

These Forty Years 2 of 2

#1007
1982

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 29,

Our text tonight again is Deuteronomy the eighth chapter, verses 2 and 3. You remember that last Friday night we celebrated forty years of begin here no this place. Forty years ago, God led us to these hills and valleys, and Wildwood Sanitarium was begun.

Tonight I want to notice another expression in this verse.

“Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee,...”

Notice it is repeated.

“He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live”
Deuteronomy 8:2-3.

I think we are tempted sometimes to tell of experiences that God has led us through in a way that exalts man. But Moses, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said that God had led them those forty years in the wilderness to do what? To humble thee. To humble thee.

I wonder why we need humbling? Well, so God can get something done, dear friends. There was once the most brightest creature, the most wonderful, the most beautiful, the most wise in all the universe. But he departed from the path of humility and entered the program of pride, and that is why we have all this trouble. Right? Yes. And you and I are to take the places of Lucifer and the angels that revolted with him. They all learned a lesson of pride. You and I that take their places must learn the lesson of humility.

As I have been meditating on it this week, I have thought that there is danger even in our telling wonderful experiences of people getting the idea that the Christian life, provided we follow it as we should, is something like a slot machine. You stick in a prayer, and out comes a miracle. You stick in a prayer, and out comes a miracle. You stick in a prayer, and out comes a miracle.

In practical life, sometimes we stick in several prayers and we don't see the miracle, and we wonder what is the matter with the machine, or with us. So tonight I thought it might be interesting to you as we reminisce over the providences of God these forty years to tell you some of the other side of the story. Would you like to hear that? Maybe you would. We will see.

Another text or two before I get into that. 1 Corinthians 1:29 and 31. If we will learn our lessons, dear friends, that is what God is after. God is more interested in us than He is our apparent success in the eyes of people. God is willing for me to fail in the eyes of those around me, if by doing it, I can get with Him in heaven, because He wants me there so bad that He is willing for me to appear to fail so that I can be with Him.

"That no flesh should glory in his presence" 1 Corinthians 1:29.

The 31st verse.

"That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" *Ibid*, verse 31.

What does the first angel say?

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him" Revelation 14:7.

"Them that honour me I will honour" 1 Samuel 2:30.

God has many ways. He is quite a strategist in getting us into positions to prove us as our opening text says.

"...to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart" Deuteronomy 8:2.

God doesn't humble us because He wants to exalt Himself and humiliate us, to humble us may be different from humiliating us. If we don't learn the lesson of being humble, we may have to go the road of being humiliated. Peter did, you remember. Jesus didn't want Peter to go that road. He said, Peter, you had better watch and pray. I have prayed for you, and you had better pray for yourself.

"Oh, Master, I am all right. I will go with You straight through even to prison or to death."

Jesus said, Peter, you had better pray. You had better watch.

But Peter failed. But he learned something out of it. Isn't that wonderful? He learned something out of it. You know, the ministry of mistakes is one of my favorite subjects. I found this interesting statement in *Welfare Ministry*, page 152.

"Do you make mistakes? Do not let this discourage you.
The Lord may permit you to make small mistakes in order

to save you from making larger mistakes” *Welfare Ministry*, page 152.

Isn't that nice? The Lord permits us to make small mistakes to keep us from making what? Larger mistakes.

“Go to Jesus, and ask Him to forgive you, and then believe that He does. ‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.’” *Ibid.*, pages 152, 153.

Mistakes are not always sin. Sometimes they are errors of judgment, misspelled words, mistakes in adding up a column of figures. But whether they are little mistakes or bigger mistakes, we are to learn lessons from all of them. God is in the business of teaching.

Isaiah the 42nd chapter, and the sixteenth verse. This is come to be one of my favorite verses. You will see why tonight.

“And I will bring the blind by a way *that* they knew not; I will lead them in paths *that* they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them” Isaiah 42:16.

If a blind man is able to walk and not stumble, it must be because somebody that sees is guiding him. Who is it that sees in this verse? God. God says, “I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not.” Oh, I thank God for His leading these forty years, dear friends. It is no credit to me, nor to any of the brethren and sisters that helped us get this started, nor to the many dozens and scores, and hundreds that have helped carry it on these forty years.

