

What Does It Mean To Be Ready?

#0586

Study given by W.D. Frazee—January 23, 1970

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” Isaiah 6:8.

There is a sign out, Men Wanted. Jesus is in the hiring business. He hasn’t run out of work. What does it mean to be ready to go?

First it means to be able to live with yourself. You need that even if you stay. Wherever you go you will carry yourself.

You say, “Brother Frazee, that is easy. Most anyone can live with himself.”

No, hardly anyone can. That is why there is so much beer and coffee and tea and coke. That’s why there is so much TV and radio that keeps the air filled with sights and sounds. Very few people can live with themselves.

Have you ever been alone with God and yourself for twenty-four hours straight with no other human being around? Many people couldn’t take it. This is why there is so many tranquilizers. Seventy-five percent of the population are dependent on them. I was talking with a physician just this week in a large training center. He told me he watches streams of people coming in and going out of the hospital, and all of them are carrying tranquilizers. One of the instructors in his classes teaching medical students used the expression, “These tranquilizers for these mental patients constitute chemical lobotomy.”

They have had operations that they use with very difficult mental patients. They go into the forebrain and cut paths between various parts of the brain that makes the person who is troubled with a guilt complex easy to live with himself. Is that what you want?

Whether the brain is tampered with through mechanical means or chemical means or spiritual means, let us never forget that here in the forehead is where the seal of the living God is received or where the mark of the beast is received.

Can you live with yourself? The answer does not lie in psychiatry or psychology. The only way you can live with yourself is to have Jesus Christ living in your heart. There is no other answer. Science, philosophy, and human training are all powerless.

“Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth” Romans 14:23.

The happy man is the man who is not condemned in his own conscience for the thing he does. Millions of people are looking at programs on TV that if their conscience is half awake it condemns them. That is why they take so many things to dull their conscience.

That is not a way to be happy. It may be a way to tolerate life, but not to enjoy life. Millions of people are puffing away on a cigarette, and the conscience says to the puffer, You know you ought not to do that. It may give you lung cancer. It may give you a coronary attack. It may give you emphysema.

The only way to be happy is to do only those things which enlightened conscience approves. Not very many people are living with an enlightened conscience. The Devil has sold the world on the idea that the way to be happy is to break the laws of men and the laws of God. That is the way to have a good time. Be careful that you don't get caught. But the man or woman or boy or girl who does that is getting caught by something closer than the grip of a policeman. His mind suffers. The only way to be happy is to do the things your conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, approves.

Millions of people are good enough for hell but not good enough for heaven. They have just enough religion to spoil a dance, to spoil a movie, to spoils a TV show that tickles the unrepentant heart. These people have just enough religion to spoil the fun they would like to get out of all those things, but they don't have enough religion to enjoy a prayer meeting. They may kneel down and pray as a religious duty. They may have a Bible with them in their pocket. But to actually enjoy living with God, to this they are strangers. This is not successful living with self.

“And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word” 1 Kings 18:21.

If the way of this world is the only way of happiness, why strive back and forth trying to avoid so much of the world as to damn you, and never getting enough of the things of God to thrill and fill you. “Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.”

There is someone here that knows what I am saying is true because you have experienced both things. I don't mean that you don't have any struggles with sin, but you have settled which side you are on. The happy man knows that within his body and mind he rejoices in the fact that in Christ he is more than a conqueror. He may get down at the feet of Jesus and mourn over his natural hard heart, but he gets up from his knees knowing that the sight of Calvary God has used to melt his heart, and given him strength and joy to press on in the upward way.

Can you live with yourself, or must you have the din and confusion of people and things to keep you? Do you dare to be alone in fellowship with God? If this is so you are ready to go, provided you have the next point. For to be ready to go means not only to be ready to live with yourself, but to live with others. Interestingly

enough, the main reason some people are ready to go is that they can't live with other people. They haven't made a success where they are. They have failure in the home they grew up in. They may think it is the parents and brothers or sisters who are failures and out of step. They may have made a failure in the school they go to. Therefore they think that if they could get into some other institution of learning, what a wonderful thing it would be. Or leave school entirely and get out in the field where the action is.

