

New Year Rededication

#0738

Study given by W.D. Frazee—January 3, 1958

It is a wonderful thing to know that if we are willing we can give just as much as Jesus gave. I mean by that, of course, that He gave everything. When we give everything, we have given as much as He gave. If He had given any less than everything, it would not have been sufficient to redeem us. And if we give any less than everything, He will not be able to accomplish His loving purpose in and through us. I say, it is a wonderful thing that we can match our infinitely small everything with His infinitely great everything. Don't you think so? Repeat with me that wonderful verse that contains the Gospel:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

What did love lead God to do? Give. What will love lead us to do. Give. And when God gave, He did not look around to see what he could spare. When God gave, He gave everything in one gift. In Christ Jesus was comprehended all of heaven's resources.

Here tonight something very important is going to take place. Decisions are going to be made. Decisions that heaven is very much interested in. Decisions that involve our service and our means, our time and our money. I find the Savior was very definite and frank with people. While He sought to have them see the beauty of His way, there was no guile in the sense of scheming, no enticement or allurements based upon appeal to selfish or transitory motives. No. He constantly sought to attract men to Himself and His program by appealing to the great love which He Himself had put, and was willing to put more of, into the hearts of men.

In Matthew 19 is the wonderful story of that young man that came to Jesus. Mark tells about it also in chapter ten. Some details are in Matthew and some in Mark. This young man had been attracted to Jesus. He saw the loving way in which Jesus blessed the children, and the thought came into his heart, Oh, I wish I could be blessed that way. So he came running to Jesus and said, “Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?”

Jesus told him to keep the commandments, and named some of them. He said he had kept all those. “What lack I yet?”

Jesus said he lacked one thing.

Only one thing? What might that be?

Jesus said that if he would be perfect, he would have to go and sell all that he had and give it to the poor, and he would have treasure in heaven, and come and take up the cross and follow Me.

The young man stood there weighing the matter.

Judas stood there on pins and needles. Judas was treasurer. He handled the money that came into the Savior's hands, and was dispersed for the expenses of the disciples, and in caring for the poor. He knew this young man was a wealthy man, and he wished Jesus would be a bit more cautious, a bit more skillful, tactful and diplomatic. Jesus didn't have to ask that young man for so much at first. Judas thought it would be much better to get the young man into the program, and then gradually get from him.

But the Master who knew the hearts of men dealt very directly and definitely with that young man. He did not appeal to self-aggrandizement. He did not appeal to any selfish motive. To the contrary, He cut selfish motives at the root. He offered the young man fellowship with Himself. He said, "Come, take up the cross and follow me."

Ah, is there no way to follow Thee without carrying a cross? Is there no way I may have fellowship with Thee on any other terms than these?

No. Why? Because love and selfishness are as far apart as the poles. Anyone who goes in one direction is going from the other. Satan has tried to confuse things. His constant sales talk for 6,000 years is that you can have both worlds. You can get some of the joy of love and some of the joy of selfishness.

An illustration comes to my mind. When I was a student training at Loma Linda in medical missionary work I was sent up onto the hill where the cottages were above the new hospital. There was a man I was to nurse. I nursed him for a while. This man didn't have the full use of his mental faculties. I was caring for a number of other patients, but I used to carry his meal to him.

That man had a bowl about so big. He would take the food from his tray—hot soup and roast and salad and ice cream—and throw it all into the bowl. Then he would eat it. That wasn't the only thing he did that made people think he needed to be under somebody else's care. He did a number of other things that showed his mental processes were not on the beam.

I have often thought of that man through the years. I say that many of the people of this world who are trying to mix what they think are the joys of heaven with the allurements of hell are getting something that is just as insipid as a mixture of hot soup and ice cream. They wonder why life is so unsatisfying. They wonder why they do not arrive at that which is truly satisfying.

The joys of heaven are dulled and spoiled by the taint of the selfishness of this world. Whatever pleasure there may be in hell, God knows I don't want to be informed on the subject. But I tell you this much. I know about sin. The Bible speaks of the pleasure of sin, and I know that what pleasure there is in sin is to a

greater or less extent spoiled by being mixed with the love and unselfishness of heaven. Each one spoils the other.

So, in this first Sabbath of the new year, I believe that God would be pleased to have us come face to face with the decision that young man faced with Jesus that day in Judea. Which way are we going? All out with love or all out with selfishness? He chose to go all out with selfishness, and the record says he went away sorrowful. Sorrowful? Hanging onto his possessions? Yes. He was sorry he could not get all that the disciples and Jesus had, and at the same time keep all that he had.

Even God could not arrange that for him. No one can drink deep of the joy of unselfishness and enjoy selfishness. Each one spoils the other. God has invited us into this wonderful work that He might deliver us from the bondage of selfishness.