No flesh is to glory in His presence. The glory belongs to God. Whatever of failures there are, they belong to the credit, the blame of human beings, but God is able to take even those apparent failures and make lessons and victories out of them. I think that is wonderful, don't you? You see this is one of the reasons God has given us practical work in agriculture, in building, in medical work. We learn by the things that we suffer. The “Reverses will teach caution.” That is volume seven, page 278.

“Christian love can turn the defeat into victory. Reverses will teach caution. We learn by the things we suffer”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol 7, page 278.

Did I tell you last Friday night about the time the mule ran away with me? I didn't tell you that one? Well, the mark is still up there on the pine tree just below the recording studio on the way to mission manor. I did tell you last Friday night about my learning to plow with the mules, didn't I? Yes. Well, after I had learned to plow, and learned to drive, and harness, and that, I still had some lessons to learn in safety. One was to keep a mule from running away. I learned it by the things I

suffered. That is right. And if any of you are interested, I will show you the tree up there.

No, dear friends, human beings don't know much of themselves. In fact, without God they can't do anything. But there is no limit to the usefulness of the one who puts self aside and makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit.

Up on the hill there on the end nearest Hooker Rd is a building that we call Pilgrim Hall. Do you know how that building got there? I will tell you about it. When we first came here, we were all living in that building called Evangelist which is since burned down. Folks were doing the washing here and there as they could, sometimes with a big iron pot with a fire under it to heat the water, and so forth. But at any rate, after we had been here some months, somebody suggested that we greatly needed a place where we could dry clothes when it was raining, or when it was wet outside. And maybe we could put together a little drying shed, because in those days we didn't have any mechanical dryers. We dried them in the sunshine, and the sun doesn't shine everyday here as some of you know.

So we met together in our little business meeting. It was talked over. And there was two plans to build the building. One was to build a little building ten by twenty. Somebody else thought we ought to build one twenty by forty.

Well I was on the caution side on that particular issue, and I am so glad that the majority outvoted me because the building is twenty by forty as you will see if you want to measure it. And interestingly enough, it was never used, as far as I know, for what we built it for because by the time we had that building up there twenty by forty, we needed it for other things. Particularly we needed a place larger where our group could gather for worships and for meals, and for classes. It was used for a number of years for those purposes.

So I am so glad for committees, aren't you? Are you really?

Another providence that I thank the Lord for is the workers that He has brought here, and, shall I say, the workers that He has kept from coming here. Let me tell you what I mean. We prayed for a number of years for a physician. We had come here to carry out the blueprint of having an evangelistic center with a country base, connected with it a small sanitarium and a small training school with lands for growing fruits and vegetables.

And we read in the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy that we needed a physician with a place like that. So we prayed for it for a number of years. We had at least two opportunities during the time before the Lord finally sent us the right one to get physicians, that, if they had come and if we had joined with them, would have greatly changed the program that God had led us here to do. It wasn't any brightness or smartness of ours that good read human character.

But I will tell you, dear friends, what helped us. We had in our hearts the thought that while we didn't know a great deal, we could read what was in the *Testimonies*, and some of us had had a bit of training along medical lines. We had a respect for what is called medical science. The word "science" comes from the

word meaning "I know." All true science leads to God because it comes from God. There is a science falsely so called that the Bible speaks of.

But early in our experience here at Wildwood, we were led to take this stand that we needed to feet to stand on. One was revelation, the other was science. We were prepared to stand on one foot, or the other, but we weren't prepared to stand on none at all.

What do I mean by that? I mean that there are some things that we learn by revelation that science may not have caught up with. We can believe those any way. And there may be some things that science teaches us that aren't even mentioned in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Neither the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy tell us how far it is from the earth to the sun, do they? No. But we believe it because it can be measured and proved, and that is true even in things of health, that there are some details that we learn by the study of the human body itself, and by chemistry, and physics, and so forth.

But when somebody comes along, even though he may claim to be a doctor, and teaches things which are not found in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and which reputable, recognized medical authority does not accept, thank God, He led us to say, "Sorry, we can't work with that program." And that is why Wildwood occupies this position of being a place where in our medical work we are seeking to carry out the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and that we believe that part of that is having doctors and nurses who believe in true science, not fads and fancies, not extremes and fanatical ideas. Thank God.

