

Keys to the Kingdom

#0584

Study given by W.D. Frazee

We are to value ourselves according to the price Jesus paid for us. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth.

“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” Matthew 16:19.

Jesus is talking to Peter, but He is talking to you also.

I had an experience a few days ago. On the way here I had the privilege of stopping in Forth Worth to visit with a friend of mine. I gave him a set of sermons on the sanctuary. Before I left the next morning he mentioned he would like to get two other sets for two minister friends of his. I had a few extra sets in the car, so I went out to get them. I opened up the trunk and got them out, and closed the trunk. Then I needed to move my car a little so my friend could get his car out easier, and I found that my keys were in the trunk.

I have heard of other people who have had that experience. Perhaps you can sympathize with me. I had a helpless feeling. If I had a key I could open the trunk and get the keys out. And if I could get the keys out I could move the car. I had to have a locksmith to come and help me get the keys.

I have been thinking how valuable keys are. And Jesus says, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom.” All these keys are to get into my car and get it going. They are valuable. But Jesus has made provision for you and me to have the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Wouldn't it be a shame to have them locked up so you couldn't get them? Wouldn't it be a shame to have them and not use them?

“The gospel is a wonderful symplifier of life's problems”
Ministry of Healing, page 363.

As time goes on I find that the Lord arranges more and more for me to spend time just sitting down with people and helping them find the solution to their problems. It is a precious experience. And I assure you that it isn't because of any wisdom that I have. But thank God, I have a bunch of keys. And if I can help people to find the key to their problem, then I can leave the problem and the key with them and God.

I wonder if there is someone who has tried this and that, and listened to this person and that one, and still find yourself in a mess? Our text gives us the words of

the Great Physician, the Great Evangelist, the Great Teacher, the Great Creator. He says, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

What are they? How can we get them? I will share with you two keys tonight. They are not all the keys on the key ring, but if you learn how to use these keys you can open the trunk and get all the rest. And if you don't learn to use these two, all the rest you learn won't help you very much.

In the wonderful commentary on the life and teaching of Jesus I read:

"'The keys of the kingdom of heaven' are the words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are His, and are here included" *The Desire of Ages*, page 413.

All the words of Scripture are the keys of the kingdom of heaven. The special keys are the promises of God.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" 2 Peter 1:4.

One promise or command of Scripture is worth more than all the opinions of the philosophers of this world. It will do more to solve human problems. What a pity to hoard the chaff and miss the grain. The keys of heaven are the words of Christ.

Don't misunderstand. This is not some magic. It is not some hocus-pocus. It isn't to take the Bible and put it under our pillow and sleep on it because it will ward off evil. It isn't to read a little in the Bible every day because it is a good religious duty, and then having fulfilled that duty we go on about our work and meet our problems the best we can.

There is a science in fitting a particular key to a particular lock. That's what makes a key valuable. One of the greatest values in Bible study is to become acquainted with the many keys that are found in this great key ring—the Word of God.

Somebody is ready to say, "That's my trouble. I just know so little about the Bible. So there is nothing I can do to solve my own problems or the problems of others."

Wait a minute, friend. I don't have very many keys, but I can get into my car with only two keys. The important thing in solving your problems and helping someone else solve their problems is not how many keys you have. It is in having the right key to that particular lock.

Suppose this chapel were locked as it is most of the time. We come down and see a whole bunch of people standing in front of the door, trying to get it open. People are suggesting this thing and that, and trying this and that, and nobody gets the door open.

Finally a little boy comes down the hill and says, "What are you doing?"

We are trying to get into the chapel.

He says, "I can let you in."

You? When all these men here can't get in, you can get in? Oh, no. You couldn't do it. You are only a boy.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out this little piece of metal and sticks it in the door and click, he is in and we are in. But friends, he only had one key. That's all. But that is all it took. And there is many a time when what people need is not a long sermon, or a great list of texts. They need one key that opens the lock of their particular problem. And that one promise is worth more than a whole lot of talk or a whole lot of Bible reading.

Somebody says, "That's the thing. But how do you know which one?"

That leads me to the other key. You will find the other one mentioned in *Steps to Christ*:

"Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence" *Steps to Christ*, page 94.

Think of it. Riches? Oh, yes. There are all kinds of them, but they are locked up. Riches of wisdom, power, money, guidance, health, and life locked up in the great storehouse of Omnipotence. How to get them? We must get in, and the Lord has said, I will give unto thee the key of the kingdom of heaven. Prayer is the key in the hand of faith.

