make friends with certain people. Perhaps the answer lies in the fact that friendship is a two-way affair.
You have to have two people who are both willing to give and to get. You can't be friends with anyone who cannot share his joys and sorrows with you. You can't have true friendship with anyone who cannot join with you in the sharing of your triumphs and your failures.

As with the selecting of any material, you select your own friends because they are genuinely worth the expenditure of your love, affection and assistance. It has often been said that if you would truly know any man, you must first know his friends.

Valuable as friendship with our fellow man is, still there is a friendship that surpasses this. Each of us needs to be friends with his Maker. Once again, this enviable state cannot be achieved without expenditures on our part. First of all, we have to take the time and make the effort to find out what God expects of us. We have to study His Laws and the Truths of our Holy Bible. We have to achieve a close relationship through humble and earnest prayer. And, we cannot make the garment of our life without double stitching the seams with the friendship of God and man.

Let us each, like Adah, seek our very own hilltop,
Seek and find a place to meet our God in prayer.
Let us find a place of silence and serenity,
Confident that if we look, Our God will be there.

Let us be willing to give of ourselves in labor
For the welfare and well-being of some dear friend.
Let us work around the mountains of tasks and duties
To find the kind of happiness that does not end.

Let us lay aside our concern for physical welfare
And look to the task of our inner selves instead.
Let us take the time to seek God in communion
And follow the way that His Truths have led.

Let us be ever constant in our faith in Him
Who died that each of us might ever live.
Let us cherish the peace and satisfaction that Only our Father in Heaven can really give.

Let us be willing to pay the cost of friendship,
Give willingly and freely of effort and care.
Let us meet our friends with outstretched hand.
Let us meet our God with an outflung prayer.