But as I say, it was not due to any wisdom of ours. We could have been led, and I am so glad that God led the blind by the way that they knew not and kept us in this path which has brought joy to so many.

The same in other lines. I remember many years ago when there was a man that wanted to come here and help us with our educational work. And it looked as if he was going to come. As I see what has happened in the many years that have come since, oh I thank God that contrary and beyond any wisdom of ours, God led that man not to come. Do you know what kept him away? Two things. The program was too sacrificial for him, and the other was, allow me to put it in my words, I think he was afraid that he couldn't mold it enough in his views. But it wasn't our wisdom that kept him away, it was God.

Another thing I thank the Lord for that beyond any wisdom of ours to plan or to keep, God has kept this program in orbit in its place in the church. What do I mean by that? When you go out tonight you will probably see the moon out there. It is in its first quarter now. The moon as you know is out there many thousand of miles from the earth. The moon is right where it belongs. Could you improve things, don't miss this, by bringing the moon ten thousand miles, or a hundred thousand miles closer to this planet? Could you improve it by pushing it out fifty thousand miles further?

Who put it where it is? God. And to the glory of our Lord let me point out that a self-supporting institution such as Wildwood needs to be in a relationship to the

organized church in such a way that it never gets out on a tangent and runs away, and yet, that it has enough momentum to keep from becoming merely absorbed and lose its sense of mission and destiny.

Now that is a parable. Some of you will have wisdom enough to interpret it. But to the glory of God, and only God gets the glory, that is the way He has kept this program. I will tell you dear friends, it has been a joy to many hearts and a joy to this poor man to have brethren of long experience and have standing in the work tell us that they appreciate this work.

Right over here in this sanitarium some months ago I had one of the leading men in the denomination take my hand and say, "Brother Frazee, I believe you will accomplish more for the Lord by carrying on the work at Wildwood than if you had continued in the work you were doing before you came here." But that has taken many years, dear friends, no glory to us, it is a glory to God.

Part of being educated in the school of God in a work like this is putting up with delays and disappointments. Many of you are familiar with the building up on the hill that we call Haskell Hall. The foundation for that building was here when we came here. It had been built a number of years before we came here. It had been built by a young man that was planning to build a large beautiful home up there, but the girl he was going to marry either died or jilted him, I have forgotten which, and so he was never able to carry out his dream, and eventually he lost the property and through a series of ownership it finally came into the work that we are now carrying on.

But that is how the foundation got there. I used to go up on that hill when there were no buildings there at all, no road up there, and one of my favorite occupations was clearing the willows out of that foundation, basement. I would get them all cut off, and think about maybe we could put up a building on top. But the willows, do you know what they did? They grew back. As the rain would come and cover the basement so that the willows got some moisture and the willows would grow up again. Three times I cut all the willows out of there before we finally got to build Haskell Hall.

I thank God that He sent the men and the means to put up that building. And I thank God that it is dedicated to the memory of dear old Elder Steven Haskell who was one of the pioneers in uniting self-supporting work with conference work, city work with rural outposts, company work and medical evangelism, all the things that you and I are interested in Haskell Hall stands for because that was the work of Steven Haskell.

"Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed"
Ministry of Healing, page 473.

Quite a number of years ago, many years ago now, Wildwood was approached and asked to take over a certain institution. It seemed to us a real providence. We gave it study in our committees and boards. It was all voted and planned. We were to take over this institution. And then, somehow, through none of

our doings at all, beyond any wisdom of ours that offer was changed. All though it had been voted, it was canceled.

Well, we had to just accept it by faith. It was a disappointment. But dear friends, we have been trying to learn these forty years to spell disappointment with a capital H instead of a capital D. Do you know what that means? His appointment.

Disappointment, His appointment.
Change one letter than I see,
that the thwarting of my purpose was God's better plan for me.

As I think of what might have happened had our plans and the plans of others at that time succeeded, I rejoice that God by His mysterious providence shut the door that seemed to be open. I want to be willing to let God work that way. What do you say?

"Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed"
Ibid.

