

must be placed in the category of an ideal—a noble ideal which can become a reality only by the exercise of the individual will. To be frank, I think we will have to confess that too often in the past it has been no more than a remote ideal—a rhetorical expression to adorn a thought which has but little kinship with reality. The ideal of brotherhood, like the ideal of freedom and equality, nevertheless has been a potent force in our American society—has indeed been the metal from which we have forged the greatest nation on the earth.

Today, as never before, the world cries out for the universal brotherhood of man. World brotherhood has become not only an ideal, but a most insistent and demanding reality, imposed upon us whether we like it or not by grim circumstances over which we have no control. With nations equipped with armament capable of destroying other nations, if not the entire world, hatred of other peoples is no longer a luxury in which we can indulge ourselves. And thus, to save ourselves from utter extinction we are forced to do what we should have done in obedience to our consciences and without compulsion—that is, love our neighbors. For no man with hatred in his heart for fellow man is to be trusted when armed with the destructive weapons which modern science has provided us.

Modern science has pushed us to a point from which there is no escape—no turning back. It offers these alternatives: extermination or that human brotherhood which has been the spiritual ideal of mankind since the dawn of civilization. The whole world looks to us in America today for guidance and leadership in fostering the spirit of human brotherhood among all the peoples of the earth. America is the home of the greatest experiment in liberty ever devised by men. Here we have demonstrated that men and women of good will may live together in peace and happiness, regardless of differences of race, creed or cultural background. The free peoples of the world turn to America, then, for direction and moral strength in the great struggle for human freedom. Our country has never failed to respond to the challenge when the forces of evil and darkness threaten the liberties of men. We can best meet the challenge by renewing our faith in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God.

We know that human brotherhood cannot be created by legislation or decree. It springs from the human soul, in obedience to the commandment: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Brotherhood, moreover, must exist between men individually before it can exist between races, religious groups and political creeds. And thus, brotherhood must