

Family Fellowship 4 of 4

#0509
Frazee

Study Given by W.D.

I invite you this evening to turn to Luke 1. This evening, we want to note the great goal of the Christian home in the generation in which we are. Luke 1 beginning with the 13th verse—the setting is the temple in Jerusalem. An angel has come from heaven and is speaking to the aged priest as he ministers at the altar. What is his mission?

“... the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” Luke 1:13-17.

There were doubtless thousands of children born the year that John was born. In the natural course of events children were being conceived and born by the thousands there in the land of Judea. But among them all there was not one who precisely met the need that God saw. So by a miracle He brought into existence this special boy, John the Baptist.

You will notice that the highest angel in heaven came. In the 19th verse, he speaks of himself.

“...I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings”
Luke 1:19.

It must have been an important mission that brought the right hand covering cherub down from the throne of God down to this world. It must have been an important mission, and it was. A child was to be born, a special child to do a special work. The parents of this John were so impressed with the visit of this angel that they changed a number of things in their lives in order that they might do the work of preparing this boy for his mission as the forerunner of the Messiah. They moved out into the country we're told.

They devoted 30 years to bringing up this boy that he might be the prophet going before the face of the Lord to prepare His way. This was a fulfillment of the prophecy we studied this morning.

“...I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers...” Malachi 4:5-6.

John was the Elijah of that generation; just before the first coming of Jesus. Today, in this last generation, once again there is the coming of the Messiah. This time He comes in glory, without sin unto salvation. Again, as in that time, there is a special work to be done in making ready a people prepared for His coming. And again the eye of the Lord looks over this world and He sees this one and that one that He is preparing to do this closing work. Is your child one of these? Will your boy, your girl have a part in giving the loud cry of the third angel's message? I can think of nothing more wonderful in the life of any parent than the assurance that your child has been chosen by God to act a special part in this closing work. Can anything in this world compare with that, my friends? And if you are willing, and if your children are willing, this can be true. But the key, and don't miss this, lies in listening to that same angel that Zacharias and Elizabeth listened to.

Once again the angel Gabriel is come down the skies. Once again he brings a message to parents concerning the training of someone who is to go before the face of the Lord to prepare His way. Once again that message calls for changes in the lives of parents that their children may be brought up—made ready to do this closing work. It is a *special* message designed to prepare *special* children to do this *special* work in earth's last hour.

Now is what I've just said, just a bit of fantasy, imagination, or is it really true? Has the angel come in these last days? Has the angel Gabriel come with messages designed to help parents train their children and prepare them for the latter rain, the loud cry and the finishing of the work? Yes, dear friends. He came right here in New England in 1844. He came again and again through those wonderful years when Ellen White penned those messages brought from heaven. We have them today in an inspired library designed to help parents with the peculiar problems of this generation.

I think of this book the *Adventist Home*. Over 500 pages of the most precious instructions for husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. You know I was presenting some things in the sermon this morning, and someone, perhaps more than one raised the question about a certain point that I presented. I was presenting the responsibility of parents toward their children, and the responsibility especially of the father, as the priest of the household, and the responsibility of the mother and the children to respect that leadership and co-operate with him. The question that came to some minds was, what in the world is the wife going to do, whose husband is not a believer? I said the question was raised what does the believing wife do, when she's in a situation where the unbelieving husband is perhaps not able and not willing to give spiritual leadership in the

home? Well my dear friends, you'll find in this book *Adventist Home* precious instructions dealing with that very problem and literally 1000 others.

If every father and mother, every husband and wife here tonight will read this book, they'll find God's answers to literally 1,000 problems in the home.

In a word, that particular problem, the answer is this: As the believing child must obey God, regardless of what unbelieving parents try to require, so the believing wife must obey God regardless of the demands or the command of an unbelieving husband.

And this is in harmony with the fundamental principle of God's law, that is—The higher the authority the more the authority. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to that golden image, they were recognizing this principle. The king of the world told them to bow down, but the King of the universe said don't bow down. Which did they obey? They obeyed the God in heaven. Let me put it in another way, the only authority anyone has in the home, in the church, and in the nation is the authority that God gives him. Read it in Romans 13:

“...the powers that be are ordained of God” Romans 13:1.

There is no power, but of God, no authority, but of God.

