

Buzzard Fare

Sermon #0919
1961

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 9,

"For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together" Matthew 24:28.

A number of translations for eagles gives vultures. The birds that feed upon dead things come where the dead things are. We have all seen it, haven't we. Yonder is a group of buzzards. They circle around and presently lands in the field. What is out there? Some poor creature has died. They find what they are looking for. Something dead.

If you should be traveling along and see a group of buzzards land in a field, would you expect to find something there you would like to eat? Would you take their interest as a sign that you ought to investigate it because it might be something you would want?

We are acquainted with the nature of buzzards, and we know that what Jesus says is true. They feed on dead things. I suppose all of us here have settled that we don't want dead things.

I would like to have us think of the things that are attracting people; the lessons we may learn from this little verse.

You show what you are by what attracts you. The thing that attracts you shows what is in your heart. Suppose you had a vulture in a cage, and you would pass by a dead carcass. What would that vulture want to do? He would want to get out of that cage. And if he could get out, what would he do? He would dive for that dead carcass. And the more decayed it was, and the greater the stink, the more earnest he would be to get there, and get there fast. Why? Because that is his nature. He is a vulture. He shows what he is by the thing that attracts him.

What do you show to heaven and earth, angels and men about your nature? What attracts you brother? What are you interested in sister? When you can do anything you want, what is it you want? What are you looking for? "Wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

A lesson I would like to have us think about is that there is always a carcass waiting for a buzzard. Somehow or another it is there and he finds it. If there is something in your heart you want, even though it might seem unlikely you would run across it, believe me, you will find it. And how foolish it would be for a group of buzzard eating a dead cow to start in to apologize and say, I know this doesn't look very good, but it just happened to be here. That is why we are eating it.

Never blame circumstances. The carcass will be there, and the buzzard heart will enjoy it. I have watched it many times right here on this campus. We sometimes have people who are trying to get away from cigarettes. At least they think they are trying. You and I may think there isn't a cigarette on this campus, but believe me there are people who can come here and find a cigarette so fast it would surprise you.

Why? Because they want them. They are looking for them. And God sometimes allows a cigarette to be where they can get it. Character is never developed by never having temptations.

Don't misunderstand me, and don't misapply what I am teaching. I don't mean that we should surround people with all the temptations possible. Oh, no. Thank God there are not dead cows and mules all over the landscape. We can walk through the woods without passing a dead cow every five minutes. All I am saying is that there is enough temptation around anywhere in this world to test and reveal what is in the heart.

After parents and teachers have done everything they can to safeguard their children and students, and after pastors have done all they can to safeguard their flock, still there is a carcass here and yonder. And if there is something in the heart that is longing for the carcass, presently the individual sees something and smells something, and says, Oh goody, this is it.

It might be a cigarette. It might be a bottle of whiskey. It might be some novel. It might be the sporting page of the newspaper. It might be some TV program. It could be any one of ten thousand things. But where the carcass is the vultures will gather just as sure as can be.

The doves don't gather there. If you go out there where the buzzards are you wouldn't find a dove around at all. Why not? They don't like that stuff.

What are you revealing as to the thing you like? What are you showing as to the thing in your heart? I was interested in this statement over in Judges. It is quite a picture of human nature. Here is the young man, Samson. God had chosen him for a wonderful work. He was raised up to be the deliverer of Israel. But there was too much buzzard in him.

Samson found what he wanted. He went down to Timnath. Down it was. He saw a woman there of the daughters of the Philistines. He told his father and mother:

"I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife. Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well" Judges 14:2-4.

Why did she please him well? That was the kind of thing he wanted. Doubtless she was all fixed up in the fashions of that time, decked out like she had come from Hollywood. He thought, My, there is somebody I want.

Why did Samson want her? Because as our text says, "For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together." His nature wanted that kind of a girl, so he kept looking until he found her. Why didn't the Lord see to it that he couldn't find a woman like that? Because you could put a buzzard up in a cage and it wouldn't change its nature. You could put grain and water in there and say, This is good for you, eat it. But if it ever got loose, what would it be after? The carrion, the carcass.