There are two things you and I have. One is our time and the other is our money. We all have exactly the same amount of time, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Of money no two of us are alike. If somebody has more than you have, there is somebody who has less. But time and money are both called for by our blessed Lord.

I am so glad that when I ask, in my Master's name, for people's time or people's money, I have no apology to make. No apology whatsoever. Neither have I any pressure to exert. Not at all. The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. Why? Because cheerful giving is a sign of love. It is the expression of love. And that is the only thing that God is interested in.

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” 1 Corinthians 9:7.

Don't give grudgingly of either time or money. Don't do it. We are told that God is not pleased to have His treasurer replenished with forced offerings. Not at all. He is longing for love, the love that is expressed in willing offerings of time and money.

A minister had given a plea for the work of God, and the deacons were passing the offering plate. The deacon came nearer and nearer to where a little boy sat, and the little boy didn't have a penny. Somehow the Spirit of God touched his heart, and when the deacon came to him he whispered to please put the offering plate lower. Since he was a little fellow, the deacon thought he couldn't reach up, so he lowered the plate, but the little boy whispered lower, and still lower. Finally the deacon had to put it the offering plate on the floor, and the little boy got into it.

I pray that you and I will get into the offering plate tonight in body, mind, and soul, that we may present our bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable to God. And do it with joy. There is nothing that makes a loving heart glad like giving. I notice it as I watch people, young and old. It makes people happy to give. Why should I apologize for giving them a chance to be happy? I wouldn't.

I want to devote several minutes tonight to keeping people from giving. I am very anxious that nobody give tonight, if they can keep from it.

I have just read that some people don't need to give because they would give grudgingly or of necessity. In other words, nobody has to. And do not think you have to. Do not think that you have to do it because of what somebody else might think. It will be handled in a way that will not embarrass you. It will be easy for you not to give. You will have to make an effort to give. You will not have to make any effort not to give. I want to keep you from giving, unless there is something that moves you to give that cannot be quenched.

“God designs that the exercise of benevolence shall be purely voluntary, not having recourse even to eloquent appeals to excite sympathy. ‘God loveth a cheerful giver.’ He is not pleased to have His treasury replenished with forced supplies”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 3, page 413.

In the army of the United States today there are some men who are volunteers and there are others who are drafted. And even of those who are volunteers, some of them are there because they thought that unless they did volunteer they would be drafted. But in this we are studying tonight, in either time or money there is no draft and no danger of a draft. No possibility of a draft. So nobody needs to volunteer, thinking that if they do not they will be forced anyway. Nothing like that. There if no draft coming up. There is no selective service.

If you give in time or money, it is because of a great love for Jesus, and a great conviction that there is something Jesus wants you to do. The plan of redemption was entirely voluntary on the part of our Redeemer, and it was the purpose of Christ that all our benevolence shall be freewill offerings.

I will tell you another class of people who do not need to give tonight. Those who are already doing all they can or should in another direction. Somebody says that means me. That's perfectly all right. Not only is God not interested in forced offerings or offerings grudgingly given, God is never interested in robbing Peter to pay Paul.

If you are already doing all you can in other directions, and you are doing it to the glory of God, and you are using what God has put into your hands in time or money in a way that uses up what you have, just be happy. Be happy that God has called you to that fellowship. And do not feel under the slightest burden about what I shall present tonight. Do not let it worry you. Do not let it make you feel uncomfortable because you cannot participate.

If you have a burden in another direction, it is all right. After all, there are many ways to work for God and many channels through which to give to God. Thousands of them. And there is no one channel I can present in which all one's time and money should flow.

It may be God has called you to another channel of work. If He has, pray a prayer for a blessing of the work which I bring to your attention. But do not let it in any disturb or unsettle the burden God has laid upon your heart in some other direction.

I want to make it easy for people not to give tonight. Somehow, as I have thought about it I have felt definitely led that this first Sabbath of the new year was the time to present a glorious opportunity to give our lives to this program and our money to this program. And I would rather see \$50 raised here tonight from loving motives than to see \$50,000 raised through sales pressure, or any method other than the loving spirit of God.

I know my Savior, and I know God is going to do some things here tonight which are absolutely marvelous and miraculous. You remember that on the Day of Pentecost the Spirit of God was poured out in mighty power, and 3,000 souls came forward and cast their lot with the apostles. They were baptized. At once many of them were thrown out of their homes and jobs. They lost everything. So there came a great emergency in the early church.

What did God do? The Spirit of God moved upon the hearts of those new believers. Some of them had only been in the truth for twenty-four hours. But listen to what happened:

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common: And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” Acts 2:44-46.

