

Witnessing

#0724

Study given by W.D. Frazee—May 28, 1965

[Tape started in progress.]

... the 12th verse, and you remember this 6th chapter of John tells us the story of the feeding of the 5,000—that wonderful miracle when Jesus took five little loaves of bread, two small fish, and gave thanks to God, and broke those loaves and the fish into pieces, distributed them to the disciples and satisfied the need of that great multitude of hungry people.

Our text says:

“When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost” John 6:12.

This is one of the great paradoxes of infinity—that the Creator who can speak worlds into existence says, Be careful. Don’t waste anything. Don’t lose anything. The other paradox is that people who can’t create anything seem inclined to waste so much.

But now, let us think tonight of this instruction of our Savior:

“...Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost”
John 6:12.

Do you know what they did with that bread that they gathered up—by the way, how much was it? Twelve baskets full. I don’t know that they had even one basket full to start with, but after the miracle, the fragments that remained filled 12 baskets.

We are told through the Spirit of Prophecy that many of the people took a fragment of that bread home to tell the folks at home the wonderful story. Wouldn’t you like to have a piece of that, friends?

I remember Elder Carter was here once and telling us the story of some manna that fell over in Africa [unintelligible] upon an occasion, and he had in a little bottle some of that manna, miraculously supplied by the Lord at a time of great need to some of our dear people over there. Well, I was interested in that manna, and he opened the bottle and let me smell it and look at it.

Well, these people that saw this great miracle—they thought, Oh, if I could just take home some of that bread, and so when they went back to Capernaum or to their various places, some of them were able to take a crock of that miracle-made bread and tell the story:

“...Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost”
John 6:12.

Yes, the fragments had a mission, and the fragments today have a mission. I read about it here, and how we can apply this, in *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299:

“After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children...Such a testimony will have an influence upon others. No more effective means can be employed for winning souls to Christ.” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299.

So, whenever God blesses in a special way, we’re to be gathering up the fragments that nothing be lost.

A number of years ago, Elder G.A. Roberts, at that time a vice president of the general conference, visited us here at Wildwood and held a meeting for our faculty and students, and I don’t remember a great deal of his sermon, but I remember what he said before the sermon, at the beginning of it. I’ve never forgotten that.

He said, You know, some of the most important things that you get in this study will not be things that I say at all. He said, Did you ever find yourself when the minister was preaching about something thinking about something else? I had to admit that I did. Did *you* ever find yourself thinking about something else?

Well, he said, Sometimes that’s because the Holy Spirit has something to bring to your mind that the preacher hadn’t even thought about—some application of the text, some illustration in your life, some application to some problem that you’re facing, or some precious encouragement that God is whispering to your soul all alone.

He said, Keep your mind open for those impressions of the Spirit while we study together, for some of those may be more important to you than anything that I say. And my dear friends, as I say, I’ve never forgotten it, and I’m sure that that’s true.

Many a time when I’m taking notes on somebody’s sermon or study, while I’m putting down the texts that they use and the thoughts that they present, some thought comes to me and I put that down and put it in brackets so in looking over the notes I remember that wasn’t something the man that was giving the study was responsible for—that was just a thought that came in there.

And so, in every experience of blessing that we go through where the Word of God is broken to us, there are fragments that remain to each of us personally—miracle bread that has been broken in the imparting and has been multiplied in the receiving—we’re to gather up every one of those fragments that nothing be lost.

But do you know how to gather it up, dear friends? The way to gather it up is to share it with others. That's the only way to really keep it. Not only that, it will multiply in the imparting.

I remember years ago, when Elder W.C. White, Sister White's son, was living. A number of us were visiting at Elmshaven where the White publications office was at the time—Sister White's old home. And as we visited there and he was talking to us about various things, he told us this little interesting incident. He said someone asked Sister White once whether the bread multiplied just in Jesus' hands or whether it multiplied in the hands of the disciples as they passed it out.

She said both—both. And you stop to think about it, friends, it would need to multiply in all the hands of the distributors in order to reach 10,000 people, and there were at least 10,000 there that day—to reach them very quickly, wouldn't it? Yes.

So the bread multiplied in Jesus' hands, but as Peter took his basket and went off here in this direction, as he kept passing out the bread, more came out of the basket than was in when he started. And Andrew had the same experience. Did you ever have that experience? Did you ever start to give a Bible study or to try to encourage somebody and the people got more bread than you had to start with?

