

God's Prophetic Telescope 11 of 16

The Fourth Commandment

#0776

Study given by W.D. Frazee—April 21, 1967

[Tape started in progress.]

...for that expression, This same Jesus, came from the lips of the angels, as the Savior ascended into heaven:

“...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven” Acts 1:11.

It's a wonderful promise, isn't it. But you know, the Savior asked a question in the 18th chapter of Luke, and the 8th verse. He raised this question:

“...when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth” Luke 18:8.

The question was, Would there be any faith left in this world by the time Jesus got back. What do you think? It's fading pretty fast in many areas, isn't it. But the answer to Jesus' question is in Revelation, the 14th chapter, and the 12th verse. Turn to that, please. It's in this marvelous book of the Bible that closes the canon of scripture, and this 14th chapter is the heart of the whole book.

You notice in the 14th verse, Jesus is pictured seated upon the cloud coming to reap the harvest of the earth, and in the 12th verse, we're given a view of His people just before He comes. I say, this answers the question:

“...when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth” Luke 18:8.

For it is written:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that...”
Revelation 14:12.

Do what?

“...keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

Will there be faith on the earth when Jesus comes? Yes, there will be, among those who are ready to welcome the Savior. They will:

“...keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

It's interesting to note the uniting of these two great facts—they keep the commandments of God and they keep the faith of Jesus. It takes the faith of Jesus to keep God's commandments, friends, and any man that tries to do it without the faith of Jesus will make a dismal failure.

They keep God's commandments because they have the faith of Jesus. Do you know what faith is, friends? Faith is believing what God says just because He says it. That's what faith is. As long as the thing that God tells me is something I believe anyway, there's no test of my faith. But faith is believing what God says, I repeat, when the only reason we believe it is just because He says so.

You remember God promised Abraham a son when he was an old man and his wife far along in years, and Abraham, the Bible says, did what?

“...believed God...” Romans 4:3.

It was contrary to nature, contrary to all human experience, for them to have children at that age. Did it happen? Yes. Why? Because God worked a miracle. But He did it in answer to the faith of Abraham and Sarah. They believed God contrary to any other evidence.

And after all, friends, isn't the Word of God sufficient? Isn't it? And that's what faith is. Now, somewhere in your experience, you will be tested to see whether you believe God. And when the Son of Man comes, He's going to find some people that believe Him enough to do what He says.

Do you see from that that there will be something in what God says that, if you do it, you'll do it just because He says so. How many of the commandments of God are so reasonable even to a man that doesn't believe the Bible that you'd think everybody would follow them?

For instance:

“Thou shalt not kill” Exodus 20:13.

Many people that don't believe the Bible—they realize that murder is contrary to the best interests of society, and so with stealing and dishonesty and so forth. But I repeat, somewhere along the line there is something that will come to your soul that will test whether you believe God or simply the reasoning of your own thinking.

In Revelation 12:17, we're given another view of this group of people. You remember we had it as our closing text last Friday night:

“The dragon...” Revelation 12:17.

That's the Devil.

“...was wroth...” Revelation 14:12.

That’s angry.

“...with the woman...” Revelation 14:12.

That’s the church.

“...the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with...” Revelation 14:12.

Whom?

“...the remnant of her seed...” Revelation 14:12.

Her children.

“...which...” Revelation 14:12.

Do what?

“...keep the commandments of God...” Revelation 12:17.

Same group, you see, as Revelation 14:12. They’re the remnant—the last ones in this world. They:

“...keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” Revelation 14:12.

One of these Friday nights soon, I want to study with you what that testimony of Jesus means—how Christ testifies to His people—but this evening, note that expression again, they:

“...keep the commandments of God...” Revelation 14:12.

I closed my study last Friday night with this thought of this woman. You remember we were studying the Fifth Commandment:

“Honour Thy father and Thy mother...” Exodus 20:12.

