

# Limited or Without Measure

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Study given by W. D. Frazee—June 1, 1962

"For I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will,  
but the will of Him that sent Me" John 6:38.

Jesus come not to do His own will, but the will of the Father. Do you suppose that in this statement Jesus was seeking to indicate that He wanted to do bad things sometimes? I don't think so.

Do you think that Jesus ever wanted to drink whiskey, or gamble, or do some of the things we associate with the low and vile? No. That's not the point. Jesus took our humanity, and in taking it He made Himself subject to the same laws and entered into the same problems we have. Among them was the question of whether He would do His Father's will or have His own way.

There was not a single time in all His experience that He choose to follow His own way instead of the Father's. There are some folks who think that if they could be good all day Sabbath, when the sun goes down Saturday night they ought to be turned loose to have a good time. I suppose if it has been a strain and tension all day Sabbath there would be a tendency to hunt for a good time Saturday night.

But Jesus not only laid aside His will on Sabbath, but twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. He laid aside His will and His way, and took the Father's will and the Father's way.

Did that make Him miserable? No.

"Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;  
therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with  
the oil of gladness above Thy fellows" Hebrews 1:9.

While Jesus bore our sorrows and carried our griefs, yet in His own experience and in His relation with the Father He was most happy. He enjoyed doing the Father's will instead of His own will.

Would you enjoy doing someone else's will instead of your own will? Well, if you ever get any real joy, that is what you will be doing.

You can tickle your nerve endings some other way. There are sense organs that can be pleased by something that tastes good or smells good or sounds good or feels good. But if you want real pleasure, deep lasting satisfaction, it comes not in pleasing yourself, but in pleasing the Father. There is no other way. The One who made us made us that way.

There are very few who enter into that experience. There are millions of people who want enough religion to keep them out of hell, and enough religion to keep them out of jail, but they are afraid to enter into what I am talking about. They think that would be too much of a good thing. It might spoil their fun.

It would spoil some kinds of fun, and spoil it bad. But it is written:

"In Thy presence is fullness of joy, at Thy right hand there are pleasures forever more" Psalms 16:11.

Oh, I just want everyone to be happy. Let's look at another text on that:

"Because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me" John 5:30.

What was Jesus hunting? He was hunting the doing of the Father's will.

"And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him" John 8:29.

Instead of planning for Himself, He sought and accepted the Father's plan. As the result of that attitude which He had all the way through, there was something that God could do, and He would love to do it for everyone of us.

"For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God, for God giveth not the spirit by measure unto Him" John 3:4.

That is the way to have the Spirit without measure. Lay aside every plan of yours and quit thinking about how to get your plans carried out, and accept the one mission of carrying out the Father's will. Those who do this are happy Christians, for they follow Jesus their Lord. They are fulfilling the commission, "As My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you."

They are never found arguing with God, trying to persuade God to get on their side. They are never found pleading with God, asking Him to change His mind and allow them to do something they have made up their minds to do. They don't spend any time in that business, therefore they don't have the frustrations that go with that attitude. Their one thought is, "Lord what wilt Thou have me to do?"

Those were the first words of Saul as he found his Lord on the Damascus road. That was his attitude all the rest of his life. And that is why Paul was a happy Christian and could sing in the dungeon with his feet in the stocks and his back bleeding. He had settled this question. He said, "For me to live is Christ." He had no other plans. He had nothing else to live for.

I spoke a few moments ago about some people who want enough religion to keep them out of jail, but Paul had so much he got into jail. It didn't trouble him. If he had less religion, he could have kept out of jail. And believe me friends, if you

and I get the religion we are studying about tonight, it is going to lead us to prison one of these days.

Like Paul we will sing in the dungeon because we have settled it in our hearts that we want unlimited surrender to the will of the Father. That is all we want. That is all we are living for. We have no other plans. And if God should come to us in person and say, I have been watching you and you have been trying so earnestly to please Me, and now I am going to let you do anything you want. What would you like to do? We would say, Father, there is just one thing I want, and that is to please You. What would you like me to do today?

Let us look at the other side of this for a few minutes.

Someone says, Brother Frazee, isn't there any other way to live a religious life besides the way you are talking about?

Yes there is. I am going to read it to you:

"Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel" Psalms 78:41.

What does that mean? It doesn't mean that they said no to God in the absolute sense. It doesn't mean they shut Him out entirely. They simply limited Him. God had some plans for Israel, but He never did get them carried out. They were so intent in carrying out their plans that they never got to the point of letting God carry out His plans.

It is interesting that God went along with them. He did it very literally. In 1 Corinthians 10, the first ten verses, Paul describes the journey of Israel through the desert, and he says, They drank of that spiritual rock that went with them.

That rock was Christ. Did Christ stay with them all the time? If He hadn't, they would have run out of water fast. They were getting water from a rock. And they would have run out of food, because every morning they were sustained by the direct miracle of manna falling from heaven.

Jesus was with them every day. He was doing some wonderful things for them, and when they got over into the promised land, He did some more wonderful things for them. He shook the walls of Jericho down. He made the sun stand still nearly a whole day. He helped them conquer many of their enemies.