Oh, how many people blame God because something came along. Some people look upon it as a providence. Samson could have said to his parents, Look at what a wonderful providence. I have found the girl that suits me in every way. Isn't it a wonderful providence?

Well, it was a providence in a sense. God let the carcass be there so the buzzard could show its nature. And He will let you find the thing that attracts you. Yes, He will. Whether it is in reading, music, diet, dress, friendship and association, or anything else, He will let you find it. Sure. The carcass will be there.

Do you suppose that if Samson had been truly converted that he would have ever looked at that woman twice? No, not even once. But there was something in his heart that wanted that sort of thing, and he got what he wanted.

There are people who can come upon the campus and learn more in a week than other people learn in a year? That's a fact. If there is any scandal, any gossip, anything dead, rotten, somehow it gets to them, and you might wonder why. The reason is simple. Our text explains it. They are vultures. They feed on that. It attracts them. They smell it. They go where the smell is and pick the bones, and gather up all the savory remnants. And do not take it as a compliment if you are good at that sort of thing.

Oh, haven't you heard about so and so?

No, I haven't.

You haven't? Everybody is talking about it.

Are they? I haven't heard it.

Sometimes when you find where everybody is, it is three or four buzzards who have gotten together. And I suppose all of them are talking about it in between bites. But the doves aren't. There are some things that doves are not going after.

We smile at the absurdity of the illustration, but angels weep over the reality. As in the church of Christ, and the institutions established in His name, character is dissected, rumors repeated, gossip passed around. And it will happen as long as

there are vultures around. Where the carcass is the vultures will be gathered together.

I think of it in this matter of heresies and erroneous theories. Some people are longing for the spectacular. They find it. Somehow they run across it.

I will tell one experience so you will see what I mean. A man that none of you know spent many hours with me. A minister friend had advised him to come and see if I could help him. He came. Why had he come? He had been feeding on carcasses for some time. It just about got him. He was just about ready to go into some off-shoot movement.

How did he come into contact with it? Nobody wrote him a letter. Nobody came after him. He came into contact with that off-shoot movement through a series of providence.

He was in a certain city, and it was his habit to go to prayer meeting, so he looked up the Seventh-day Adventist church and went to prayer meeting. There wasn't a prayer meeting this particular night. But in looking further in the phone book he found an off-shoot movement that had as part of its name Seventh-day Adventist. Not knowing a thing about it, in good faith he went there.

That was the beginning. He kept feeding on it and feeding on it until he was deep in it. I thank the Lord that as we studied hour after hour with him with the pure word of God and the *Testimonies* of His Spirit, God helped us to help that dear brother get his eyes opened.

You say, Why in the world would the Lord allow him to find that off-shoot?

The Lord allows things to happen to reveal what is in our hearts. That is the thing I want you to see. I think of what Jesus said:

"Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" Matthew 18:7.

The word "offences" means an occasion of stumbling. You are walking along not noticing where you are going. You run into a rock, stumble over it, and down you go. You say, Why did that rock have to be there?

That isn't the thing to say. You ought to say, Why wasn't I looking where I was going?

If you had been looking where you were going the rock wouldn't have made you fall.

"Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come." Why? To show up my carelessness, my selfishness, or my desire for the spectacular, or my desire to be independent.

I have a secret grudge against the brethren. I say, Oh, I think this is a providence. This supports me in my feeling of a grudge. This sustains me in my feeling of independence. I like this. I answer to it for it answers to me. "Wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together."

In this time when every wind of doctrine is blowing, believe me, the particular brand of carrion that appeals to your heart will come along. There are some things that don't appeal to certain people, but the great enemy has the advantage of having a thousand kinds of errors to meet a thousand different minds.

Oh, what a pattern error follows. A great variety of ideas. And what looks foolish to one will be greedily eaten by another.

It is amazing that no matter how erroneous a theory may be, it can find some followers. The world is demonstrating it. Just because you see a flock circling and circling, and swooping down and starting to eat, don't think that it is something you need to have a taste of. And don't let somebody entice you with the thought that how do you know unless you try a meal of it?

Thank God, there is something to eat instead of dead cows and horses. Aren't you glad?