Yes. And while this relates, of course, to our human father and mother, we want to think also of our divine Father in heaven—God. We want to think of the church, our mother. That’s what this verse is talking about, isn’t it—this woman that the Devil is angry with—and if you share with her in obedience to God’s commandments, you will share with her in the Devil being angry at you. Don’t forget that.

There’s no truce or even a cold war in *this* affair. There is hostility, hatred, anger, wrath, open warfare between the dragon and his host and God and the

church and the seed of the woman—the children of the church—which keep the commandments of God. The controversy is over the law of God. You can see that, dear friends.

Now, this brings us back to the sanctuary, for the sanctuary, as you remember, is God's great program to get rid of sin, which is the transgression of the law, and bring us back to harmony with God in obedience to His commandments.

I wish you'd turn to 1 John, the third chapter, and we'll notice verses 4 and 5 —1 John 3:4 and 5. Look at that fourth verse and tell me what sin is. What is it?

“...sin is the transgression of the law” 1 John 3:4.

In order to know what sin is, then, we must know what the law says. Is that right? That's why the law of God was enshrined in the ark. Here in the Most Holy Place, the central point of the whole sanctuary, God's law was enshrined written on the tables of stone by His own finger.

Jesus said about that law that not one letter of it would pass away. He said that in the sermon on the mount, you remember—Matthew 5:17 and 18, if you want to write it down—but now, watch this text, for we're not through with it, in 1 John 3:4 and 5:

“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is...” 1 John 3:4.

What?

“...the transgression of the law” 1 John 3:4.

Now, the next verse is a wonderful verse. What does it say?

“Ye know...” 1 John 3:5.

What?

“..that He was...” 1 John 3:5.

What?

“...manifested to...” 1 John 3:5.

Do what?

“...take away our sins...” 1 John 3:5.

Oh, thank God. Who is that? Jesus. He's:

“...the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”
John 1:29.

And remember, as we've studied in the sanctuary, there's three great things that He does for us in getting rid of sin. First, He dies for us, like the lamb died out here in the court. He sprinkles the blood in the Holy Place to cover our sins—to forgive them. He sprinkles the blood in the Most Holy Place in the final work of judgment to blot out those sins forever. Oh, friends, I want to share in all three. What do you say? That *finishes* sin, and this all must be finished before He can come again.

And so, as we study this law, we are seeking, you see, to find out what God says is right and what He says is wrong, and if we have the faith of Jesus, we'll take His word for it. Is that right? Whatever He says is right, we'll say is right. Whatever He says is wrong, we'll say is wrong. Is that right? That's what faith in Jesus means.

Now, you remember, we've been studying that new covenant promise. It's recorded in several places in the Bible. We were studying it in Hebrews, the 10th chapter, verses 16 to 18, where God promises to write this law in our minds and hearts. And He says when that's done, then sins can be remitted and remembered no more. Thank God, when that's done, He can come and take us home.

So, along with forgiving our sins and blotting them out, He's writing that holy law in our hearts. After all, friends, most of us are so full of sin that if God would simply take all our sins away, there wouldn't be much left, would there, and God proposes to take the sin away and put something else in its place infinitely better, and that is His law.

And if that law is written in our minds and hearts, we'll know his will and love His will:

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart" Psalm 119:18.

Oh, what a privilege, friends, to have this law written in our hearts.

Well, we've been studying this law. We've been putting the magnifying glass on it. Isaiah 42:21, Jesus came to:

"...magnify the law..." Isaiah 42:21.

We've been studying how the Old and New Testaments magnify every precept of this law. We studied the First Commandment, you remember, that settles the question of authority:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" Exodus 20:3.

And last Friday night, we were studying this Fifth Commandment that settles the question of human authority:

"Honour thy father and thy mother..." Exodus 20:12.

Speaking of that, I brought something interesting with me here tonight that I want to share with you. This is a message from the FBI on the crime problem. The FBI is concerned about this, naturally, and in their last report it showed that in the last year arrests of young persons under 18 years of age increased 54 percent.

