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The Last Change - for funeral sermons

The following sermon outline was written at the turn of the 20th century and included in book of funeral sermons and outlines. With a little work, you will be able to have an encouraging, yet truthful look at the subject of death for the believer.

THE LAST CHANGE

BY THE LATE REV. R. ANDREW GRIFFIN.

Job 14: ¹⁴ If a man dies, shall he live *again*?
All the days of my hard service I will wait,
Till **my change** comes.

This was a very natural mode of expression for the Patriarch Job. His life was a weary monotony at the time he thus spoke. Day after day there was the same repressing presence of pain, reproach, and temptation. How regularly they came; how tardily they withdrew, even for an hour. What a gospel rang out of the word Change into the ear and heart of Job. You and I may be feeling the monotony of being; let us cheer our hearts with meditation on the certain change awaiting us all.

1. It might have been an unwelcome change.

It is to some. The cypress of the grave casts its shadow all across their lives. But Jesus came' to save us from the fear of death, as well as from all other fears. Death is robbed of its real sting; take heed lest, through unbelief, you invest it with an imaginary one.

2. It will be a great change.

Our familiar calling, the body, our relations in the world, must be left for a noble calling - a spiritual body - and for the spirits of the just. Yet, in heaven, the latest comer feels no sense of strangerhood. Although all things are so different from those he has just left, he feels heaven is his home.

3. It may be a sudden change.

Sudden death, in the case of holy men, is a mark (I should think) of the Divine favor, as far as those, taken from the world are concerned. It is dreadful when a man is snatched away, not from honest labor and patient suffering, but from yielding to indolence, and fretfulness or doubts.

4. It is likely to be an unattended change.

We must die alone; the only one from your church, your village, your town. Yet, though alone in the article of death, what a goodly company of angels shall receive you and bear you to rest.

5. It must be a final change.

The experience of celestial beings, while in no painful sense monotonous, will know nothing of "change"; for our idea of change is connected with painful separation and uncertainty.

(Funeral Sermons and Outlines, Wilbur Ketcham, published 1899)

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