

If you say, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled, but you don't do anything for them, what good does it do them? Well, the situation here described is alas not as extreme as it sounds. There is many a person who is satisfied with kind words or pious statements, but has no reality behind them. There are two aspects of this attitude which is here condemned which I would like to note particularly. The first of these is the lack of practicality, and the second is the lack of sincerity. Now we cannot be sure which of these is involved in any particular case. In fact in many cases it may be a combination. It is very easy to say, Go out, be warmed and be filled. Get along fine and hope everything goes fine with you. I do not think because you feel that there are ways in which the person can be helped and all they need is just to go ahead and not get worried about it. And of course there are many situations in which people's troubles are imaginary, largely. Where people's troubles are unnecessary, and where a word of comfort, a word of empathy means more actually to them than the actual thing that you might do to them. This might then be a case of -- perhaps not in the situation described here -- a case in which the words would render a real service. But in the case here described they certainly do not. A person may be impractical in his approach. And feel that through some mere words, or something like that the problem will be solved.

More likely in the situation here described, it is a matter of insincerity, a matter of selfishness. "I'll take care of myself, why worry about him. He's his own affair, that's up to him. I'll not worry about him. Selfishness which of course is sin."

Now I want to look at these two aspects in connection with the perfecting of human society. And first at the aspect of practicality. Here some knowledge of history is ~~important~~ important. I think it is very unfortunate that in most of our schools now that history is becoming less and less to be a vital subject. Instead of that it is classed under social studies. In other words we are looking at society