Think of it. During the last year, there was a murder or a rape or an attempt to kill every two minutes day and night, around the clock, seven days a week. That's what's happening in this nation of ours. Crime of all kinds has increased over the preceding figures so that last year was the greatest year in crime in the history of our country. Nothing to be proud of—something to be deeply concerned about.

And this message from the FBI, after giving us these figures, begins to give some suggestions about what should be done. I just want to pick out two or three sentences out of this:

"The family is the first great training school in behavior or misbehavior" [\[get reference\]](#)

That leads us right back to this Fifth Commandment, doesn't it, friends?

"The child must be taught to understand the necessity of obeying the laws of God...The teachings of God, if followed, will prevent criminality. The stabilizing force of religion is needed today more than ever before. A child who has been taught to respect the laws of God will have little difficulty respecting the laws of man" *Ibid*.

That's from the FBI. Now, friends, I want to uncover tonight a secret of much of the lawlessness that's in the world today. If you'll turn, now, to Matthew, the fifth chapter, I'll show you what the problem is.

Here are the words of Jesus in Matthew, the fifth chapter, the sermon on the mount. There is a reason for the increasing crime and violence and lawlessness of all kinds all over the world. The FBI, as I just read, says that if children are taught to obey the laws of God they won't have any trouble obeying the laws of man.

But the converse of that is true. When children are not taught to obey the laws of God and when, worse than that, they're taught that the law of God is done away, do you see how that opens the flood gates of crime.

And Jesus puts His finger right on it here in the 17th verse. He knew that down through the ages there would arise a teaching that Christ had come to do away with or change the Ten Commandment law of God, and in language as clear as anyone could use, He says:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to..." Matthew 5:17.

What?

“...fulfil” Matthew 5:17.

And you know how you fulfill a law—you obey it.

“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” Matthew 5:18.

As long as heaven and earth stand, then, this law stands, and Jesus says not one letter is to pass away. Do you see, then, the importance of looking into the holy law of God, as found there in the ark, and teaching it just like God wrote it—do you see that, friends—for not one letter would be changed.

And remember, when we read in our Bibles the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20, we are reading what God Himself wrote on the stone, and that was a copy of the law in heaven that’s up there tonight.

Oh, friends, I’m so glad that we’re dealing with original sources. What do you say? Now, would you turn, please, to Exodus, the 20th chapter, and I want you to see that law. I want you to see those Ten Commandments. As I say, we’ve been looking at several of them.

We looked at the First Commandment, the Sixth Commandment, the Fifth Commandment, but I want to go right to the heart of the law tonight and I want you to see the key to this whole question of authority of the law. It’s found beginning with the 8th verse—Exodus, the 20th chapter, beginning with the 8th verse. What’s the first word in that Fourth Commandment? Remember—remember.

Did you ever see somebody with a string around their finger? A string around the finger—*that* is to help him do what? Remember something. And of all the Ten Commandments, there was one that God put a string around the finger for. Which one is that? This Fourth Commandment right here—the last one, the focal one, the climactic one of the first table. All right.

Now, you have it there—will you read it with me:

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates” Exodus 20:8-10.

Now, wait a minute. Why? Why? Now, that’s what the next verse answers. All together:

“For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:11.

The Sabbath, then, is given to us as a memorial of creation. It points us back to that wonderful time when God spoke this world into existence and formed it by His creative word—the first day, the second day, the third day, the fourth day, the fifth day, the sixth day—and did what the seventh day?

“...and rested the seventh day...” Exodus 20:11.

“...and rested the seventh day...” Exodus 20:11.

Now, this commandment tells us there’s something else He did besides resting that day. What’s the next thing He did, as this 11th verse says? He what? He blessed it. Oh, yes. And the wise man tells us that:

“The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich...” Proverbs 10:22.

Does it make a difference whether something is blessed by God or not? Why, you and I can’t bless anything, can we, but God can, and He blessed what? The seventh day. He rested this day, He blessed it, and then the third thing He did was what? Hallowed it—made it holy or sanctified it.

