

Follow the Lamb

#0561

Study given by W.D. Frazee—August 14, 1964

I am glad for this marvelous book of Revelation, and especially for this 14th chapter. Tonight we are going to take a different verse, not six through twelve, but one through five. I want you to see the preview that we have in these first five verses, a preview of the people who are developed by the message of verses six through twelve.

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women..." Revelation 14:1-4

That is the fallen churches of Babylon.

"...for they are virgins"

They have a pure faith.

"These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" Revelation 14:4-5.

What a wonderful company we have pictured here. I suppose there are many things about the one hundred forty four thousand tonight that you and I would like to know. And as is always true, God makes most clear what He is most anxious for us to know. We will show both our wisdom and our love, our wisdom in accepting the wisdom of God, and our love in accepting His providence, I say, we shall show those by being most interested in that which He has been most clear in revealing to us.

So let us notice some things about the one hundred forty four thousand tonight as those that "follow the lamb whithersoever He goeth." We like to think, of course, of the wonderful privileges that will be given to the one hundred forty four thousand in space travel. Of course, all the treasures of the universe will be opened

to the study of all of God's redeemed. That is made clear in that closing chapter of the *Great Controversy*.

Nevertheless, there is a certain fellowship with Christ, and a certain service that this group are to perform in accompanying Him through the universe that we do well to meditate on. We will know more about it when we get there, but it is going to be wonderful to go with Jesus from one world to another, and while there is going to be a great deal to view, special objects of delight doubtless in each planet, yet, we shall find our greatest joy, dear friends, there as we find our greatest joy here in witnessing, in service. Not by what we get, but by what we give. That is our greatest joy. We learn that here. We shall experience it all through eternity.

If you will look at that first verse, you will notice that concerning the 144,000 it says that they have His Father's name written in their foreheads. The Revised Standard Version says that they have His name and His Father's name. Of course, it is the same thing because the name or character of God relates both to the Father and to the Son. Whatever the Father is the Son is. There is no attribute that One has that the Other does not have.

But there is something to me that is worth meditating on in this thought that each one of the 144,000 has the Father's name and the name of the Son written in the forehead. You who are acquainted with anatomy and physiology know that right here in the forehead, the forebrain is the place where in a special sense God communes with man, and where man makes the choice that links him with God.

Here in these brain cells the image of God is to be fully impressed. I want that. Don't you, friends? What a wonderful experience.

Now what name is this that is to be written in our foreheads? His name. Well, the verse here calls Him a what? A Lamb. This is quite interesting. This is one of twenty-eight times that He is called a Lamb in the book of Revelation. Twenty-eight times, four times seven, Inspiration applies this name to Jesus, the Lamb. And that, of course, brings to our minds that character of Jesus.

You remember that poem of Childhood, that little song of Childhood, "loving Jesus meek and mild, look upon a little child, make me wholly as thou art, come and dwell within my heart." Yes, He is the Lamb.

And this says they have His name written in their foreheads. Does that mean, dear friends, that the 144,000 each of them will have a lamb-like character? The Lamb on Mt. Zion and with Him an 144,000 that are just like Him, in other words, 144,000 lambs. Say, friends, won't it be nice to see a group like that? Lambs. Lambs.

He is the Lamb. They are lambs.

"I send you forth..."

Jesus says to His disciples.

"...as lambs among wolves" Luke 10:3.

I look at that and I think, Me? A lamb? Oh, how could that ever be? Who would ever pick me out for a lamb? Not anybody that knows me very well. I can think of several animals that might be appropriately used to represent what I know about myself, but not a lamb. But this says I can be a lamb.

Friends, I want to accept the assignment. I think you will agree with me that most of us, I leave room for anyone who wants to consider himself the exception, most of us will need a great deal of miracle-working power operating in our lives if we are ever lambs.

"I send you forth as lambs among wolves" Luke 10:3.

I wonder why Jesus would send His followers forth as lambs among wolves? Not a very safe place, is it? No. Not a very desirable place, and this world is not a very desirable place. But in John 17 in His last prayer, Jesus said concerning His disciples, His church:

"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world,
but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil" John 17:15.

As lambs among wolves. Can you think of anything more different, my friends? Will the 144,000 be peculiar in that sense? They certainly will. And in this last hour when Satan comes down with great power and infuses the whole world with his dragon spirit, his wolf's spirit, his devouring spirit, his angry spirit, for "the dragon was wroth with the woman" (Revelation 12:17), I say in this hour Jesus sends His followers forth as "lambs among wolves."

