

Reflectors

Sermon#0913

Study by W. D. Frazee—April 14, 1962

We are told that the written word, the Bible, and nature each shed light on each other. Every book of the Bible, no exception, has lessons from nature. The other day as our Indian brother from south Mexico was visiting us, he and his wife and my wife and I took a walk over the place and we visited the vineyard. For the first time he saw a grape vine and its branches. He has been translating the Bible. And at once there came to His mind that expression of Jesus, "I am the vine and ye are the branches." We got to studying in Spanish some of the practical lessons of the vine and the branches, and he said to me, "Could I have one of those little branches to take back to my people?" And so of course I cut him a little branch and let him take it along.

As we were talking thus together, my mind was impressed anew with this fact, the more we know of nature, the better we understand the Bible. And equally so, the more we know about the Bible, the more we understand nature.

Now our text this morning has some of those precious lessons from nature pointed out by the Inspired word.

"Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD:
His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall
come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain
unto the earth" Hosea 6:3.

We often study these expressions regarding the early and latter rain. This morning I would like to notice especially that expression, "His going forth is prepared as the morning." A beautiful figure, isn't it? Jesus coming to us, to His church, to the world, "His going forth is prepared as the morning."

Now we are all acquainted with that figure. It isn't something like the vine which is confined to some section of the world. Every part of the earth, every twenty-four hours witnesses this wonderful parable, the parable of the dawning light. I don't know just how men would arrange it if it were in their hands to arrange, it may be that they would have the blowing of trumpets, or some sound effects of some kind. It seems to be popular today to have sound effects. I was just reading the other day that a psychiatrist had discovered in investigation in New York City that 81 percent of the people in Manhattan are emotionally disturbed. He gave as one of the great reasons the constant noise. Just sound all the time. Nothing quiet. Never quiet.

But when the morning breaks, the sun doesn't make any sound. The dawning light doesn't come with a crack. No. Silently, quietly, the daylight comes upon the earth. And so it is written of Jesus:

“His going forth is prepared as the morning”
Hosea 6:3

We are told that in His contact with the world when He was here nearly two thousand years ago, He disturbed as little as possible the thoughts to which the people were accustomed. Now it is true, He made some great changes. But ah friends, He sought to do it so tenderly, so lovingly, and shall I say, gradually.

“His going forth is prepared as the morning”
Hosea 6:3

Now there are many lessons that we might get from the dawning, but one has been blessing my soul in recent days that I want to share with you. As you are conscious here in this particular situation, we have a great mountain east of us, Lookout Mountain. And here we are on this little hill in Lookout Valley. You know that when the light starts dawning, and even for some time after the light is increasing the sun is still hid behind that mountain.

I would like to ask you a question. Where would you look to see the first rays of actual sunlight as they strike the earth? Would you look east or west? Well, ordinarily you would say, I would look east. But you who know the topography around here, you know that the place to see the first rays of the morning sun are on those cliffs to the mountain at the west. You see them there some time before the sun itself makes its appearance above the mountain.

Now there is a precious lesson for us in that, dear friends. I want to share it with you from the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah. Jesus is on His way to this world, but ah, friends, there are those way down in the valleys that have not yet caught the light of His appearing. How shall they see the tokens of the dawning of the day of the Lord.

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee” Isaiah 60:1-2.

Oh, how can it be? How can it be that here we are in this world, and that some will be in darkness and some will be in light? Where will the people of this world find the light? How will they look? They look in vain toward heaven for they have not the eyes of faith. They do not have the telescope which penetrates the unseen. But it is God’s plan, my dear friends, that the glory of our coming Lord shall be caught and reflected by His waiting people, and that those that cannot see the dawning sun, shall see the reflected light in the lives of the saints. That is God’s plan.

Not alone by eastern windows when daylight comes,
Comes in the light.
In from the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, Look!, the land is bright

And oh how many weary hearts today are looking somewhere to find some evidence that God, shall I put it plainly, is on the job. It is God's intention that in and through the lives of His people that certainty shall be born in their hearts.

I like the way Inspiration puts it.

"There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ" *Desire of Ages*, page 297.

Isn't it wonderful, friends? Wonderful. But I can tell you this, we shall need to be above the dark level of the canyon to catch those rays of light from the morning Sun and reflect them down into the valley. Will we not?

In the book *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 420, notice how this beautiful lesson is so beautifully presented.

"'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' Isaiah 60:1. To those who go out to meet the Bridegroom is this message given. Christ is coming with power and great glory. He is coming with His own glory and with the glory of the Father. He is coming with all the holy angels with Him. While all the world is plunged in darkness, there will be light in every dwelling of the saints. They will catch the first light of His second appearing" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 420.