You know, dear friends, in all the Bible, this seventh day is the only day the Bible says God ever rested on—the only day that He ever blessed and the only day He ever sanctified or hallowed. From Genesis to Revelation, it’s one message all the way through—all the way through.

Now, let us see what all that was done for. Turn over, please, to Mark, the second chapter, and the 27th verse, and we’ll see what the scripture says about that. Let’s see what it was all for.

Here’s Jesus talking, and let us never forget, friends, that this One who made this world and made the Sabbath was Jesus Christ Himself, for it is written, in Colossians 1:16:

“For by Him were all things created...” Colossians 1:16.

Speaking of Jesus Christ. So, when Christ is testifying here in Mark 2:27, He’s talking about something that He Himself did—Mark 2:27:

“...He said unto them...” Mark 2:27.

What?

“...The Sabbath was made...” Mark 2:27.

Who for?

“...for man...” Mark 2:27.

Oh, yes. For the whole human family. That's why it was given to Adam and Eve back there at creation in the Garden of Eden. All right.

"...The Sabbath was made for man..." Mark 2:27.

Then, for *whom* did God rest on the Sabbath? For man. That's why the Fourth Commandment says He wants us to rest that day. For *whom* did Jesus bless the seventh day? For man. He blessed it for us. For *whom* did He sanctify the seventh day? For man. All right.

Now, I wonder if that makes any difference? Oh, yes. It makes all the difference in the world. I want you to just see what a difference it makes.

[Break in tape.]

Seven glasses all alike, and the only difference is what's in the seventh glass. The glasses are all alike, but if you want that delicious grape juice, you'll find it where? In the seventh glass.

And you see, dear friends, you'll have to use my numbering in order to get it, too. You can't start over here and say one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, and say, Well, any seventh one will do it. Oh, no. You have to start where I start and then you end where I end—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Friends, it's that simple—it's that simple—and it's all in that expression in the heart of the law of God that God blessed the seventh day.

Brother Forrester was talking to us a few minutes ago from the health standpoint about our need of rest, and the fact that we need rest of mind and spirit as well as body. Listen, friend. As far as physical rest is concerned, a man can rest any day of the week. Can't He? Sure. We all rest every night. But oh, there is a spiritual rest, of which this seventh-day Sabbath is the eternal sign, that God wants us to enter into:

"Come unto Me...and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

Rest. And oh, if you want a blessing and you've never yet tasted the delicious nectar that's in that seventh glass, if you've never yet experienced the joy and the spiritual blessing that is in the seventh-day Sabbath, I invite you in Christ's name, taste for yourself. It's there. The Creator put it there.

Oh, God's happy to have us worship Him every day. He wants us to. But there's a special day, and He said, On *that* day, I want you to lay aside ordinary things, for this is extra ordinary. I want you to lay common things aside, for this is sacred. I want you to lay your own work aside and enter in with me.

"...the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God..."
Exodus 20:10.

Oh, friends, I'm so glad I know it's so. There's a blessing there. And as the converted heart calls the law a delight, so the converted heart calls the Sabbath a delight. You'll find that in Isaiah 58:13.

But now, another question—this is a very practical question. Can we really know which is the seventh day from creation? Can we? That's a good, fair question, and friends, the good news is this. To be sure of it, we don't have to go back in our thinking or find some records that are 6,000 years old. Oh, no. All we have to do is to go back less than 2,000 years to the time when Jesus was here on earth, for He surely knew which day was the seventh day and which day to keep. Wouldn't He? He made it all.

Now, I want you to go to Luke, the 23rd chapter, and I want you to see something very interesting about three days—three days. The Sabbath is the one in the middle, and if you'll find the one on either side, there won't be any problem in finding the Sabbath for the Sabbath is the one in the middle.

Look at Luke 23:54 and tell me, what does the Bible say that the day that Jesus was crucified on was called? The preparation day. You look back up the chapter, you'll see it's describing the events of the crucifixion and death of Jesus. All right.

Now, you know that millions of people every year celebrate what they call Good Friday because Jesus was crucified on Friday. The Bible calls that what? The preparation day. All right.

