

# RABBI SPEAKS TO CHRISTIANS

## Dr. Mendel Silber Discusses Character of David at Y. M. C. A. Luncheon.

Dr. Mendel Silber, rabbi of Temple Emanuel, delivered a brief address on out that David was one of the greatest afternoon luncheon yesterday, pointing out that David as one of the greatest characters not only of biblical, but of all times; was a man the study of whose life, filled with its many good deeds, draws all men closer, whether he be Jew or Gentile.

"Points of difference in religion," he said, "make no change in humanity. Good deeds unite all and stir all to nobler thoughts and action. The value of going back three thousand years to biblical times and studying the great heroes of that period is that it shows us men who endure, men who have all the faults and all the good qualities of the men of today. The bible is valuable as a book in that it gives us life-like portraits that are not easily erased from the mind. The men of the bible cannot be affected by time or changes of conditions. The bible does not overdraw us pictures. It gives us a picture of David that is remarkably true and life like."

### Speaks of David's Career.

The speaker traced David's career from the time when he was a humble shepherd boy on the plains of Palestine to the time when he became the chosen leader of his people. He said that all the vicissitudes of David's life failed to change him, or make him other than he was—a splendid character, not a man without faults, but a true man. His moods, his affections, his motives, he said, made him a great man.

He related from Jewish history the story of David and the cup, as an illustration of the character of the man. The story is that when David left Saul he had to flee for his life. He took leave of his followers, bade all his friends good-bye and went out alone to escape from Saul and the Philistines.

While thus in peril he attracted many followers, a motley crowd for the most part, adventurers who are willing to rally around any new banner.

### David His Own Master.

Yet those men under David never plundered a village, never even stole

so much as a lamb from the fields, so complete was his gentle mastery over them. One day when David wanted water from the spring at Bethlehem the men periled their lives for it. They had to cut their way through the enemy, get the water and then cut their way back to the main camp where their leader was suffering from thirst, even unto death. When David saw this manifestation of their devotion to him he was deeply touched and, instead of appeasing his consuming thirst, poured the water out upon the ground as an offering to God.

"It is only after knowing these things," said the speaker, "that we can appreciate David and the other men of the bible. This, my friends, is the story of David as he appears to us in the bible, and I am indeed glad of the opportunity to speak to you on a subject that is so near and dear to your religion and my religion.

### Messiah Yet to Come.

"For, whether the Messiah has already come from the offspring of David, or he is still to come yet, David is your David and the lesson you may learn from a review of his life we may all learn. After all, there are still enough points of resemblance between Judaism and Christianity to dwell upon, and a common consideration of these cannot but be of benefit for nothing brings man nearer to man than the sacred community of good work, and nothing strengthens faith in the Father more than the sense of the brotherhood of his children.

"If church and synagogue must needs preach the same truth under different aspects, and worship God in diverse languages, they may still learn the same lessons and praise their creator in universal language of good deeds and on the broad fields of common humanity."

Rabbi Silber's address was the third of a series of talks upon noted biblical characters. Next Sunday evening Oscar Mitchell will discourse upon the life of the prophet Isaiah.