Going back a number of years before that experience when we came here those of us who came here came without money, without resources, enough to get us here, we weren't in debt, thank God, we have tried to keep out of debt all these years. But it was felt that there were those who would help us and could help us. As far as I know dear friends, most of the people that was thought that would help us or could help us never did. Most of them didn't. And the people that have helped through the years have been those many of them whom we did not know when we came here. It is all the fulfillment of this text -

"I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will
lead them in paths that they have not known" Isaiah
42:16.

Let me give you another example of our human wisdom not being sufficient. When we built what is now Mission Manor we built it as our sanitarium. It was planned to be a sanitarium there until we could build something larger and better and it served us for many years. But Brother Jensen, do you remember just about the time you came that we were talking about a sanitarium up between Haskell Hall and down here? Where the vineyard is now. Wouldn't you like to see a sanitarium up there crowded in between Haskell Hall and Hyder House? Oh I thank the Lord it didn't get built. Do you know why it didn't get built? Because the money never came.

When people are on a program where the Lord has to send money in order for them to work it is a hand to mouth existence but as George Mueller says, "It is from God's hand to my mouth." And so although we had plans drawn, drawings made and all that no building was ever put there between Haskell Hall and Hyder house. Instead, now we have that beautiful vineyard from which ten tons of grapes came in our biggest year. Isn't that lovely? Thank the Lord.

But that is only the beginning of the delays. Later on we planned a sanitarium over where Orchardview house is now. But there is no sanitarium there now is there? No. When God's time came this lovely facility was put together by prayer and sacrifice and hard work. God's hour had struck, and in answer to prayer the money came, and it took a lot of money to build that building.

At that time when most of that was going on much of my time was being spent in the field particularly in giving help to Eden Valley, and in holding meetings in various places. Others were here carrying the work of leadership except what time that I could spend now and then. And I told the brethren when that work was started, I said, "Some of us have had some precious experiences in answered prayer." "This putting up of the new sanitarium," where it is now, I said to them, "is going to be a project both in building and raising money as much as all the rest that we have done put together."

But God made it possible. You know what Brother Daman, and Brother Atherton, and Brother Saylor, and Dr. Harmer and the others would do when the time came that they had to have more money in order to go ahead? They got the folks together in prayer and the workers gave what they could, and then God would answer their prayers and send them money. It happened over and over again.

Oh I thank the Lord for the workers He had put together for that program. Practically everything in that original sanitarium building over there was built by teachers and students working together. Fred Callahan, what a faithful worker Fred was. Fred was a tile setter. Somebody told me there were a million tiles in that building, I don't know whether that is an exaggeration or not, I have never taken time off to count them. But there is a lot of them when you figure all the bathrooms and hydro and all the rest.

But some of you know that when the time came to put the tile in the surgery Fred was advised by good counsel and good wisdom that he had better get an expert to do that, somebody that knew how to handle the problems of electrical conduction because the tile in surgery has to be laid in a certain way.

But Fred had two things, he had confidence in God and a willingness to do his best. He gathered his students together because different ones were learning tile setting under his leadership there and they got down on their knees in that surgery room and prayed to God of heaven that He would help them to put that tile in right. And do you know what the inspector said when he came? He said that he had never seen a better job done.

Oh thank God dear friends we have a God that is willing to work with those that are willing to be led, and He says, "I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not." And so I am glad that we were delayed and disappointed in having the sanitarium up where the vineyard is now. What do you say? And I glad that we were delayed and disappointed in having the sanitarium where the orchard is now. I am glad it is right where it is. I believe God put it there.

I thank God for the dear men and women who labored and gave in sacrifice and prayed to make it possible. Some of them are here tonight, some of them are

scattered out over the earth spreading this message and this movement in other places. Some of them are sleeping on the hill waiting for the coming of our Lord. What a wonderful day it will be when we join in reunion.

Why did God lead us these forty years? To do what with us? To humble us. To humble us. To humiliate us if that is what it takes, but that is not the same thing dear friends. People can be humiliated again and again without learning to be humble. Did you know that? Oh yes it happens all the time. The best way to learn to be humble is to look at Jesus and compare ourselves with Him day by day.

I found a statement here in the book *In Heavenly Places* page 221 that gives me a lot of cheer.