To be ready to go means not only to be able to live with yourself, but be able to get close to other people who are full of problems. It is in the water that people learn to swim. It is in the kitchen where people learn to cook. It is in the hospital or sanitarium that we learn to nurse. And the way we learn to help people with their problems is to live with people who have problems.

God has established this place as a city of refuge. That means a place for refugees. That means people who are fleeing. That means people who need help. Why not get the help. But before you are ready to go to other places and help establish cities of refuge, God intends to make you a part of a place that will be a refuge. Before you go running be sure you know how to deal with the human problems right where you are. If you are flunking this course don't think you can take something harder.

God conducts a very interesting school. And unlike institutions in this world He plans separate, specific course for each of His students. It takes an infinite God to do that, but He is able.

At the tender age of seventeen Joseph was snatched from his father's house, sold by his brothers as a slave, and carried down to Egypt. For ten years he was a servant in Potipher's house. Then under false accusations he was thrown into prison. But Joseph had learned to live with himself, therefore he could live with others. He knew how to be victorious against temptation, although by force of circumstances he had to be in Potipher's house.

Too many young people today with half the temptations he had fall again and again. There is too much sentimental excusing of sin. But that young man, Joseph stood pure and true against every form of iniquity. He didn't produce any alibi. Thank God, he had the victory through Christ.

As the result he was thrown into prison. There he went through a most interesting course in human relations. Hear the lips of the king on his throne as Joseph is ushered into his presence:

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it”
Genesis 41:15.

The king of that great nation said to Joseph who had just come out of the dungeon, I have a problem, and I have heard that you are a problem solver. I have a

question, and I have heard that you know the answer. Back comes the answer of blended confidence and humility:

“It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace” Genesis 14:16.

It is not in me. But don't worry. You are going to get your answer. God shall give you an answer of peace. Where had Joseph learned that? In his father's tents. Then as a slave. And then in the university of the dungeon. He had learned two things. He had learned to live with himself, and he had learned to live with others. He learned both because he knew God, and had yielded his life fully to the Holy Spirit. His body was indeed the temple of the Holy Ghost. God was directing him, leading him, and controlling him.

You can be like that. And when you are you are ready to go.

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go?” Isaiah 6:8.

Too many are ready to say, I want to go. I want to go on an airplane to a foreign country. I think that would be wonderful.

No, you are not ready to go. If you mean business God may let you have some experiences like Joseph.

Can you live with yourself, and face yourself knowing that God has given you victory in Christ? Can you face others and be interested in their problems instead of looking upon them as people who need to be kicked out of your road so they won't bother you so much? The human beings around you challenge you to love them as Joseph loved those prisoners and solved their problems. Joseph would never have had the opportunity to solve the problem of the king if he hadn't solved the problems of those prisoners down in the jail. It is where you are, surrounded by people full of problems, where you are demonstrating success or failure in the matter of getting ready to go.

One of the greatest curses of this hour is the ease with which people jump around here, there, and yonder. Youngsters today think nothing of their parents putting them on a plane and sending them from one side of this continent to the other, often to please some whim or fancy, sometimes in a frantic endeavor to find a location where they can live with themselves and others. Ninety percent of it is all in vain.

If some dear young people could get what Joseph got, it would either make them or break them. Some of our dear young men have to find it in the army. They can't run away from that. Oh, to meet the discipline of life and not run from it. Take the problems of human beings around you, and be able to look a man in the face and say with humility but confidence, God, helping me, I can help you.

Face your problem. If your problem is in yourself get help from God. If you need some human being that knows God to pray with you, get it and get it now. Don't let time run on and run out. The sun is sinking.

Lost souls await, but who will go? Not someone who is being defeated by the Devil every day. Not by some secret impurity. Not by some master passion. Oh, no. Don't think that merely making a move is going to cure you from those problems. Not a bit of it. God can help you right now.

The queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord. What did she do? She came to prove him with hard questions. She took her camels of gold and spices and came to Jerusalem because she had heard that God had given Solomon wisdom.

She asked questions and got answers to everyone:

“And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel” 1 Kings 10:6-9.