So the only authority that I can exercise as the husband or a father is the authority that God gives me. But that's a limited authority. I can illustrate it in this simple way. Suppose I go down here to one of these cities, and as I'm about to approach an intersection, a policeman stands out there and holds up his hand. What do you do? What do you do? Stop. Does he have authority to do that? Yes. But suppose he tells you what to have for breakfast tomorrow morning. Do you have to listen to that? Well maybe you'd better listen respectfully, but you can go home and eat what you please for breakfast. Am I right? And are you thereby despising his authority? Not in the least. He never had any authority to tell you what to eat for breakfast. But day after tomorrow if you come back to that corner and he holds up his hand again, you'd better stop. He has all the authority of the government back of him in that.

So it is in the home. The authority of parents is limited. The authority of the husband and father is limited. He is to be respected, whether he is a believer or nonbeliever. He is to be respected in exercising the authority that God has given him. But God has given no man authority to bind the conscience of any other person. Alone before God each soul must meet life's record. I think this principle will help. My point is you'll find a whole chapter dealing with this question in this book, *Adventist Home*; and many, many other wonderful things. The angel Gabriel brought from heaven precious instruction to guide in the Christian home.

Here is this book, *Child Guidance*. A number of years ago God, in His providence, gave my wife and me a little girl. We adopted her—a precious little girl. She was just learning to read at the time we adopted her. And it so happened that this book, *Child*

Guidance had just come from the press. One day I was sitting in our room reading this book, and my little girl came in.

She said, "What is the name of that book you are reading?"

I said, "*Child Guidance*."

She looked up and said, "You want to know how to guide me, don't you?"

I said, "Yes." And my wife and I were so glad we had these 500 pages on just how to guide that little life.

You fathers and mothers, do you have this book *Child Guidance*? Do you have it in your hand? Do you have it in your head? Do you have it in your heart? Fill the mind and soul with these precious books—*Adventist Home* and *Child Guidance*. Now these are compellations, but if you want the masterpiece of all the inspired library dealing with these particular themes, I give you *Ministry of Healing*. This book we are told by inspiration contains the wisdom of the Great Physician. This is counsel on successful living as the prophet herself wrote it out, from beginning to end. This is more than a textbook on health. It is primarily a treaty on how to live. And as we learn to cook in a kitchen, and learn to nurse in a hospital and learn to garden in a garden, we learn to live in a home. The home is central in successful living. And this book read and studied on your knees, will give you such precious instruction that, like the parents of John the Baptist, you will know how to prepare your children for the special work that God has given them.

Oh friends, wouldn't it be wonderful, wouldn't it be worth a lifetime to get one Daniel ready to witness for God. This is your destiny. This is your calling. How does it happen that among earth's teeming millions you are one of the few that even knows about these things? How does it happen? Are you not privileged? But privileged for what purpose? Merely that you may enjoy this precious instruction? Oh, that God may bless your soul with a vision of what your children can become if they become the products of these books; if their lives are the result of listening to and following this instruction.

But now let us be very practical, this calls for time, and time is the scarcest commodity today. Some people are poor in money, but everybody seems to be poor in time. You hear people repeating it, it almost gets to be trite: "Oh, I just don't have time." So I'd like to study with you tonight, on how you can get time to study these books that Gabriel brought the light from heaven, and Sister White penned the instruction, so you and I could have it to get our John the Baptist ready for His work, to get our children and youth in Christian homes to finish this work so Jesus can come. How many of you would like to have time to do it? Would you? Well, all right, we'll study it.

If I had a time stretcher here tonight and could sell it, I could get most any price for it. Couldn't I? A time stretcher, so you could get more hours in a day, or more days in a week. Well, I don't have anything like that, of course. And I'll tell you something about that friend, Jesus knows just how much time we need, and He has arranged everything

accordingly. You and I are Sabbath keepers, aren't we? Do you know why we keep the Sabbath? Well, we keep the Sabbath because the Fourth Commandment says to. Isn't that right? Yes. Jesus put it right there in the heart of the law. Now I want you to repeat it with me. We're going to stop somewhere before we get through it, but now let's just start in and I want you to see whether you believe it or not? All together:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work" Exodus 20:8-9.

Wait a minute, six days shalt thou what? Labor and do what? All your work. Oh, no. I can never get it done in six days. That's why I asked you whether you believed it or not. What in the world do you keep the Sabbath for if you don't believe the commandment? Or is that a fair question? "Six days shalt thou what? Labor, and do *all* thy work."

Do you think that God would command an impossibility? Do you think God would mock us? Did you ever see somebody hold a piece of bread or a bone or something up in front of a dog? And tell him to speak for it or jump for it? And then hold it always out of reach? Poor doggy. My point is, God is not like that. All His biddings are enabling. It's true we can't do it without Jesus, for He says without Him we can do what? Nothing. What do we need to keep the commandments? We need Jesus. But do we have Him? Well then, let's keep His commandments. What do you say?