What for? Many reasons. But let me tell you one reason, friends, so the whole universe can see the difference. I wonder than how much time we ought to spend in obliterating the difference? I wonder how much time we ought to spend in toning down the difference?

"I send you forth as lambs among wolves" Luke 10:3.

How does the world look to you, friends? Jesus presents the world as a pack of wolves. And I say they are living up to that name pretty well today, friends. And God knows I have got enough in my poor human nature that I know something about how a wolf feels, but I don't like it. I want to get just as far away from that wolf nature as I can. And I pray God day by day that He may work in me that wonderful miracle and make it complete and permanent that at last I shall stand with the Lamb as a lamb forever and ever.

Let's meditate tonight a little on this matter of the lamb. The lambs among the wolves. I want to ask you something, friends, do you think that you could tell a lamb from a wolf if there was a lamb with wolves all around it? Do you think you could tell a lamb? Does a lamb sound like a wolf? You don't have to take a major in zoology to tell the difference do you? No.

Here is a little poem that I like written years ago by William Blake. It is a child's poem, but I like it.

"Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Gave thee life, and gave the feed
by the stream and over the meed.
Gave thee clothing of delight,
softest clothing wooly bright.
Gave thee such a tender voice,
making all the veils rejoice.

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little lamb, I will tell thee,
Little lamb, I will tell thee,
He is called by thy name,
For He calls Himself a lamb,
He is meek and He is mild,
He became a little child.

I a child and thou a lamb,
We are called by His name,

Little lamb, God bless thee,
Little lamb, God bless thee.

I like that. Don't you? And I like that line, "Gave thee such a tender voice making all the veils rejoice." Ah, friends, a lamb just doesn't sound like a wolf. Does it? No, he doesn't.

Well, now I want to ask you something, friends, when you open your mouth, do you sound like a lamb, or like a wolf? Is that a good question?

Well, somebody says, "That depends. That depends on who is talking to me. If somebody talks to me like a wolf, I might just answer back that way."

But that isn't what our verse says. Jesus says, "I send you forth as lambs among wolves." Oh, friends, Jesus was the lamb among wolves. Wasn't He? And no matter how mean they talked to Him, no matter how they swore at Him, no matter how they lost their tempers, no matter how they ridiculed Him, criticized Him, sneered at Him, He was still what? The lamb. And He sounded like a lamb. He talked like a lamb. Oh, friends, I do pray tonight that everyone of us here shall enter into this blessed experience of having the love of Jesus in our hearts so that when we open our lips that love will come out and we will sound like lambs.

In Desire of Ages, page 353, the Lord's messenger suggests that God's servants, as they go forth with His message, will need the spirit of Jesus so that their

voices will not catch the notes of the baying of the wolves. You know I am sorry, friends, that I ever sounded like a wolf especially when I was supposed to be representing Jesus. What a terrible misrepresentation of the Savior! And sometimes when we think we are being earnest, we are only being vehement.

Sometimes when we think we are being firm, we are being dogmatic and bigoted. Now God wants us to be firm, friends. Jesus was. He wants us to be decided in standing for truth. The Savior was. But, oh, to learn to do the Master's work in the Master's way, and to sound like the Master when we speak, I covet it. I crave it. And it is only as we have Him in the heart.

Especially in the family circle we need to enter into this experience. May I share these lines with you?

"Life is too brief between the budding and the falling leaf,
Between the seed time, and the golden sheaf,
for hate and spite.
We have no time for malice and for greed.
Therefore, with love make beautiful the deed.
Fast speeds the night."

A friend of mine and his wife, just a few days ago, were in a terrible automobile accident. The man is still alive, but his wife is sleeping until the resurrection day. Ah, dear ones, you who are married, husband and wife, you never know when the word you have spoken will be the last word your dear one will ever hear. You never know when that is. Parents and children, remember, that word that you just spoke, you children to your parents, you parents to your children, it could be the last. Anything can happen these days. Anything is happening. It is happening right along all the time.

"We have not time for malice and for greed,
therefore with love make beautiful the deed.
Fast speeds the night."

May I call attention to one thing that I think is very important in the home? And that is that we shall never open our lips in criticism or faultfinding particularly of God's servants, God's messengers, and God's church. I have something here from the Spirit of Prophecy on this that I want to share with you.

"... If the minds of the parents are continually dwelling upon low scenes... if they form a habit of speaking complainingly of the course others have pursued, the little ones will take lessons from the words and expressions of contempt and will follow the pernicious example. The evil impress, like the taint of the leprosy, will cleave to them in afterlife" *Child Guidance*, page 116.

