

God's Love

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—June 5,

“I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD” Psalms 40:1-3.

David got his song of praise as he recognized the drawing power of God in drawing him out of the pit of destruction and sin and its penalty.

“I waited patiently for the Lord.” Some translations emphasize waited. Waited and waited. Sometimes we wait impatiently. That means we haven't waited long enough. If we think that the way to get over impatience is to end the waiting, we miss the point. David waited patiently for the Lord.

As long as we are seeking to depend upon our own efforts in salvation, as long as God is so far in our thoughts that we are trying to do it on a do-it-yourself basis, we are not ready for the blessing.

It is all right to cry if we cry unto the Lord. A baby cries to its mother. I heard a baby crying yesterday and I thought he is developing his lungs. That is the way we all learn. But the baby never cries if it has all it wants and the way it wants it. It is when a pin is sticking it, or it needs to be changed, or wants some water or food. Any of those or a number of other needs and desires can be manifest in crying. And the crying, while it has an indication of the baby's need, is developing the lungs. That's why God allows it.

When you and I have sorrows and pain and problems of any kind, those problems are to lead us to cry to God.

I wonder how the old life looks to you. Once in awhile we hear someone tell the story of all the sacrifices they have made for God, and one might get the picture that they have left everything that is good and entered a barren land because God has called them. But it is the other way around when we get things in true perspective. The old life is the life of the horrible pit. The new life is being set on a rock and having our feet established. Unless we see our old life that way we are still in it. The truly converted soul looks upon his past worldly life of sin as something to be abhorred.

“He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.” The picture is one of security and

stability; getting out of something that is slippery and soft and unstable onto something that is dependable and settled. That is what God longs to do for everyone of His children.

“And He hath put a new song in my mouth.” Here is where praise comes in. David says, God has done something for me. I was down and He brought me up. I was in the pit and He brought me out. I was in a slippery, dark place, and He set my feet upon the rock and put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God.

“Many shall see it, and fear, and trust in the Lord.” There is nothing more adapted to winning others to Christ than in telling them what Jesus has done for us and praising Him.

If you were the enemy, what would you do about it? Wouldn't you try to stop it? So when you are about to praise the Lord in private or in public, the enemy will suggest various reasons why you shouldn't. One is that you are not good enough. Another is that you don't feel like it. People will think you are proud. You really don't have much to tell. So it goes on and on. Let us put to flight the armies of Satan by saying, Whatever I have to tell, by God's grace I am going to tell it in public and in private to the glory of His name.

If we stop to think about it, every one of us has an infinite amount for which to praise the Lord. What has Jesus done for each one of us? He has given His life. Isn't that something to be thankful for? Oh, yes. What is He doing now for us? He is interceding for us. Is that something to praise Him for? Does He have angels commissioned to help us? Would it be a good thing to thank the Lord for them? If you had been a bodyguard for someone for three years and protected them again and again, you would be glad if they turned and said, Thank You. The angels are watching us moment by moment and preserving us from perils physically and spiritually. To praise the Lord for the ministry of the angels is part of the new song.

We all have blessings that are very tangible. We have all had something to eat in the past week. Is that something to thank the Lord for? I am thankful for this lovely, little chapel. Aren't you? I know how it came to be. I know the years in waiting and longing and sacrificing on the part of various ones to provide the funds to make it possible, and I thank the Lord for this place. Just this week, as I was in here on an errand, I felt to kneel in prayer and thank the Lord for the many precious experiences that He has given us in this chapel of seeing souls find Jesus and get a blessing. Has He ever done that for you in this chapel? Thank the Lord. Is that something to praise the Lord for? Ah, yes. It isn't just something that happened. God is wonderful.

“Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of Me, I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within My heart” Psalms 40:6-8.

You will recognize this as a prophecy of the Messiah. Often in the Old Testament writings we have mingled the experience of the prophet who wrote the

words with the experience of Christ as God revealed it to the prophet hundreds of years before the Messiah came. This is an example. While David is representing his own attitude, he is also speaking prophetically of the Messiah.

What is it that God desires? Not the sacrifice of beasts, not the blood of lambs and goats and bullocks, but the doing of His will. And notice what it brings to the converted heart. "I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within my heart." Do you know why the converted heart delights to do the will of God? Because it loves Him. If you love someone you delight to please them, don't you? The more you love someone the more you want to please them. That is the attitude of the converted heart. Christ came as the Messiah to reveal this attitude and show us how to live this life.

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

Jesus did not come to do His own will. He came to please His Father, not to please Himself. Selfishness is manifested in other ways than in doing bad things. Selfishness may be manifested in wanting the biggest apple on the plate. It isn't a bad apple. But if we love father and mother and brother and sister, who do we want to get the biggest apple?

Selfishness can be manifested not only in bad things, but in desiring our own benefit, our own way, our own will. And Jesus came from heaven to demonstrate a life of utter self-renunciation. All through His life He was continually looking to His Father to find out the will of His Father.