Now, the next day is mentioned in the 56th verse. This is talking about the women who came there to the tomb when Jesus was buried Friday afternoon, and they returned and prepared spices and ointments and then did what?

“...rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment”
Luke 23:56.

According to the Bible, then, the day after Friday is the what? Sabbath day, according to what? The commandment. Do you all see that, friends? Now, that's just as simple as can be, but that's just half the story. Now, look at the next verse—Luke 24:1.

The next day, you remember, was the resurrection day. Jesus was crucified on Friday, and He rose from the dead early Sunday morning, and that's why millions of people every year celebrate what day? Easter Sunday.

Now, the Bible calls that day that He rose—Luke 24:1—the what? The first day of the week. All right. Well, you see how simple it is, then? If Sunday is the first day of the week, then Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday—Saturday is the seventh day and the Sabbath, according to the commandment.

So, you see here in Luke, we can figure it either from Friday, which the Bible calls the preparation day—the day before the Sabbath—or we can figure it from Sunday, which is the first day of the new week, and the Sabbath, you see, was the

day just before that. Do you see how simple it is, friends? It's just that simple—just that simple.

Now, somebody may say, Well, how in the world, then, did millions of people get started keeping some other day instead of the Sabbath day according to the commandment? That is an interesting story, friends, and some other time I want to tell you about it.

I'll tell you this. God wasn't taken by surprise. It's all prophesied in the Bible—it's all prophesied in the Bible—the seventh chapter of Daniel, if you'd like to read it—but the picture it paints of the one that did it is not a pretty picture. I can tell you that.

But listen. Tonight, we want to notice the blessing that is in the seventh-day Sabbath, and the fact that millions somewhere along the line got off the beam on this doesn't need to concern you and me. The important thing we want to do is listen to the law of God the way God wrote it on the stone. What do you say? Isn't that right, friends? Isn't that right? Because from Genesis to Revelation, this is the only Sabbath day. This is the only Lord's day in the Bible, because we read there in Mark 2:27 and 2:28 that:

“...the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath” Mark 2:28.

This is His day—the day He rested, the day He blessed, the day He sanctified. And do you know, when God makes the world new, when all the sin and trouble of this world is over, when we enter in through those pearly gates and come up there to the city of God to eat of the tree of life, it is written that:

“...from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before Me, saith the Lord” Isaiah 66:23.

So, you see, the Sabbath was before sin entered. It's all down through the ages, and it'll be with us still when sin has been gone forever and forever.

Now, tonight, I want you to think of two Sabbath days—three Sabbath days. Think of these three Sabbath days—the first Sabbath day in the history of this world, when Jesus and His Father and Adam and Eve rested in the joy of a new creation. Then, I want you to come down in your thinking 4,000 years later, and I want you to think of that Sabbath that Jesus lay in the tomb. What was He doing? Resting. Wasn't He?

And on Friday afternoon, He said what He had said 4,000 years before, back there at the creation of the world:

“...It is finished...” John 19:30.

He finished it on Friday. He finished the work of redemption as He'd finished the work of creation. And then He rested on the Sabbath.

The other Sabbath day I want you to think about, friends, is *this* one that you and I have entered into tonight. The Bible day begins at sundown, and when the sun set beyond the western hills a little while ago, you and I entered into holy time, and it'll be holy time until the sun sets again tomorrow evening.

And *with* those two great Sabbath days of the past—the Sabbath of creation and the Sabbath of the cross—*this* Sabbath is intimately linked. It is one link in an unbroken chain that unites us with the beginning of the world and that will lead us on till at last we keep our first Sabbath with Jesus in heaven in the earth made new. Oh, what a wonderful gift this Sabbath day is—what a wonderful gift.

And my dear friends, we keep the Sabbath just like we keep any other commandment—through faith in Jesus. The only way I can keep any of these commandments is through faith in my dying and risen Lord, and He said:

“If ye love Me, keep My commandments” John 14:15.