You say that was wonderful. Wasn't that enough? No it wasn't enough. It was just the beginning of what God wanted to do, but they said, Thus far shalt Thou come and no further. We will accept certain counsel, certain restrictions, but enough is enough.

And our dear Father, merciful God that He is, allowed Himself to have bands put about His plans and restrictions put about His wonderful program. Within those limitations He did as much for Israel as they would let Him, but they limited the Holy One of Israel.

They never went back to Egypt. They talked about it sometimes, but they didn't. At times they got so far into idolatry that they joined with the heathen. Then they would get into trouble and cry to God, and He would listen and help them out. They would come back to His worship. That went on back and forth for hundreds of years.

A pathetic example of it is in the days of Elijah. They had been out fighting against the Philistines, and had been defeated. They said, Oh let's get God on our side, so they sent for the ark. It didn't help them very much.

There are many people who are hunting for God to be on their side. Not long ago I was talking with a poor woman whose home was breaking up. She was telling my wife and I about some bad experiences. My heart went out to her. But one of the things that wrung my heart the most was to see that this poor woman would just love to get God on her side to do something to the other woman who was breaking up her home.

You can perhaps understand how she felt. But if that poor woman had only let God plan her life instead of her planning her own life, she would have avoided all those problems.

Many people like Israel are going their own way, choosing their own life, making their own problems. And when they get desperate enough they turn to God and say, Lord I am in an awful fix. Won't you help me out?

Does He do it? Yes.

"For all this they sinned still, and believed not for His wondrous works. Therefore their days did He consume in vanity, and their years in trouble. When He slew them, then they sought Him: and they returned and enquired early after God. And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer. Nevertheless they did flatter Him with their mouth, and they lied unto Him with their tongues. For their heart was not right with Him, neither were they steadfast in His covenant. But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned He His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath. For He remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again. How oft did they provoke Him in the wilderness, and grieve Him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel" Psalms 78:32-41.

I was interested in the Douay translation on the 36th verse. It says they loved Him with their mouth and lied with their tongue. They said, Oh Lord we just love you. But as soon as they got help they went back to their own way.

I heard of a little girl who one morning after breakfast threw her arms around her mother and said, "Oh mother, I just love you so much."

Mother said, "That's so nice darling, because mother needs you to wash the dishes this morning."

The little girl said, "But mother, I don't love you that way."

How did she want to love mother? With her mouth just like Israel did. The little girl had her plans for the morning, you understand.

What is real love? Real love seeks to please the one it loves. Oh dear ones, how simple it is to come to God and say, Lord, I have not come to get You on my side. I have come to ask You to get me on Your side. I have not come to ask You to bless my plan. I have come to ask You to use me in carrying out Your plan. Whatever happens to me that's all right. Lord, what will You have me do? Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth.

Let's go to Numbers 22. Here is another interesting story from those desert days. Balaam had once been a true prophet of God. The poor fellow was so selfish and covetous that God couldn't use him very much. He limited God severely. Yet it is amazing what God will do with people sometimes.

Israel had come near to the borders of the promised land. The Moabites got frightened of this great camp of the Israelites. They heard about a man named Balaam way over in the east country, so Balak, the king of Moab, sent for him. He said, I want you to come and curse Israel for me.

Balaam had been a true prophet of God and he knew better than that. But Balak had sent the messenger with some money, and that appealed to Balaam very much, and Balaam wanted to go. Instead of telling those messengers to go back and tell Balak he was not in the business of cursing the people of God, he said, "Tarry here this night and I will inquire of the Lord." I will pray about this matter.

Is it all right to do something if you pray about it? Why what an amazing idea. But there are people who think that is so. They pray about it, so it is all right. That's what Balaam thought he would get by with.

That night the Lord spoke to him in a dream and said, No, you are not to go curse those people for they are blessed. So the next morning, with a long face, he had to tell the messengers he couldn't go, but he didn't explain the reasons.

When they got back, Balak sent more messengers with greater offers and more rewards, and again Balaam put on a sanctimonious attitude. You will have to stay here and let me pray, because I wouldn't do anything unless God said that was the thing to do.

Imagine. He was having trouble with his own conscience. That is what bothers a lot of people. Some people think they could be quite happy if they could just get rid of conscience. But their conscience bothers them, so they have got to pray about it.

No one here has been asked to do what Balaam was asked to do, but I wonder if the ambassadors of Balak have ever come to you and suggested you do this or that or the other thing? Has the Devil's temptations ever come? And even though you knew that you shouldn't do it, have you ever prayed about it and counseled with this one and that one and finally thought, Maybe it is all right?

That's what Balaam was trying to get back to the point of. He was trying to get to the place where he could do what he wanted to do and still have a free conscience about it. So he prayed about it. What did the Lord tell him? This time God was limited, and God acted accordingly. He said, Balaam, if those men come to call you in the morning, you go with them. Nevertheless, only the words I tell you, you may speak.

Balaam thought that was wonderful. He would get to go in the morning. Lo and behold the men got up early and went off without saying anything to Balaam at all. That did not stop Balaam. He saddled his ass and started off after them. God was trying to reveal to the poor fellow that he was seeking his own way, yet he was daring to pray to God and try to get God to consent.

