I say to you this morning, that if you have never found somethi ng so dear and so precious to you that you will die for it, the n you aren't fit to live

You may be 38 years old as I happen to be And one day some great opportunity stands before you And calls upon you to stand up for some great principle Some great issue, some great cause And you refuse to do it because you are afraid You refuse to do it because you want to live longer

You're afraid that you will lose your job

Or you're afraid that you will be criticized

Or that you will lose your popularity

Or you're afraid that somebody will stab you or shoot at you or bomb your house

And so you refuse to take the stand

Well you may go on and live until you are 90

But you're just as dead at 38 as you would be at 90

And the sensation of breathing in your life is but the belated announcement of an earlier death of the spirit

You died when you refused to stand up for right

You died when you refused to stand up for truth

You died when you refused to stand up for justice