That's why I want to honor Him with each one of these commandments. Don't you? And you know, there's something about this Sabbath question that tests the faith of people. It was *intended* by God to test the faith of people. That's why there's a test in it.

To many people, it means a rearrangement of their work. For the last 40 years, I've had the privilege of bringing this Sabbath message to hundreds of people from coast to coast, and friends, again and again I see that as people come in contact with this holy law and this holy Sabbath, they meet a test of faith.

And oh, then is where the presence of Jesus and the power of Jesus comes in in a wonderful way helping them to solve the problems of life. I *know* that God can help *you* to find the joy and the blessing of this Sabbath day.

You know what I wish? I wish I could have a few men—and I haven't asked a single one in advance—this is purely impromptu—I'd like to ask a few men that have found by experience that God can help them meet the test that this Sabbath brings—I wish they'd come right up here and share with this audience tonight what God has done for you in meeting the test of the Sabbath—men who didn't know this Sabbath years ago—men who found the Sabbath after you were grown and you had tests in your church, in your home, at your job, to meet—will you come right up here now, two or three of you can come at once and sit here. I want to hear the testimony of men—just come right up here brethren—I want to hear the testimony of men that have found by experience that God keeps His word. Come right up—come right up and sit down.

All right, Tom—Tom Blevens.

Brother Blevens: Well, I can truthfully say that the Lord has been wonderful in my life. I can remember before I became an Adventist I used to get a little bit scared when the Sabbath thing got to be real. I considered my job, my family, and I just didn't know how I was going to make it.

But the Lord stepped in and He gave me strength, and you know, when I presented this subject to my boss, I got a little bit excited and nervous, but my boss—he understood—and I've been an Adventist now about five years, and my boss has told me time and time again how he respects me and my religion. I'm thankful for it.

I've mentioned the fact many times that I work maintenance—I'm on call 24 hours a day. I told this particular company I would be available 24 hours a day, six days a week, and they've been wonderful to me. My main boss told me—he says, Don't you worry about your Sabbaths. Somewhere along the line there's a little [unintelligible] once in a while calls me at home, but they make sure that he doesn't know about it [unintelligible].

I'm thankful that the Lord has been with me.

Elder Frazee: Thank you, Tom. This is Mr. Peckham from Seattle, Washington. He just flew in—was it yesterday? He's a friend of my brother's, Dr. Titus Frazee, and what is your work, friend?

Brother Peckham: Well, I'm president of an insurance company.

Elder Frazee: Yes, sir. Well, how long have you known this message?

Brother Peckham: Eleven years.

Elder Frazee: Eleven years. I'm sure the folks would like to hear your testimony.

Brother Peckham: Well, friends, I'd like to say that I never heard of an Adventist until 11 years ago and I was born nine blocks from an Adventist church, and I had to travel 3,000 miles to hear about the Adventists, and I couldn't understand who they were, and went to the meetings.

And I'd like to say this—that I lost everything I owned because of the Sabbath day, but really, did I lose anything? I lost my job, I lost my friends, I lost my neighbors—we lost everything—and we stuck to it and kept the faith, and the Lord has blessed me so immensely.

I could stand here all night and tomorrow and until next Sabbath telling you how many blessings the Lord has really brought into our lives. He has blessed us so much and our family—my wife and my two lovely children—and my wife was not an Adventist at the same time and she came along with me for the ride, she said, and two years later, she really accepted it in her mind, you see, but we both believe that God's promises are fulfilled in our lives today—not tomorrow.

And it took just a few months, a few years, to really get going and God said, This is the way you should go—walk ye in it—and I wish to thank the Lord tonight for leading me to the message that we have here tonight. Thank you all.

Elder Frazee: God bless you, brother.

All right. Brother Raishe. Many of you know Brother Raishe. He's in charge of our health food work in East Ridge, but he hasn't always known the Lord. Give us your word, Brother Raishe.

You used to run a chain of paint stores in St. Louis, isn't that right? Yes, sir. And I suppose they used to be open on the Sabbath. All right, brother. Tell us your experience.