“Constantly God is laboring to make up man's deficiencies” *In Heavenly Places*, page 221.

The paragraph before says -

“No man has the least cause for boasting or self-exaltation” *Ibid*.

So let us settle it in our hearts tonight to fear God and give glory to Him, what do you say?

“Let no one seek to exalt himself by talking of his deeds, extolling his abilities, displaying his knowledge, and cultivating self-conceit. . . .” *Ibid*.

I think in closing my little testimony tonight I am going to take you to a little personal experience that happened fifteen years before I came to Wildwood. The reason that I am telling it to you is because God was teaching me back in those younger days some of the lessons that I have had to learn over and over again on this place. The reason that it comes to me is because it is closely connected with this wonderful page in Ministry of Healing page 473.

When I was a young man I had been to Loma Linda for medical missionary training intending to go into self-supporting work in Guatemala or Mexico with the dispensary of clinic type of work, but in God's providence He put me with Elder John Tyndal in city evangelistic work. And for a number of years I was with him as a kind of an apprentice, a helper, running his stereopticon machine, taking notes, assisting him in visiting and in baptismal class work, and so forth.

Well after I had been with him a few years, it was suggested that perhaps I could hold a little effort of my own. And so I took my vacation time to get my plans all laid and to get my subjects lined out and my advertising planned, and I came back and gave the advertising to the printer and was getting all ready for my first solo campaign.

And then one Friday afternoon the phone rang and Elder Tyndal was on the phone. He said, "Bill, I have been over to the conference office today and the brethren have decided that you are not to hold that campaign."

"Why what is the matter?"

"Well ingathering is coming on and they feel that it will take all your time to take care of the ingathering in the church where you are helping."

And I said in my soul, this is a young man in his early twenties, "What in the world is the matter anyway?" And before I got through I was expressing my thoughts to Elder Tyndal on the phone. And before I got through I was weeping on the phone. It wasn't nice weeping either.

Well the phone conversation finally came to an end as all conversations do. I was left there with myself and the message of the phone. But up on the mantle was some books. One of them was *Ministry of Healing*. And I turned to this page because I knew I needed help from it. I am going to read you what I read that Friday afternoon.

"Our plans are not always God's plans. He may see that it is best for us and for His cause to refuse our very best intentions, as He did in the case of David. But of one thing we may be assured, He will bless and use in the advancement of His cause those who sincerely devote themselves and all they have to His glory. If He sees it best not to grant their desires He will counterbalance the refusal by giving them tokens of His love and entrusting to them another service" *Ministry of Healing*, page 473.

Brackets—[even ingathering]. Now listen to the next paragraph.

"In His loving care and interest for us, often He who understands us better than we understand ourselves refuses to permit us selfishly to seek the gratification of our own ambition. He does not permit us to pass by the homely but sacred duties that lie next us. Often these duties afford the very training essential to prepare us for a higher work. Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed" *Ibid*.

You can see how that message would speak to my heart. I got down and cried to the Lord about it. Before many hours had gone by I called up Elder Tyndal and apologized to him, took up the work the brethren had asked me to do, but you know what? Something happened. I got to hold the campaign and the ingathering both. And God gave 25 souls.

Oh my dear friends, human wisdom might say, Well what in the world was the point of it all? Bill Frazee needed to learn some lessons. That is the point. He

needed to learn some lessons. He needed to learn to be submissive, and he needed to learn to exercise faith and trust in God.

“Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed”
Ibid.

Are you willing for God's plans to succeed? Well then what is going to happen to at least some of your plans? At least once in your lifetime? What does it say? Often. Often. Often. I wonder how often that is? Let's leave it with our Lord. He has promised to bring the blind by a way that they know not. Some things we understand in this life and praise the Lord for. Somethings we are waiting until we see Him in the great hereafter and then He will make it plain. But -

“God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him” *Ibid*, page 479.

Oh friends, I thank God for Him, Himself. What He does is wonderful! What He gives us is wonderful! But what He is more wonderful than anything He has ever done or anything that He has ever given is just what He is! He is love! He is infinite power, infinite wisdom, moved and motivated and guided and used by infinite love. Let us trust Him what do you say?

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