Do you see, friends, what a terrible influence it is in the home if parents are criticizing the Sabbath school teacher, the church elder, the minister, the conference president? Why those are the very people that we are hoping in one way or another

that God will use to bless us, and bless our homes and our children? Are we not, dear friends?

And suppose that after the Sabbath sermon we come home and, we may call ourselves vegetarians, but we indulge in a cannibal feast after the sermon. Carve up the minister. Cut him in pieces. Is that a lamb program? Hardly. That goes with the wolves, doesn't it? Yes.

All right, friends, you agree with me that we can tell a wolf by its tone of voice. What do you say? All right.

All right. Now I want to ask you another question. Can you tell a lamb from a wolf by its coat? Could you? Now remember, "I send you forth as" what? "Lambs among wolves." And you agreed with me that a lamb wouldn't sound like a wolf.

Will it look like a wolf? Suppose we are going along the highway here and we see several animals over there in the meadow. We say, "What are those anyway?" Somebody says, "Well, I don't know." Somebody says, "I think they are wolves." "No," somebody says, "I think they are lambs."

Can you imagine that? You think you can tell by their looks? By their coat? Now Jesus in Matthew 7:15 warns us about wolves that come in what? Sheep's clothing. Why do they come in sheep's clothing? Two deceive. Now you can imagine why a wolf would want to come in sheep's clothing. Can't you?

Now what in the world would cause a lamb to want to look like a wolf? What in the world, friends, would cause a lamb to put on wolf's clothing? Can you imagine that? Can you figure that out? I wonder what Jesus thinks about His lambs that He sends forth among wolves to show the difference dressing up like wolves? What do you suppose that Jesus thinks of it?

Oh, but somebody says, "We have got to dress more or less like the world or we wouldn't have an influence with them." Well, that depends upon what kind of influence you want to have, friends. Jesus says, "I send you forth as lambs among wolves." To sound like a wolf? Oh no, quite a difference. To look like a wolf? Oh no. Quite different.

Tell me, friends, what do you think? Are there dress styles that belong to the wolf in the dress of both women and men? Are there? Well, if you don't know, friends, if you don't know what the difference is, ask Jesus to help you to find out. It would be a strange thing if this age, of all ages, if this generation, of all generations, should be the time when at last the children of God and the children of the Devil dress just alike and equally please the Lord and the Devil. Wouldn't that be strange?

If there are dress styles that belong to the wolf, why should a lamb wear them? Would you tell me? Think it through from head to foot, friends, and from foot to head. Just think it through. When you look at a style, whether it is a pair of shoes, or a hairdo, or anything in between, stop and think, "Now let me see. Will this make me look more like a wolf, or more like a lamb? Will this make me look more like

Hollywood and Paris, Sodom and Babylon, or will it make me look more like one of God's peculiar people that are getting ready for translation?"

One of the other it will do, friends.

"I send you forth as lambs among wolves" Luke 10:3.

I have another question to ask you. Do lambs and wolves eat the same menu? If you were wanting to get up a banquet for a wolf, would you get the same food as you would for a lamb? Why, you know what a lamb likes, but a wolf would turn up his nose at it. Wouldn't he? Yes.

Now Daniel had the experience of being a lamb among wolves. When he got down there to Babylon, the wolves were already to just make a dive for the king's table. Do you know why? The wolves' food was on there. Wasn't it? But Daniel was a what? He was a lamb. So he didn't see anything there that appealed to him. He:

"...Purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank" Daniel 1:8.

Daniel was a lamb. And so he not only talked like a lamb, and looked like a lamb, he ate like a lamb. Sure. But I would like to have you think not merely of the physiological diet, I would like to have you think not only of what goes in the stomach, I would like to have you think of what goes into the mind. We feed the stomach through the mouth. We feed the mind largely through the eyes and ears. Is that right? Yes.

And here, just as in the other areas, oh what a difference there is between the lamb and the wolf. Yes. Just think of the different things that people are pouring into their minds today. Why are people sitting for hours just charmed, enchanted, with certain programs that they see or hear, or see and hear? Why is it? Because it is wolf menu. It is wolf diet. It appeals to the wolf nature. It is what the wolf likes. Murder. Crime of all kinds. Adultery. Every transgression of God's law is put there on the movie screen, or on the TV screen, and people sit there and enjoy it. Why?

Would a lamb enjoy it? Why, you know a lamb wouldn't enjoy it, friends. What we need is not so much to have somebody chain us up, they do that way with wolves sometimes to keep them from making trouble, but that isn't what we need so much, friends, we need to have our natures changed. Right? We need to have our natures changed.