She had been with Solomon enough that she knew were the real secret was. In those early days Solomon was extolling the God of heaven. He was pointing these people who came from the ends of the earth to hear his wisdom to the source of it all, and God honored him and blessed him. Like Joseph he gave the answers. Like Joseph he gave God the credit.

There is another king that needs help. It is a young man who is giving answers. Daniel is giving the answers that the wise men don't know. Finally quite a reputation has been built up.

Belshazzar is confused and perplexed. None of his wise men can read the writings on the wall. Finally the king's mother comes in and says, You have a man in this kingdom who can help you with this. So Daniel is called in.

“I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee. And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing: And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation there of, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet,

and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom” Daniel 5:14-16.

Notice the expression, “I have heard of thee.” The queen said to Solomon, I have heard of you. The king of Babylon said to Daniel, I have heard of you. In each case what had they heard? They had heard that here was someone who had the answers to human problems. And in each case they weren’t disappointed.

Wouldn’t you want someone who could give an answer before you sent them running? What a shame it would be to be sent to a thirsty soul and open your bottle and pour it into the glass and nothing comes out. What a shame it would be to run with a basket to famishing multitudes, take off the lid and no bread in it. “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

Are you ready. Can you live with yourself and others? There are millions of young men in America that can’t sit with a girl thirty minutes without putting his hands on her. Are they ready to deal with human problems? No, they have a big problem themselves. They don’t know how to live with it. There are so many girls that can’t sit next to a boy without getting their minds all twirled. If you can’t control your hearts, how are you going to help these poor young people of the world who are going further in sin than I hope you are. Unless you have victory so you can take care of your hands and hold your hearts through the grace of God, and associate in the normal experiences of life in meeting one another in the Sabbath School, in the classroom, and in missionary work, you haven’t solved that problem, and you are not ready to go.

What message do you have for other young people who are full of these problems? God can help you to be as single hearted and true as Joseph was.

Someone says, “Well how will I ever get married?”

Joseph got married at the right time. Isaac got married at the right time. Samson got married at the wrong time to the wrong girl, because he couldn’t control his heart and hands. He didn’t control his appetite. He didn’t control his affections. He didn’t control his passion. So with Esau.

This is the hour when God is looking for young people who have solved their problems so they can help other young people solve their problems. So with the older ones, for there are problems at every age. Right where you are God has the victory for you to gain. He has the life for you to live.

I want to read something to you who are children. In this statement Jesus was only twelve years old:

“As Jesus in the temple solved the mysteries which priests and rulers had not discerned, so in the closing work of this earth children who have been rightly educated will in their simplicity speak words which will be an astonishment to men who now talk of ‘higher education.’” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 6, page 202.

If the boys and girls can learn this lesson, I think the teenagers can. If the teenagers can, I think those in their twenties can. And if the children and youth can learn them, I think we who are older can learn them too.

And what is it? First, to be able to live with yourself. Settled that there is no time for the things in this world. Settled that there is no time for dallying with what the world is doing and where the world is going. Settled to be all out for God.

Second to be able to live with those around you. God will help you to build a solid security. To learn to live with those around you is a major achievement.

And in each case there is only one answer—the indwelling Christ. He it is that can help you to live with people. He it is who can help you to live with yourself when you know more about your own faults than you know about anyone else. Oh, it is a wonderful thing in one breath to confess that we are nothing and that He is everything. It is a wonderful thing in one moment to know that I am utterly unworthy, and that He is worthy, and He has accepted my unworthiness and given me His worthiness.

But He can't do that unless I give up my sins. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak for some hidden sin. Be sure your sins will find you out. Think not to sweep the dirt under the rug. What do we do when we ape the fashions of this world? We crucify the Son of God afresh and put Him to an open shame.

God is looking for a pure people. He is looking for men and women who think straight. The same Savior who points out our failures is ready to forgive and take away our sins. What we need is a clearer view of what it has cost Him to do this. Sin is no light thing. Sin inspired the Devil and the Devil inspired the men who drove the nails through the hands and feet of the Son of God. But the thing that killed Him is the actual sins that you and I have committed. That which will detect it is the sword of the Spirit.

It is our privilege to seek God for revelation and cleansing. It is our privilege to come to the Lord as little children and say, Wash me, cleanse me. And He will do it.

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