

I'd Rather See a Sermon

Edgar A. Guest

I'd rather see a sermon
 than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me
 than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil
 and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing,
 but example's always clear;

And the best of all preachers
 are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action
 is what everybody needs.
I soon can learn to do it
 if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action,
 but your tongue too fast may run.

And the lecture you deliver
 may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons
 by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you
 and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
 how you act and how you live.