Brother Raishe: Well, you know, He died for me and it's a privilege for me to live for Him and to testify for Him. I didn't know the Lord and I didn't go to church, and then, when I became a Christian, I learned about the Sabbath.

So, I had two things—I always fought against becoming a Christian, and then when I got over that hurdle, I had the next one of the Sabbath, because at the time I had five paint stores in the city of St. Louis and had quite a few people working for me, and Saturday, as you all know, in the business world and the merchants' world, is the biggest day. He works all week waiting for Saturday to come because that's the day you really do the business.

And after I studied into the Sabbath, trying to assure myself that it was wrong and finally was convinced that, if I was going to keep the commandments of God and be a Christian, I would have to keep the Fourth Commandment with the other nine.

And so, one day, I decided to take my stand for the Lord and the Sabbath, and I gathered the people that worked for me together, and I told them that I had become Christian, and then I explained from the Bible—I read a few texts about the Sabbath—and told them why I was going to keep the seventh-day Sabbath.

And actually, the first question they asked was, What are you going to do about your business? I said, Well, we're going to close the doors at sundown on Sabbath or a little before, and we're going to keep them closed until sundown Saturday night.

And they says, Well, what about us? Are you going to dock us for that day? And I said, No. I'm going to pay you just like you're being paid now. They says, You'll go broke. I said, Well, if we go broke, we'll all go out and we'll get another job.

And so, we began to keep the Sabbath and the store was closed, and you know what happened to business—the sales began to go down because we missed those big days. But we hung on and we kept praying and praying and asking the Lord for help, and we kept our stores open and kept paying our help.

And do you know what happened? I did a lot of business with painters. They'd come in and say, Raishe, we needed some paint Friday, but we decided we'd put that job off till next week. And little by little, business began to come up and come up and come up, and I didn't have to lay off any help.

I didn't make much profit for a while, but then the profit began to come in again, and I'm thankful after that for the many rich blessings that I've received from God and the joy and peace in my heart for keeping the Sabbath.

And so, when we opened this little store over here in East Ridge, we had to pay pretty good rent, and I know most of these businessmen wondered how we were ever going to make a go of it and be closed on the best day of the week—we're right next door to a paint store—but folks, the Lord has marvelously blessed, and our business has been going up and up and up instead of down and down and down, and I know people are learning something about the Sabbath through watching that little store, and I'm thankful that I can testify for my Lord.

Elder Frazee: Thank the Lord. Sit right down. Well, Brother Atherton, what have you got to tell us.

Brother Atherton: Years ago, I was deeply under conviction about the Sabbath. Monday, I was going up to my boss's office to see him...

Elder Frazee: What were you in?

Brother Atherton: Well, I was the head of the cost department in a large textile mill.

Elder Frazee: Over in?

Brother Atherton: Over in North Carolina. And I went up to see my boss and just as I was going into his office, a very nice young fellow came out, and when I went in, I saw that my boss was a little agitated. And he said, You know, I was going to hire that fellow a few minutes ago, but he came here and we made arrangements, I went over his application, investigated him and everything else, and I'd already hired him, and then, he said, Now, there's one thing that I must insist upon, and that is, he said, I'll never work for you on Sunday, and my boss said, I told him, well, if any man won't work for me on any day I tell him to work, I won't have him work at all.

Ooh. Well, that gave me something to think about. So I went back and I prayed about this, and I'll tell you, I didn't get any rest that week. And then, finally, I decided, Well, I'm just going to go up and tell him I'm going to have to keep the Sabbath.

So I went up, knocked on his door and went in and sat down at his desk, and I said, Bernard, I said, I'm sorry but I'm going to have to leave you. He said, What in the world are you talking about? I said, I'm going to have to leave you. You told me last week that you wouldn't have a man work for you that wouldn't work any time you told him to. Well, I said, I can't any more. I said, I'm going to have to keep the Sabbath.