Do you see the picture? Oh yes.

Not alone by eastern windows when daylight comes,
Comes in the light.
In from the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, Look!, the land is bright

There on those cliffs, those rocks, shines the reflected light of the morning sun, and so as Jesus comes, while the world is still in darkness, there will be some it says, who will catch the first light of His second appearing.

"The unsullied light will shine from His splendor, and Christ the Redeemer will be admired by all who have served Him. ... In them the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ has been reflected" *Ibid*, pages 420, 421.

Oh friends, I want to be one of those that catch the sunlight of His love, the smile of His face, and reflect it to this world. Don't you?

Now I think that God would like to have us be very practical. You know it is possible sometimes to be poetic and stop there. But I like that expression of religion in shoes. Getting right down to earth and walking about. That is what Jesus did when He was here, didn't He? Yes. He walked the common paths and mingled with the common people and brought the religion of heaven right down to earth.

In the commentary, volume 4, page 1153, occurs this significant statement, and watch the import of it.

“Let every converted soul show the measure of light committed to him; and as it shines forth the light will increase and grow brighter. Give out your light, . . . pour forth your beams mirrored from heaven. O daughter of Zion, ‘Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee’” *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, Vol 4, page 1153.

Now as you think of that western mountain chain there, as you think of those cliffs, and those peaks, and those ledges, tell me, do all those objects reflect the light at the same moment? No, they do not. Do they all reflect it in the same amount? No, they do not. But oh, the fact that one object reflects more light than another doesn't stop the little object from reflecting its little light. Right?

And the fact that there is some great rock which stands up there and catches the first ray of light and begins to reflect it down into the valley doesn't stop the tree below it when the sun begins to shine on it from catching with the light-green leaves of early spring those beautiful tints from the sun's spectrum and reflecting them down upon us.

Do you see, friends? What is the lesson here? Everyone of us is to reflect the measure of light that shines upon him. And you know when I got hold of that, I said, that's beautiful. I can get in on that. And everyone of us can get in on that.

Now this last week our souls have been greatly blessed in the ministry of our dear brother the doctor as he has brought us from night to night precious lessons both physical and spiritual of how to prepare for the kingdom of God. I know our souls have rejoiced. Light has been shining upon us.

Did you get as much light as somebody else? Well, I will tell you, friends, everybody here but one has somebody that got more light than you did. Is that true? But there is something else, friends, everybody here but one, there is somebody that didn't get as much light as you did. Do not try to measure what you got in comparison with what somebody else got. Simply reflect the measure of light that is shone upon you. That is all you have to do. With health reform, educational reform, Sabbath-keeping, prayer, Bible study, tithes and offerings, love in the home, family worship, and a hundred other things. As the dawning light shines into your heart and mind and you see light, start reflecting it to others.

Ah, but you say, "I can't believe everything I heard this man or that man say." Well, never mind, if that isn't light to you, take hold of what is light. Start reflecting the light which has shone upon you. And the promise I read here is:

"Let every converted soul show the measure of light committed to him; and as it shines forth the light will increase and grow brighter" *Ibid*.

Isn't that a wonderful promise, friends? A wonderful promise. Now how are we to reflect that light? Well, first of all in our lives, friends. If the light of truth shines into my life and I see that something I have been doing is a transgression of God's law, either physical or spiritual, by His grace, and for His sake, I will stop it. Is that true? And my ceasing to do evil will shine out as light to others.

Perhaps the ray of light deals with something positive, rather than something negative? For it is written, not only cease to do evil, but learn to do well. For every moment of transgression there must be substituted a moment of obedience. Is that right? God doesn't just put us on a chair and say, Sit there until I come. He has given to every one of us a work, a job.

And so as I hear the message of God from His servants, as I study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, there will come to me fresh rays of light about things to do. Things that will increase my health. Things that will increase my happiness. Things that will increase my love for God, and my love for others. And as I read those, I am to live them out thus the light which has shone to me, shines from me. Is that correct?

Notice in Matthew the fifth chapter what Jesus says about the light. In the ninth chapter of John He says, I am the light of the world. But in Matthew 5, He says to His disciples:

"Ye are the light of the world" Matthew 5:14.

Can it be that we have the same mission as our Lord? Yes. And so He says in the sixteenth verse:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matthew 5:16.

And so, dear friends, up above the level of this world's iniquity and transgression we are to stand on the mountainside and catch those rays of light from Jesus as He is on His way and reflect them to others. Our lives are to reveal the light, the truth of God.