"These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth" Revelation 14:4.

He says, friends, that if we will follow Him that He will make us like Him. He promised that to Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew as they were there by the lake. Remember?

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4:19.

Do you want to be made? Remade? Made over? Oh, if we will follow the Lamb, friends, He will make us lambs. Let's follow Him, what do you say? Amen.

All right. Now where shall we begin? My friends, we had better begin where he began. We had better begin to go with Him where He came down and began the walk with us. Not at Calvary. Not at Jordan. But at Bethlehem.

Come with me in your imagination to Bethlehem. Where shall we find Him? At the Hotel? No, there wasn't any room for Him there. We will find Him where? In the barn. In the barn. There He is, little Jesus in the manger.

"Oh, I don't think there could be anything to that. God wouldn't do anything like that. If that were God's Son, He would be in a better place than a stable, wouldn't He?"

There He is. He is God's Son. Do the angels know it? They worshipped Him. Do the shepherds know it? They worshipped Him. Do the wise men from the east know it? Yes, they worshipped Him. But were there a lot of people that didn't know it? Yes. And let me tell you, friends, if we are going to follow the Lamb wherever He goes, some of us are going to need to learn to recognize in humble surroundings, and in poverty the providence of God.

It took that to start this work. James and Ellen White, and Joseph Bates, oh, the poverty under which they labored and in which they nurtured this movement in its beginning. And we are told by One who knows that it is going to take sacrifice like that that began the work to finish it. Let's be sure that we follow the Lamb at Bethlehem. What do you say?

Now let's go with Him up to Nazareth. Let's think of Jesus during those nearly 30 years in a humble peasant's home. I would like to have you think of the five things that Jesus was doing during those 30 years: In the home He was giving an example of obedience and service. In the shop He was spending a good deal of time in physical labor. In the church, He was worshipping and witnessing. In the neighborhood, He was going out bearing the burdens of others and sharing the love of His Father with them. And alone with God from morning to morning He was going out when He could among the trees, the flowers, the meadows, on the mountainside, finding some place where He could pray to His Father, study the word, and in prayer pour out His heart.

These were the five things that Jesus did. He did all this. But this was all He did, and that is why He could compass it. Because we tend to take on many other things that He never had time for, we sometimes find time running short for us in doing what He did.

May I go over those five things again? In the home, obedience and service. In the shop, labor, hard work, plenty of it. In the church, worshipping and witnessing. In the neighborhood, sharing the burdens of others, helping the poor and needy, speaking of Jesus' love, and alone with God studying the Scriptures, singing,

praying, and holding communion. I say He did all these because that is all He did. That was what made Him what He was. And you and I are to follow the Lamb where? Whithersoever He goeth.

Oh, let us follow Him through that experience at Nazareth. What do you say, friends? If we do, then we shall be prepared to follow Him to Jordan. You remember that when Jesus was 30 years old, after He was baptized, He knelt on the bank and there He received the Spirit of God without measure. You and I, if we experience what God wants us to experience, we will soon receive that latter rain in measure beyond anything this world has ever seen, the final outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants us to receive it.

If we have followed Him at Bethlehem and Nazareth, we will be able to receive that wonderful outpouring of the Spirit and do some of the wonderful miracles that He did, see souls drinking in the truth as He saw it. But, oh friends, if we do, we shall receive this same reaction from this wolf-like world that He received. A short time was all this world could endure Him. A short time will be all this world can endure the remnant when they receive the fullness of the Spirit. And as Jesus was dragged by the mob before earthly tribunals, and tortured, so the remnant will go through trial after trial with mobs, and with courts, and in all kinds of persecutions they will witness as Jesus did to the love of God for those who do not love Him.

You remember that Jesus' final prayer on the cross there for His murderers was "Father," do what? "Forgive them for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. And so the lamb-like character of Jesus will be so revealed in the remnant that when they are persecuted it will bring forth from them not one bit of meanness because there is none left in there, not one bit of hatred because God has taken it out of their hearts. It will bring forth only the lovely lamb-like character of Jesus. They follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.

And following Him here to Bethlehem and to the cross, they shall follow Him hereafter from world to world and star to star all through the universe of God. Shall we bow our heads?

Precious Jesus, we thank Thee this Sabbath evening for the privilege we have had at looking at the Lamb and the lambs that are with Him on Mt. Zion. Give each of us the joy of being a part of that picture. We ask it in His dear name, Amen.

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