He said, What are you talking about, Herb? Well, I said, I'm going to have to keep the seventh day—Saturday—the Sabbath. Well, he said, I never heard of such a thing. He took down his dictionary and looked up in the dictionary the Sabbath day

and it said it was Saturday, the seventh day, and that some Jews and Christians—the Jews and some Christians kept this day.

Well, he said, What do you know. He said, And you're going to quit over this? I said, It looks like I'll have to. He said, Well, now, Herb, you know, this outfit is a Jewish outfit, and there's probably some of the men up in New York that keep the Sabbath day, too, and he said, Let's think about this for a while, and he said, I'll talk it over with some of the men up in New York and if they have anything to say about this, I'll let you know about it. Otherwise, we'll just let it go. Well, I never heard another word from him.

A little while later, my boss left the mill due to the sickness of his wife, and I had known beforehand that I was going to get his job—it had been offered to me—but the great big problem was the Sabbath, and they felt that if just once in a while when a great emergency arose—if I would work, that would be perfectly all right.

And they came to me and told me this, and I said, Well, if it's all right for me to rob once in a while and commit adultery once in a while, I guess it would be all right for me to break the Sabbath once in a while.

Well, still, they kept at me. Well, I prayed that whatever happened would glorify the Lord, and the boss from another mill came to see me, who was the particular man in charge of the accounting section, and when he saw me he offered me the job and I accepted it and so forth.

But I said, Now, you remember that this means that I'm going to keep the Sabbath the way I feel I should keep it. He said, Yes, Herb, I've talked to New York about this, and he said, Everything is fine. He said, However, of course, if there was a fire in the mill or something like that, Herb, you might have to come down and open the safe or something of this nature.

And I said, Well, I couldn't promise you. So I didn't get the job, but three months later, I was out in God's work, and this has been the greatest blessing in my life, and the Sabbath, I can testify, is a tremendous blessing to anybody who will keep it, because, If you love me, keep my commandments, Jesus says, and I've tested this and tried it.

Elder Frazee: Thank you. Thank you, men, very much. Now, men and women, boys and girls, fathers and mothers, this challenge is to every soul—every soul. Jesus says:

“If ye love me, keep my commandments” John 14:15.

And those of us who have tasted this joy and blessing—we want to share it with just as many as possible—just as many as possible. And let me tell you the secret of how to face this Sabbath problem. It's looking at what Jesus has done for us in giving His life as the dying Lamb and in praying for us as the interceding Priest.

When we see what it has cost *Him* to make our salvation possible, to please Him becomes the greatest purpose of life. Do you see? That's the key, friends—that's the key:

“...here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” Revelation 14:12.

I wish we could hear that trio about For Only Me. Could we have that? Some of you know that Brother Warren Wilson has written this lovely song lately that has the message of Jesus' sacrifice, and as we close this service tonight, I'd like to have us think of Him—that Jesus would have done all that He's done just for one of us—just for one of us.

You see, this matter of the Sabbath, dear ones—it isn't just the matter of a day. It's the matter of loyalty and simple faith in Jesus.

[Special music—Just For Me.]

Elder Frazee: Jesus is talking to your hearts. Just open up your heart to Him and ask Him to bless you.

Dear Father in heaven, we thank Thee with all our hearts for speaking to us through Thy holy word. We pray that Thou wilt bless each one that has come up here to this altar tonight for special help. You know the problems they're facing. We pray that the dear Jesus who died for us and rose for us and lives for us shall help each one in a very special way.

Give them the power that they're seeking, to keep the commandments of God through faith in Jesus, and those, Lord, that have uncertainties in their minds, make the path of life clear to them, and all through this audience bless each waiting heart. Dismiss us with Thy blessing and bring us back to learn more of this wonderful way that we may welcome Jesus soon for His sake.

Now, just this closing word. We have services here tomorrow morning and in a number of other churches all through this area. If you know the one nearest to you, come and be with us tomorrow morning. If you don't know, we'll be glad to give you the address.

If any of you are not on our mailing list and would like a copy of the verses we've used tonight, give your name to the usher on a card as you pass out, and we'll be glad to put your name on the list.

God bless you, every one, and good night.

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