Now we are told in *Desire of Ages*, pages 19 and 20, that the glory shining in the face of Jesus is the glory of self-sacrificing love. God's light is love. And love is a *delightful* thing, isn't it, friends? Yes. How appropriate it is to associate love with light, and light with love. How a smiling face brightens the room as a dark clouded brow tends to bring the shadows. I like a little song that I learned when I was a child.

I think God gives the children as through the land they go,
the most delightful mission that anyone can know,

He wants them to be sunbeams ... Isn't it nice to be sunbeams?

... of love, and hope, and cheer,
to brighten up the shadows that often gather here.
Oh, we are little sunbeams send down from God above,
In all life's shady places we shine as best we can.

Let's do it, friends? What do you say? Reflect the light of God's love. And I want to tell you something. In all God's plans to bless humanity, humanity can originate nothing. If we are down in the valley, no matter how much we wish we could shine, we won't shine. We need to climb the mountain with God, my friends, and catch the first rays of the early dawn of His glory.

It is only as we behold His love that we can reflect that love for others. And all our busy activity will never originate that love. Busy activity can express that love once we have caught it. Come up with Me in the mount, God bids us. If we would do this our labors would be more successful. It was when Jesus, as our example, went to the mount that He received there those revelations of light and glory which were reflected to a waiting and dark world. Oh, friends, let us with Jesus gather those rays of light and love that we may reflect them to others. What do you say?

"Ye are the light of the world ... Let your light so shine
before men, that they may see your good works, and
glorify your Father which is in heaven" *Ibid.*

Now I want to come back to this expression that I read from the commentary, Ellen G. White comments.

"Let every converted soul show the measure of light
committed to him; and as it shines forth the light will
increase and grow brighter. Give out your light, . . . pour
forth your beams mirrored from heaven. O daughter of
Zion, 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of
the Lord is risen upon thee'" *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*,
Vol 4, page 1153.

We have said that that light is to be reflected in our lives. But ah, there is to be a testimony from our lips as well as the witness of our lives. You remember that man, the demoniac, there among the Gadarenes that Jesus met on the shore of Galilee and cast out the Devils, the legions that had tormented him and made him a torment to others. You remember that after that marvelous work of grace the community in which he lived were so money mad, so material minded, that they besought Jesus to go out of their coasts because He had permitted the Devils cast out of that man to go into the swine.

And you remember that Jesus complied with there request. He is very courteous. He comes where He is invited and stays only as long as He is desired. You remember that the man who had been healed besought Christ that He might be with Him. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but He told him what to do. And Mark tells it one way, and Luke tells it the other, and the critic says it is a contradiction, but, friends, it is like some other contradictions, so called, in the Bible. You go and try to live them out, and they work beautifully together.

The Master said, Go home and shew what great things God hath done for thee, Go home and tell what great things God hath done for thee. In other words, he was to reflect the measure of light that had shone upon him. We are told by Inspiration that he couldn't instruct the people like the disciples had that had been with Jesus every day.

He couldn't have given a Bible study on the seventy weeks. He couldn't have proved from Daniel that Christ had come on time, but he knew that Christ had come on time into his heart. Didn't he? Yes. He couldn't go to Isaiah 53, and Micah 5, and Isaiah 9, and the Old Testament prophecies dealing with the Messiah, but oh he could say, "I met Jesus and He delivered me from those taunting, haunting demons."

"I met Jesus and He put love in my heart instead of fear, and victory instead of defeat." And his life showed what his lips told. Do you see, friends, how the light was reflected from him? Do you know the next time Jesus came that way, the people were all ready to meet Him. They couldn't see the rising sun, but they couldn't miss the reflection of that light as it shone from the face and the life of that man who dwelt among them.

And so today, friends -

Not alone by eastern windows when daylight comes,
Comes in the light.
In from the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, Look!, the land is bright.

Those who cannot see Jesus as the Sun of righteousness, can see Him in the words and in the witness, the life and the love of those who have caught those rays of love and are reflecting them to others. And so I ask you this morning, Have you seen Him? Have you seen the first rays of the early dawn of His glory? Can you say, "These words in Isaiah sixty are for me? The glory of the Lord has risen upon me." If so, the exhortation is to you, Arise, Shine. Shine not by any manmade efforts apart from God. Shine by reflecting the love and the truth that God has brought to you.

Friends, you can do it the first minute that the rays of that morning shine upon you. Can't you? Don't the rocks do it? Ah yes. Don't the trees do it? Yes. And so the first minute that Jesus does something for you, you can start telling others about it. Don't wait until the noon time to start reflecting. The time it is needed most is right now.

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