

# A Word With You

**J**ESUS taught things about human behavior which are very sound—and which are as good today as when they were uttered. In fact, we seem to be just catching the first glimmerings of what those teachings were all about, now that a scientific study of human behavior is beginning.

There are untold resources within the human being, Jesus knew, if only we can learn how to tap them. In order to do so, we must penetrate the surface; we must not be controlled by superficial considerations; we must overcome our first impulses brought about by thoughtlessness, the force of habit, crusty social customs, and false pride; we must understand that other people really exist, just as we do. If we can accomplish this, our real self can make contact with the real self of others and raise us to much higher levels of being and doing.

The way is really quite simple, and the things Jesus taught are not difficult to do. But the tendency is for people to stay at the superficial level, to do the first things that come into their minds to do, and—such is the force of pride and habit—to continue doing these things even after they get themselves into difficulties.

Henry George taught things about man's economic life which are just as true today as when he wrote. He, too, pointed out a clear and simple way, not difficult to do, but obstructed

by superficial thinking and the force of habit.

George exposed economic fallacies which persist over the years—and probably will tend to persist for a long time, because they are the first impulses of people when confronted with economic problems. They are the surface aspects which need to be penetrated in order to be understood.

What is more obvious than that the employer pays wages to an employee—and that wages come out of the employer's capital? Yet upon analysis it is seen that labor creates its own wages.

Upon seeing (or hearing about) the poverty of the world's masses, how many of our opinion-moulders jump to the conclusion that the world is overpopulated! How few take a second look and a second thought to see what the facts really are!

George, in his review of insufficient remedies, hit upon all the fallacious proposals we have been hearing about (and suffering with) ever since *Progress and Poverty* was written. They, too, are the first impulses of people—the first conclusions jumped to—when no thought is taken.

For this reason, Henry George will always be timely—because superficial thinking will always be with us. And we will always need his reminders when we slip into lazy, heedless habits of thinking and acting in our economic life. —Robert Clancy

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The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y., supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives value to land, therefore the income from land values (rent of land) belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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