Oh, yes, friends. I've seen that happen again and again and again, and God loves to do that for us. He wants us to do just what that little boy did. He brought what he little he had to Jesus, and Jesus blessed it and started breaking it and sending the disciples out with it, and when they got through everybody had enough, some left over to take home and share with others.

“...Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost”
John 6:12.

And I repeat, the way to keep from anything being lost is to give it away. Now, you notice Jesus didn't say, Gather up these fragments that remain and embalm them. No. He didn't say, Gather up the fragments that remain and put them in a museum. No. He made provision that very day that they could carry home to others.

And so, I repeat, the way to keep things, the way to keep them from being lost, from being wasted, is to share them, share them, share them. And the more we share, the more we have, and the more we have, the more we'll have to share. It's like dropping a pebble into the lake and an ever-widening circle of influence is the result.

I want to read this statement in *Object Lessons* again. It's a wonderful statement, and this time I want to read some of the setting of it:

“To praise God in fullness and sincerity of heart is as much a duty as is prayer. We are to show to the world and to all the heavenly intelligences that we appreciate the wonderful love of God for fallen humanity and that we are expecting larger and yet larger blessings from His infinite fullness. Far more

than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299.

What shall we speak of? The precious chapters in our experience. And then comes the sentence I read:

“Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience. After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299.

Think of it, friends. We can have an increase of blessing after a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Friends, you don’t have to subside and get back to a sad normal. Oh, no, no. We can go on, if we’ll ever learn this lesson. It’s so good I must read it again:

“Far more than we do, we need to speak of the precious chapters in our experience. After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit...” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299.

When?

“After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased...” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299.

That’s what happened to the bread. It was greatly increased. Here’s the way, friends—the miracle way—to multiply blessings. How?

“...by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 299.

What does recounting mean? Telling it over and over—telling it again and again. These exercises drive back the power of Satan. Does Satan mass his unseen forces for an attack after we’ve had a special blessing? Sure he does, but we can drive him back as he makes his counter attack. How? By praying, by telling what God has done, by going over the wonderful miracles that He has done for us.

“These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the tempter loses ground. They cultivate those attributes of character which will fit the dwellers on earth for the heavenly mansions” *Christ Object Lessons*, page 300.

Are we going to be doing this all through eternity? A million years from now, will Daniel be telling us about the wonderful night he spent in the lion’s den? Will Shadrach and his fellows be telling the people on some world way out on the far horizons about that day they spent some time in the fiery furnace and what God did?

And don't you suppose that people out there will be glad to hear? Can't you hear the word go from lip to lip—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are going to be here next Sabbath and they're going to tell first hand the story of the time they spent in the fiery furnace and how God delivered them.

If you'd been living out there on a world millions and millions of light years away and yet had been able to understand something of that story as it happened, wouldn't you love to see Shadrach and hear him tell about it? Sure, friends. Yes, all through eternity, we're going to be witnessing. That's what the last page of the book *Education* tells us. That's going to be our life work all through eternity. We're to practice here.

“Ye are my witnesses...” Isaiah 43:10.

Telling, telling, telling, how good God is—what He's done. Now, we have no commission to tell all about our failures, even though it's true. There's no power in that. We're not to recount our mistakes and our unworthiness and our limitations and all that. Oh, no. We're witnessing for Jesus about how good He is, how wonderful He is, how beautiful His way is.

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What does that mean, brother? Means there's no better, is there? Think of it. There's no way in all the world more efficient in winning souls than just to tell what God has done for us, over and over again. And we're to do it especially after a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Is that right?

You know, I was thinking. Some of us have had the privilege now of four weeks of rather intensive study and spiritual blessings in one way or another. Is that right? Yes. How many of you went through the series on The Beautiful Way? Yes. Any of you get any blessing? And a number, in one way or another, have been entering into some of the special blessings that the Lord has been giving us over at the campground this last week.

Well, friends, while these blessings of recent weeks and recent days are fresh in our minds:

“...Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost” John 6:12.

Now, this evening, I’m going to give you an opportunity to speak a bit more at length than we often have time to do on Friday evening. There are times when it’s well for us to speak just a sentence of praise to God. There are times when it’s fitting for us to share with one another at greater length experiences that God has given us, blessings that He has bestowed upon us, thoughts that He has put in our hearts.

