

Schapiro

MAYBE IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING TO WARN YOU RIGHT NOW THAT I AM GOING TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT RELIGION. I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT IT. IN FACT I PROBABLY KNOW LESS ABOUT IT THAN MOST OF YOU DO. BUT I HAVE A FEW THOUGHTS THAT MIGHT BE WORTH SHARING ON THIS SABBATH EVE.

USUALLY WE THINK OF RELIGION AS GOING TO SERVICES, OBEYING RELIGIOUS LAWS, FOLLOWING RITUAL, AND PRAYING. AT FIRST THOUGHT WE PICTURE A RELIGIOUS MAN AS ONE who does these things. But how about a person of whom we think very highly, who is doing good works, helping others, accomplishing much for humanity, but WHOM WE WOULD NOT ESPECIALLY CALL RELIGIOUS.

ALSO WE HAVE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO IS OUTWARDLY RELIGIOUS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIMES, BUT WHO IS NOT EXACTLY UP TO PAR IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

CASES OF BOTH TYPES MAY OR MAY NOT BE EXCEPTIONS BUT THEY EXIST. IT IS NOT THE OUTWARD TRAPPINGS OF RELIGION ALONE THEN THAT TELL HOW VALUABLE A PERSON is to his community or to himself, OR HOW GOOD HE IS. BUT SHOULD NOT RELIGION INCLUDE ALL THAT IS GOOD? I THINK IT SHOULD. IF SO, WE SHOULD GO DEEPER THAN WE DID AT FIRST GLANCE AND TRY TO DEFINE RELIGION MORE CLEARLY.

---more---