That met its climax in Gethsemane. Jesus wanted to be relieved of drinking that cup. The cup was the cup of separation from His Father. But He must drink if you and I were to be saved. In His human nature He shrank from it. He longed to not go into that darkness of separation, so He prayed, "Oh Father, if it be possible let this cup pass." Nevertheless, "Not My will, but Thine be done." Was His prayer heard? Yes, it was heard. Did He drink the cup? Yes, He did. But thank God, in drinking it He brought salvation to every one of us. Could Jesus have wiped the bloody sweat from His brow and gone back to heaven instead of drinking the cup? Yes. Would He been lost? No, but we would have been lost. Our salvation hung in the balance. Oh, I am glad He kept on through His life, even to the last moment, persevering in that purpose to do His Father's will instead of His own will.

If that prayer was appropriate for the Son of God, how appropriate it is for you and me. "Not My will but Thine be done." How many problems this decision settles in songs. This is the new song of victory and praise.

He brought me out of the miry clay,
He set my feet on a rock to stay;
He puts a song in my soul today,
The song of praise, Halleluiah

This is what made it possible for fifty million martyrs to go to the stake or other places of execution and feel happy in giving their life as a thank offering for God.

They had settled in their souls that the reason for living was not to please themselves, but to please Jesus. Oh, it is a wonderful thing when self is lost sight of in an earnest desire to please God.

“I delight to do Thy will, O my God: yea, Thy law is within My heart.” That means we love it. It is our desire. And if we find out what Jesus wants us to do, that is what we want to do.

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached Thee fell on Me”
Romans 15:1-3.

What are the strong to do? Help the weak. What are the strong not to do? Not to please themselves. In the society of this world riches, power, and strength are so many means of getting what a person has and wants. If he has a lot of money and wants a big car, he gets a big car. Why? He has the money. He loves to show off. Other people have other ways of showing off. But Paul says that the ones who have those talents or gifts or blessings are not to please themselves, but help others.

We are to please others for their good. That doesn't mean we will give the baby the scissors when it cries for them. He might punch his eyes out, and that wouldn't be for his good. So we are not to grant the request of every person, but we are to seek in every situation in life to please others. Why? Because that is God's way of developing His character in us, and revealing His character to others. The more we show the unselfish love of Jesus to others, the more they see what God is like, and there is awakened in their hearts the desire to share in that joy.

“For even Christ pleased not Himself.” He was the King, the leader. He sought to please His Father and others. So the life of unselfish love of choosing the will of God instead of our own way is revealed to us in example by Jesus, and passed on in Scripture as the example for us. Let's embrace it.

This is getting out of the pit of selfishness. It is a horrible pit. Someone said that a man who is wrapped up in himself makes a very small package. He is very confining. I read that in the Dark Ages among the instruments of torture there was one in which a room was made of iron. The prisoner was put in it. It was so arranged that it would get smaller and smaller until finally it crushed him to death. Can you imagine the fear that must have come upon the mind? But it is a picture of the man who is wrapped up in himself. Whether he realizes it or not he is getting more confined as selfishness closes in on him. Oh, let's praise God that He wants to bring us up out of that whole experience.

Oh, that Jesus may give us all this blessed experience. I want to enter into it more and more. Don't you? All around us is a weary world. It seems that in recent weeks there are more tragedies, more sorrows, more sickness, more pain, more problems. The sorrows of this old planet are increasing from one end to the other.

Tell me, where do you find a tranquil spot? Not for very long. We need not go far to find someone who needs the peace and love and joy, the service that we can share. And if we will ask Jesus, He will help us to find the word in season to speak to the weary one.

Someone says, I hope they find me, because I am so needy.

If what your heart is longing for is someone to minister to you, I hope they do too. But listen. If you want the real joy, the real blessing, ask Jesus to help you to find someone to minister to. Someone who needs help more than you need help. Someone who is in greater pain or sorrow or need than you have, and your soul will be blessed.

I know it is true, dear ones. I was telling someone just the other day that there is no way of getting water through a pipe without the pipe getting wet. The banks through which the river runs is always green. And those who allow themselves to be the channels of ministry to others are blessed. So the Scripture says,

“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself” Proverbs 11:25.

That is why Jesus, although He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief because He took on the woes of the world, was nevertheless anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows. He was utterly emptied of self-caring, self-pleasing. He was emptied of things that make people worry and fear. He was perfectly willing to be led as a lamb to the slaughter. He had settled this one thing He desired, and it was His Father's will, and He knew His Father was going to get it done.

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go,
Anywhere He leads me in this world below.

Oh, let us join in that utter surrender, that full unreserved giving our lives to Jesus, to please Him and to please others. Let's notice what this leads to:

“I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, Thou knowest. I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared Thy faithfulness and Thy salvation: I have not concealed Thy lovingkindness and Thy truth from the great congregation” Psalm 40:9-10.

So I pray this morning that God will open our hearts and unseal our lips, and make us glad to speak the praises of our Lord for His lovingkindness.

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