You remember the rest of the story. Three times the ass stopped because three times the ass saw the angel that Balaam didn't see. Balaam started cursing that animal and beating it. The angel of the Lord appeared to him and reproved him. And do you know what Balaam said? Oh friends, listen.

"And Balaam said unto the angel of the Lord, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again" Numbers 22:34.

Think of it. What would you do with a child like that? Well, I will tell you what God did. He said, You go right ahead Balaam, I am not going to stop you. I suppose if Balaam had been telling his experience, he would have been so happy. The Lord has finally said it is all right. Now I can go. He has opened the way.

Yes, God had opened the way. Balaam finally died in battle, fighting on the side of the enemies of God. Oh, it is a sad story friends. A man was determined to have his own way, and he got it.

God is not going to make you do His will, and He is not even going to make you believe certain things. If you want to do your way, God will help you find some way to do it. If you want to believe something, even if it isn't so, God will let it work around that way.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish;

because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12.

The whole world is going that sad road. It is dangerous to try to get God to agree to our terms and follow our program. Very dangerous. But that is what millions of people are doing.

Here is another picture of this attitude:

"Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men" Isaiah 29:13.

Then God tells the sad results. This people draw near with their mouth just the same as they had done a thousand years before. But their heart was where? "Far from me."

Let's come down years later to the time of Ezekiel:

"Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness" Ezekiel 33:30:32.

Here in three different chapters we see the mouth and the heart moving in two different directions. With their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

Do you know the remedy for that friends? It is to get the heart and the mouth in the same direction. When we can get the heart and mouth singing the same song, it makes a beautiful duet. When the mouth is singing, Have thine own way Lord, and the heart is singing, Give me my own way, it makes a terrible discord.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" Romans 10:9, 10.

Oh, I just long to see everyone get the heart and the mouth moving together. Then there is no frustration. No divided personality, with one part this way and the other part the other way. Everything is aligned, moving with God.

That is the life of Jesus. He came down from heaven not to do His own will but the will of the Father. He said, "I do always those things that please Him." So the Spirit was given without measure.

Israel wouldn't accept a program of that kind. They limited the Holy One of Israel. God did some things for them. He did all they would let Him do, but they never reached the glorious ideal. This it has been again and again through the ages.

Do you suppose that sometime before this controversy closes God is going to have a people who are heart to heart with Jesus in this matter? Do you really think He will? Would you like to be one of them? Would you be willing to lay aside your plan so His plan could get carried out? Even your good plans?

I will tell you what will happen if we will take this earnestly. Some of us may kneel down by our beds and say, Lord I am afraid I have been riding Balaam's ass. I am not going to kneel down here and ask You whether You still mean you are ready to let me have my own way. I know You are, but Lord I am through with that. I am hustling back to the place where I left the road. From now on I am not going to spend a minute trying to persuade You to help me carry out my way. From now on there is just one thing I want, and that is Your best will.

I have a little verse I want you to memorize. It is Ephesians 5:10. I would like to give it to you in the 20th Century translation.

"Always be trying to find out what best pleases the Lord"  
Ephesians 5:10.

Isn't that nice? Why friends, once we get hold of that, it isn't a question of what the church rules are.

Would that work with books to read, with music to play, with what to listen to on the radio or the TV? Yes.

Would it work with our dress from head to foot? When people dress, they dress to please someone, don't they? Some people dress to please their family. Well, they could do worse than that. Some dress to please themselves. And there is nothing about that which as a rule puts people in the penitentiary. But friends, it is possible to dress to please Jesus. That cuts short a hundred struggles, and it answers a hundred questions. Who do you dress to please?

What about at the table?

Oh, somebody says, Brother Frazee, do you mean we really need to think about pleasing God when we select our food?

Well, you don't have to. God won't beg you. In fact, if you would rather suit yourself, God will let you. He did with Israel. That was their problem (Psalms 78). It was the food question. They didn't like His diet, and they clambered for what they had been used to.

God finally said, All right. He let them have what they wanted. He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their souls.

Don't think you have to be thinking all day long about what would please Him. You don't have to at all. In fact, unless you choose to, you won't. You will forget. But what a wonderful thing it is to live in the light of that love.

That is what Paul saw on the Damascus road. He saw that Man with the wounded hands and the marred feet, and it broke his heart. He saw the One he had been persecuting, and it spoiled the selfish life for him, and he started following that vision of the cross.

It took all his money, but he never regretted one shekel. It took his position. It landed him in jail over and over again. It caused him to get flogged. Friends turned against him. He was despised and lied about.

Finally they brought him out of that dungeon and led him out under a blue Italian sky to the place of execution. He knew what was coming. The sword was going to sever his head.

He wasn't discouraged. As he looked back over his life he wasn't sorry at all that he had taken Jesus' way instead of his own way.

Oh, I pray tonight that every one of us will know the joy of not simply giving up bad things so we can be saved, but giving up everything so others can be saved. Not just giving up sin so we can keep out of hell, but giving up self so Jesus can have His way carried out in our lives.

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