Part of the commandment is: Six days shalt thou what? Labor and do all thy work. Well now, let's believe we're just starting in these 6 days aren't we? The sun went down a little while ago, and we're just in the beginning of the first day of the week. Is that right? Sunday hasn't started yet, but the first day of the week started when the sun went down. Is that right? That's correct. All right, we're in the first day. And we have how many days this week? Six days. Six days are enough to do what? All our work. Do you believe it? Well we ought to sing about that thing shouldn't we? Isn't that encouraging? Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. He has given us enough time to do how much? All our work. Isn't that good news? Yes.

Of course, that doesn't mean all that we might think we might like to do. I must tell a little story, and this is a true story. A friend of mine went down to Florida several years ago. He visited a friend of his who had a grapefruit grove. And my friend, who was visiting there, likes grapefruit very much. As they were walking out in this man's grove my friend noticed a grapefruit drop on the ground.

He said to the owner, "Could I have that?"

"Oh, yes, he said, sure, you can have it."

So he went and picked it up and got out his pocket knife and opened it and just enjoyed the juice from that ripe grapefruit. By the time he got through, do you know what happened? Another grapefruit dropped.

He said, "Can I have that one?"

"Sure", he said.

So he went and got that one and enjoyed that. Then you know what happened? Another grapefruit dropped. About that time, as he told the experience to me, it began to dawn on him that he couldn't keep up with the grapefruits that were dropping in that grove. He just couldn't keep up with it.

You know, dear friends, it's so in life. All around us are opportunities to spend our time, just as there are opportunities to spend our money. There are men down in New York City in the advertising agencies that are just working every day thinking up new ways to help you spend your time and money. You can see the results of their work on the billboards, in the newspapers, over the TV and radio, and magazines. It's all focused on getting you to spend time and money in this way instead of that way. Or that way instead of this way, depending on whom you happen to listen to.

Now, what does the commandment say? "Six days shalt thou what? Labor, and do all thy work." That doesn't mean that we're going to get done everything that we might wish that we could do. Let me read you something very interesting, in this book *Ministry of Healing*. This handbook on how to live:

"We must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention" *Ministry of Healing*, page 456.

Turn away from how many? A thousand. How many have you turned away from? The most valuable part of most radio and TV is the little place that enables you to cut it off. If you're having a problem either with radio or TV, copy out this one sentence and put it right by the dial.

"We must turn away from a thousand topics that invite attention" *Ibid*.

You see, my great longing is this, that every home here shall be a Christian home that turns out a John the Baptist that helps get things ready for the coming of Jesus. And I know that if you'll listen to the angel Gabriel, and do what he says, you can get ready and get your children ready. I know if you don't, you'll never succeed in it. It hinges on that.

But the world is not listening to the angel Gabriel. If we listen to what the world listens to, we'll never prepare a John the Baptist.

Now another wonderful sentence:

"If every moment were valued and rightly employed, we should have time for everything that we need to do for ourselves or for the world" *Ministry of Healing*, page 208.

Isn't that a tremendous promise? But you notice there's a condition. Every moment must be valued and what? Rightly employed. If there are a thousand things calling our attention around us that we're to turn away from, do you think we need some special guidance as to which one thing to pick up and leave the thousand alone? Do we need some guidance?

Now, let's turn to Isaiah 50:4. Here is a wonderful promise. And you fathers and mothers, this is for you. You young people, this is for you. You boys and girls, this is for you. This is for everybody here. This is the key in how to have enough time to make a success of life, how to have enough time to read the Lord's instruction:

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: He wakens morning by morning, He wakens mine ear to hear as the learned" Isaiah 50:4.

Now, we all woke up this morning, didn't we? How did we happen to wake up? Well I'll tell you how I happened to wake up. My best Friend woke me up. That's right. That's how you happened to wake up too. It's wonderful if that's so, it's wonderful to know it. But now notice what our text says. Why did he wake us up? "He wakens mine ear to what? Hear." Do you know what you have to do to hear? You have to listen.

I think of it sometimes like this. I have been around medical institutions quite a bit. I've put in some time nursing. Suppose, here's an emergency comes in, and somebody is sent over from the hospital to the dormitory to wake up a nurse and say, come on duty right away. But suppose the nurse gets over there and is in such a hurry that she doesn't even stop to see what the doctor's orders are. Would that be a good way to nurse? No it wouldn't. The greater the emergency, the more important it is to get the orders, and get them straight. Am I correct?