"How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103.

If a bee and a buzzard would fly over a clover field, which one would land? Which one would say? Oh, I have found just what I am looking for.

The bee would, of course. The buzzard would fly on. It would say, There is nothing here for me.

Those who heard Jesus thought they were judging Him. The scribes and Pharisees criticized Him. They thought they were taking His measure. They were really showing their own. And I suppose that if a buzzard could talk, he would proclaim loudly his conclusion that there was nothing much in a clover field. But let the bee take the witness stand, and oh, how different the testimony is.

So as you come into contact with the truth of God, and the life of God, and God's way of doing things, be careful. Be very careful. Be careful how you say, I don't see much in this and I don't see much in that. It may only be judging yourself rather than the clover field.

David said, "How sweet are Thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" David liked the Word of God. Let's see what Jeremiah said about it:

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by Thy name, O LORD God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16.

Does God's Word make you happy? Do you love God's law? Thank God for the taste of the dove instead of the taste of the buzzard.

Do you like God's diet? Do you like the Garden of Eden's program? If it were possible to take a buzzard up to heaven today, he would fly all over the Garden of Eden and he would say, I looked all over that garden and couldn't find anything to eat. There was nothing up there. And he would advise all the other buzzards to stay away.

That would be a compliment to heaven, wouldn't it? Sometimes the word gets around, Don't come to such and such a place because there is nothing there. No, there is nothing for buzzards. But oh, thank God for the way of life that He has given His people. Thank God for His diet, dress, music.

Do you like heaven's music? I have to pass through these cities occasionally. I hear music that sounds like carrion smells. I am so glad we don't have to eat that kind.

But if I like it, and it is what I want, might I get a chance to get it? Yes. But if I like the other kind, can I get it? Yes, the songs of Zion are going to satisfy us all through eternity.

The best news I know is that it is possible for a person to get his nature changed. A buzzard can't. He was born that way. He will die that way. You and I have been born with certain tastes and appetites that need to be changed. And here is the good news of the Gospel:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 2:17.

Another translation says a new creation. New appetites? Yes. New desires? Yes. New diet? Yes. New dress? Yes. New music? Yes. New reading? Yes. New friends and friendship? Yes. A new life inside and out. The things we used to love we now hate. The things that used to look distasteful and uninteresting now are like a clover to a bee. We want to fly fast and start getting the honey. It is all a matter of having this change of heart that the Bible speaks of as being converted, born again. There is no other way.

You who want to win souls, or train people, or help them in any way, remember that you could put a buzzard in a dungeon and tell it you are going to feed it on bread and water until it gets over this appetite for carrion. Do you suppose you could change him that way? No. I will tell you what would happen. Peter has told us exactly what happens on that sort of program:

"But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire" 2 Peter 2:22.

Why would a dog do such a thing? Because it is a dog. Why would a pig do what it does? Because it is a pig. That is the way buzzards act. All creatures act according to their nature.

In seeking to win souls and train and educate certain traits of character, never think it can be done by rule and ritual. We must pray for the Spirit of God to change the heart, the nature, so men and women and boys and girls love the pure honey of God's word and despise the carrion of the Devil's lies.

Is there any other hope? No. God's way of changing the heart is by the Holy Spirit encouraging us to feed on that which is good and pure and beautiful.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" Philippians 4:8.

If we will gather with the doves and feed on the doves menu, pleading with God to change our natures, thank God, we will be ready for an eternity in the kingdom of God.

Let us examine our hearts. Let us say to Jesus, Oh Lord, has anything happened this week that has revealed in me a disposition to seek after anything which is not the best for me. If so, by Thy grace, I leave it. Change my heart, and take out of my mind and soul anything that wants that sort of thing. Dear Jesus, give me an appetite for Canaan's food, a joy in Canaan's songs. Help me to find in the Word of God honey from the Rock, manna from the skies. Help me to find in Thy way of life the joy of my soul.

Jesus will hear our prayer, and give us the joy of His presence and companionship, and we can have heaven on earth to go to heaven in.

Copyright 2019. All rights reserved.

W.D. Frazee Sermons
PO Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org