There was no rain for three and a half years in that idol worshiping kingdom of Israel. Why? One man got hold of the keys and locked the door. It was just what God wanted. It wasn't just some idea that got into Elijah's head. He read it in what God had Moses write down that if the people of God went into idolatry He would shut heaven and make it brass over their head until the dust of their land would fill the air. Time had gone on. Israel had worshipped Baal. The rain came until one man took the promise of God and used it, and shut Heaven. It was bitter medicine, but it was just what Israel needed.

Thank God, the same key that shut the door opened it. After that marvelous experience on Carmel, when all Israel saw the fire fall and the sacrifice consumed, and the stones and the water all licked up with the flames, they fell on their faces and said, The Lord is God. They went home shouting the praises of God and His prophet. But Elijah went to the top of Carmel, and got down with his face between his knees and began to use the key to open the treasure house of Heaven.

He prayed once. He told his servant to go and look and see if he could see anything. The servant came back and said he could see nothing. A second time Elijah got down and tried the key again. He kept working the key. And finally after

seven times the lock opened. Before morning broke the land of Israel was deluged with the first rain they had in three years and a half. What had happened? One man on his knees had opened the reservoir of heaven. Prayer is the key.

Notice the wording of it. "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith." Suppose we have the right key and lay it in front of the door. How long will it have to lie there before the door opens? the door never would. Suppose we do better than that. Suppose we take a piece of scotch tape and past it right over the lock. How long will the magic take to work? It is the right key, but it won't work. Suppose we actually put the key in the lock and let it sit there. What is going to happen? Nothing. What does the hand have to do when the key has been put into the lock? The hand has to turn. Everything depends upon that. Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" Mark 11:24.

Somebody here tonight is going to learn for the first time how to get your prayers answered. A lot of you know already. But if you pray and don't get your prayer answered, are you using the key? There is a science in this. There are weapons in the United States that are so full of power that the nation has safeguarded it by making it necessary for two keys to be inserted in order that those weapons can be unleashed.

Prayer and the Word of God need to be used often. And there are many problems that you can never solve with the promise alone or with prayer alone. It takes the two together in the hand of faith. We are told that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). The Word of God gives us faith as we read it. Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse.

So I come to a problem. I study the Word of God. I ask God to help me find the key that will fit my problem, or the problem of the one I am trying to help. God directs me. I read the promise. But down on my knees I must claim that particular promise, and then turn the key. What does that mean? Believe that you receive them and you shall have them.

One of the most interesting things in my life is to watch people go through the experience of learning to do that. Some people learn fast. The joints of some people are arthritic and hard to move. They have so long thought of prayer as saying, Lord I want. Lord I wish. Lord I hope. Lord I desire. But to say, Lord I believe, and thank You for it, seems impossible. But this is what Jesus tells you to do, and even tells you when to do it. When you pray. Not next week. Not tomorrow. But when you pray do what? Believe that you receive right then. This is turning the key in the lock. This is what opens the door. Dear friend, do it in simple faith.

Here is a promise to help you to know what key to use:

"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 wakeneth morning by morning, he
wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

The right word at the right time. God is ready to teach us that. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the right word for the right man all through the day? Well, you can. It is your privilege. You were born for that. Why settle for anything less.

If my name is Philip and I am in Samaria, the most important thing in the world is not for me to go on with the big city effort. It is to get going on the road to Gaza and be down at the crossroads when that man comes driving from Jerusalem. And for awhile I am privileged to take one verse of Scripture and use that as the key to unlock his problem. Isn't that wonderful? Can you think of anything more glorious than that?

People are so confused today. They are looking all around them and seeing so much happening that it can get very perplexing. Especially is you join in that rat race. There is just one thing that counts. To be at the right place at the right time with the right word to the right man. Oh, will you do that? Jesus says, I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

I have been so busy these last three weeks that I haven't had opportunity to keep up with the moon men either going or coming. That's a fact. The experiences that God has given me these last three weeks have been so precious to me that if someone had offered me a trip to the moon and back, and guaranteed a safe trip, I wouldn't have gone. I would rather be where I have been, sitting down with souls and helping them to find the key that opens up the lock of their problem. Going to the moon? It is so little in comparison.

You can have an experience that you wouldn't trade for anything in this universe. Some of you are having it. You all can. It is yours. But you can't have that and all the rest too. You can't have that and go to the moon. There is something so precious in finding what you were born for and doing it that you will let somebody else have everything else. You have found the pearl of great price.

Our text says, “I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” We have looked at two keys. The first one is the Bible. The Word of God. The other key is prayer. But prayer is the key in the hand of faith. And the way the hand of faith claims the promise is to say, I believe. When? When you pray. Put the key in the lock. Take the promise of God that meets a certain situation. Claim it. Meet the conditions, and say, Lord, I thank Thee that You have heard me. I know You have because your word is pledged. You cannot lie.

Oh, friends, I thank God for the simplicity of faith.

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