

his whole report that he didn't like: He didn't like them telling him not to chew gum, & he didn't like 11 people in the diesel. (The used car bought for Don's family.) And neither one of those things were the big problems that he's been having.

2. In other words, he doesn't really come clean! He's not honest about it, he doesn't tell you what his real problems are. He picks out ridiculous little things, something in which he was really justified, like 11 passengers in the car, or something that he feels was really unjustified, quibbling over chewing gum!—Both of which he figured he could get some sympathy in.

3. But he doesn't even mention his main problem at all & the things that have caused the most trouble! He just talks in generalities & he doesn't really tell what he is talking about, & he just keeps contradicting himself. It's pitiful. Poor fellow.

"ILL-STARRED!"

4. (Maria: What do you think "ill-starred" actually means? I looked it up in the dictionary & it says, "Born under an unlucky star", but I can't find what it means exactly. It must have some kind of actual astrological or scientific meaning, not just "unlucky" like we use it. There must be something about it that's actually valid.)

5. The Bible says, "Shall the thing formed say to Him that formed it, why hast Thou made me thus?"—Rom.9:20. But you see, the point is, if you don't like the way you're made, give Him a chance & He'll remake you! These people who defend themselves & defend the way they're made, how are they going to have a chance to be remade when they don't even want to be remade? They say they want to change, but they don't really. They only say that because they know they should try to please.

6. Paul talks about it when he's talking about Jacob & Esau! God said, "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."—Rom.9:13. "Esau sought a place of repentance & he found it not, even though he sought it carefully with tears."—Heb.12:17. He couldn't change what had happened. So it seems like there are some things that are just that way, that's the design, there's no way to change it.

7. It's almost like your sign, you might improve & you might stay on the good side, & I may try to get the best out of mine, but I'm still an Aquarian! You're still you, in other words, but it's what you do with you that counts! In the movie "Tess", she was just obviously born stubborn & proud & selfish, extremely selfish!—Extremely proud & extremely stubborn.

8. (Maria: I didn't quite understand what you said about Sisera—"The stars in their courses fought against Sisera."—Jud.5:20.) Well, there are all kinds of interpretations of that, but the usual interpretation was that he just couldn't win for losing, because the stars were against him, the signs were against him. And of course God designed the signs & ordains the stars & guides their courses, & God was against Sisera because he was an enemy of His people. He lost the battle & he was on the run & he couldn't even find any place to hide. He thought he had, but he lost his life.—What you call a born loser all the way around, like that girl, Tess.

9. (Maria: But why does God make people like that?) Maybe to be dandy bad examples. (Maria: But what if they couldn't help it?) Oh, Honey, that's their proclivity. They can help it! God gives us choice. He didn't force Adam & Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, He just made it possible & gave them the choice, & they made the wrong choice.

10. I don't believe in that extreme predestinarian view that you can't help yourself, that you're just destined to be saved or unsaved, or lost or whatever & there's nothing you can do about it. I don't believe that's so! That would destroy free will entirely, & the whole plan of God is built on free will, within certain limitations, of course. He's not going to let Man go too far with his evil, & Man has a choice up to certain outside limitations of what he can do, but he does have a choice! He can improve & overcome his sign & his weaknesses if he strives hard enough with the Lord's help.

"TESS" & SUN SIGNS!

11. But Tess never even tried to overcome, she just kept yielding to her baser instincts, which was not sex but her damn