May I tell you that every day you fathers and mothers have problems and emergencies, you need to know the orders of the Great Father in heaven. You boys and girls, you young people you're going to have problems tomorrow. And unless you have your orders, you'll do the wrong thing, or else you will do the right thing at the wrong time. But if you will remember when you wake up, how you happen to wake up, and if you'll listen, if you'll spend some time letting Jesus speak to you through His word and through the testimonies of His Spirit, in the Spirit of Prophecy, if you'll spend some time on your knees with this book, and these books if you'll talk while Jesus listens and then listen while He speaks, you can have the right word to speak at the right time. The Lord God has given me the tongue of the learned that I should know how to speak a word in season. What does in season mean? At the right time. We don't eat watermelon at Christmas, do we? At least we don't take it out of the garden.

There's a time for things. One of the saddest things I know in homes is when father or mother is saying the right thing at the wrong time. Do any of you feel your need of

wisdom so that you can be sure to say the right thing at the right time? Well here's the key. It is in that early morning time with Jesus all alone.

Now, I'm so glad we're having this week-end on the Christian home here. But friends I've sensed enough to know that I can't give you enough in 4 meetings to last you the rest of your life. I can't even give you enough in 4 meetings to last through tomorrow, because I don't know the problem you're going to meet tomorrow afternoon when you go home. And you don't know. But there's Someone who does know. And if every day you'll take the time to visit with Him, He'll get you prepared.

Don't misunderstand me, I don't mean some mystical, mysterious thing that you suddenly get a hunch, and that's the thing that makes you know what's going to happen at 4:00 tomorrow afternoon, and what to do about it. I don't mean anything remotely like that. I just mean that if you'll fill you gas tank in the morning, it'll take you several miles. If you don't, you may get stranded on the highway. That's what I mean.

I mean there is light and life and power and love in these precious words from Jesus to us through the Bible, and magnified in the Spirit of Prophecy. I mean we need this light to show the way. We need this life to go the way. The power is in Jesus as the light is in Jesus. But we need some time. Ah, but somebody says, that's the trouble I don't have enough time. I have the answer for you.

I wonder if there's anyone here who ever tried to pay tithe by paying it after you paid all your bills? Did any of you ever experiment with that? How did it work? It didn't. Am I correct? Did you find the way to pay tithe? What was it? Pay it first. Then did you get it paid? What happens to the other 90 percent? Somehow or another, God sees that it covers the needs (maybe not all the wants, but the needs). Am I correct?

This is precisely the way to do with this subject we're studying tonight—how to get enough time. Listen, my dear friend, young and old, if you wait to spend time with these precious books until you've gotten everything done, you'll never do it. Or if you do it, it'll be so late at night that you'll fall asleep while you are trying to read. Maybe some of you have found that out too.

The way to do it is in the early morning, alone with God while the mind is fresh, while the ear is alert. Listen and let Jesus speak to you through His word and by His Spirit. Then if you'll make Him first, He'll help you to get done what needs to get done during the rest of the day. It's that simple.

Will you do it? Some of you have doubtless learned this secret. Does it work? Thank God, it does. Those of you, who haven't learned it, try it. But try it in faith. As you pay your tithe first, and know by faith that God will take what's left and spread it over the needs financially, so do this with time. Make God first when you open your eyes in the morning. Give Him time alone with God. Let Him speak to you through these pages, and you talk to Him in prayer.

If you learn what I've just given you, you will eventually learn everything you need to learn to have a successful Christian home. If you don't learn this, nothing else I can teach you will do you any lasting good. This is the key. The light is from Jesus. He needs time to shine that light into your soul. The power is in Jesus. He needs time to energize you with His own good Spirit. Oh, give Him time. Will you do it friends?

Now listen, I have good news for you. When you and I come to Jesus there're two wonderful things that He does. First He accepts us just as if we had never sinned. You remember this morning I was talking to you about that boy that came home—the prodigal son? What did the father throw around him? His own robe. It was a good robe. And when you and I come to Jesus with our failures, He throws around us His own robe, and we're accepted just as if we had not sinned. The other wonderful thing is this; He promises to finish the work that He has started in our lives.

If you and I will take those two wonderful promises, it'll keep us from getting discouraged about any of this. Just give to God what you have tonight. Give Him your heart, your life, your service, give Him yourself, sin and all, and ask Him to cover you with His beautiful robe. Then ask Him to begin the work of changing you and make you like Himself. He has promised to complete that until by the time He comes you will reflect His image fully. That is wonderful.

How many of us would like to send Him the word tonight that we're heart to heart with Him in this business of getting ready a people for the Lord.

(Testimony service follows.)

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