Oh, how many, many ways God uses to bring blessings to our soul. Malachi writes down what God told him to put in the last page of the Old Testament, especially for the remnant—that those that fear the Lord do what? Speak often—what’s the next three words? One to another—one to another.

And as we speak to one another, who hearkens? What does that verse say? The Lord hearkened, and heard it, and He liked it so well and thought it so important that He had the angels do what? Put it in a book. He’s going to perpetuate it to all eternity.

Oh, friends, think of it, you and I, here this evening, as we gather up the fragments and share them, as we recount the blessings that God has poured into our souls individually recently, God loves that so much that He says to the angels, Don’t miss a word. Get it down to be immortalized in the book of my remembrance.

You know, if God thinks it’s that important, I want to make Him happy tonight. What do you say? I do. And I know you do. And if any of you could do it better by coming up here, speaking here and looking at everybody, you do it. If you can do it better standing where you are, do that. Just feel perfectly free and let the Spirit of God impress our hearts with what He wants us to share with others.

[Testimony meeting.]

Elder Frazee: You don’t mind coming up, do you?

Brother A: In our missionary work on Sunday afternoons, we’re having a good time. About three Sunday afternoons ago, I believe it was, our group went out to [unintelligible] and different ones got out of the car at different places, and I was driving the car and three of the girls from the car and Sister Stevens—Sister Stevens usually doesn’t really go with us on Sundays but this particular Sunday she went with us because she wanted to give a treatment to a lady who was sick—one of her missionary contacts. Anyway, the three ladies that was in the car with me besides Sister Stevens was my wife, Norma, and Barbara Blair and Evelyn March.

Anyway, we were driving along, I was going to put Sister Stevens off, and I said, Now, Sister Stevens, we have three girls here. How about taking Barbara with you? And Sister Stevens said, Well, that’s all right and all, but I’m just going to give a treatment here and maybe it would be better for her to go on with the other two girls, and I said, Well, that’s fine.

So, we went and I let Norma and Evelyn and Barbara off and went about visiting some other people myself. Then, time came to come home, and I came by where these three girls were off and they were sitting on a porch out there and talking to a man and his wife.

Well, I stopped for a minute and they didn't seem like they were going to come, so I thought, Well, I'll go and pick up the other people and then come back here, so I went and picked up the other ones and came back and stopped there, didn't have any other place to go, so I just stopped there and sat—we did—waiting for them to finish.

Well, we sat there for about 10 minutes. Then, finally, they came back and got in the car and we went home, and this is the story now that the girls told the rest of us on the way home.

They went to this home. I don't remember if the people were out on the porch already or they were in the house. Anyway, they went to the house there, and started talking to the people about the voice of prophecy. They were enrolling people in the school of Bible prophecy course there on that day.

Anyway, this man looked at Norma and Evelyn and Barbara and said, You folks are from Wildwood Sanitarium. One of you is named Barbara and you have recently come from California. None of us had ever seen the man before, except maybe at ingathering maybe some night. He hadn't seen us. He said, One of you is named Barbara. You're all from Wildwood Sanitarium, and Barbara, you have recently come from California.

Now, he didn't know which one was Barbara, but he knew—or at least he thought he knew—that one of them was Barbara. Well, he said, I can read minds. He says, One of you is named Barbara. And he went on like that for a little bit.

But after a little while, he told Barbara and Norma and Evelyn how he knew or how he *thought* that he knew one of them was named Barbara. He said that *he* drives a truck back and forth, back and forth, between Atlanta and Chattanooga—one of these big trucks you see going out along there—and he hauled all kinds of boxes and other things.

And anyway, he had remembered on his truck unloading a trunk for Barbara at Wildwood Sanitarium, Wildwood, Georgia, and he had remembered that it was *from* California. Now, think of all the trips that he makes between Atlanta and Chattanooga, think of all the things that he has on that truck, and he remembered the truck was from California to Barbara at the Wildwood Sanitarium.

When the girls told us that when they got back in the car we rejoiced how that God arranged for Barbara to be right here, how God arranged for that man to notice that trunk and how God arranged for Barbara to be on missionary work with us that afternoon, and how God overruled with Sister Stevens' help my suggestion that Barbara go with her.

It really made us glad that day how God was guiding us in our missionary work that day. We were thrilled to see how God had ruled and overruled everything.

Elder Frazee: Thank you, brother. The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though that one were the only one in all the world.

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