Think of it. They were coming in droves. Every day new converts were flocking in. Will it ever happen again? Oh yes, it is coming. Do you see the influence it had? It got clear down into the pocketbooks. It reached into the safes and the security and trust offices. People sold their possessions. They sold their houses and land. They brought the money and laid it down at the apostles feet. Nobody had to go around and collect it. They brought it in. Nobody told them to do it. They wanted to do it.

Why? Because they loved. They loved the One who had died upon the cross for them. They loved those who had brought the message of the crucified and risen and ascended Lord. They loved their brothers and sisters, fellows in persecution. And they loved the cost of the program they had espoused. They loved the mission that God had committed to them.

For them to live was to get the work done, the message carried, to get the knowledge of the Savior to every human soul. Within 40 years they had carried that message to every creature under heaven. Amazing. That was the spirit.

Superficial readers have pointed to this as an example of communism. What a travesty. It doesn't say anything here about taking anything away from anybody. The people came and gave voluntarily. There was no tribute enforced, no tax collected. It was no arbitrary breaking up of the states. People simply said here is a need, I have a place over there, I have got this house, that land. It is going to be sold and the money will come into the work. And the results was that it met the emergency.

It lasted more than a day. The leaders got thrown into prison. When God gets working in a powerful way, especially when men's purses loosen up, you will find that the Devil gets excited. Peter and John were put into prison and beaten. They were glad to have that experience for Jesus' sake. They were finally let loose and reported to the church what had happened to them. There were miracles. A lame man was healed.

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” Acts 4:31-35.

Isn't that wonderful? Wouldn't you like to see something like that? I would. I think that is wonderful. And it is going to happen. Before we get through with the message God has given us the things of this world are going to grow less and less until finally the material things of this world will so recede that they will seem very small, and any of the world's goods we have will be valued only as a means to accomplish something for God. That's all they are good for.

And the things of heaven will get bigger in our thinking until there will only be one thing that will make us happy, and that will be the love that is filling heaven. It will just make us happy to do things for others and to help Jesus finish His work.

I thank God to be connected with a message and a program that knows something of what we are reading here tonight. We may not be as far along as they were, but thank God we are on the way.

“The experience of apostolic days will come to us if men will be worked by the Holy Spirit. The Lord will withdraw His blessing where selfish interests are indulged, but He will put His people in possession of goods throughout the world if they will unselfishly use their ability for the uplifting

of humanity. His work is to be a sign of His benevolence, a sign that will win the confidence of the world and bring in resources for the advancement of the gospel”
A Call to Medical Evangelism, page 22.

I am so thankful to be in a program that is built on sacrifice. It took sacrifice to put these buildings on this place. It took sacrifice to get this work started, and it takes sacrifice to keep it going.

I have sometimes thought, and said a time or two, that if this place and this program comes to the point where it doesn't need any sacrifice, any prayer, any miracles to keep it going, I would like to have some other people care for it, and I would take my little suitcase and go down the road and find something new to do for God that takes sacrifice and miracles and faith and prayer.

But I don't need to pack my suitcase yet. There is plenty of need for miracles, plenty of need for sacrifice and faith and prayer right here. Thank God the joy of it is filling the hearts of various ones. Have you tasted of it? Is it sweet? Would you like some more?

You can have it. You can have some more opportunities to sacrifice, to give yourself, your time, your money, like the disciples back there. There is something very relaxing in giving everything to the Master. If you give any less than everything, you are wondering just how much to give, and then wondering if you shouldn't give more. But when you have given everything, it is very relaxing that there is nothing more you can give. Then you can sit back and enjoy it. Enjoy the blessed results. That's the truth.

Please don't misunderstand me. I don't mean that we should have that carefree, happy-go-lucky attitude, in which the collection plate is passed, and we open our purses and throw in what loose change there is and wonder what we will have for breakfast tomorrow. No. That is not what I am talking about. When we give everything to God—our time, money, property—then God appoints us His stewards, His disbursing agents. If we will look to Him He will give us wisdom.

It makes a world of difference whether our disbursements are at His command and direction, or whether they come from our selfish selves. It is a hard thing to get selfish covetousness to give very much. If I were you I would not argue with it. I would dismiss it. Tell selfish covetousness he is a nuisance to have around. Don't listen to him when he argues with you. Say to him, Look here, if you are arguing with me, I tell you I am giving not merely a tenth, a fourth, a half. I am giving everything. There is nothing left for you to argue about. Get on down the road.

And to the man who has made that decision there is only one thing left to find out. What does God want me to do with the time I have today? What does God want me to do with the money I have today? Through the history of this message God has at different times impressed people to sell property and put the money into the work, but He has plainly told us He doesn't want everybody to do that at once.

We need to have our hearts open to the Spirit of God, and our ears alert to the leading of God.

There is a time for everything. There is a time to sell, and a time not to sell. Only God knows when that is. There is a time to give to a certain thing, and there is a time not to. And only God knows when that is.

You notice I am not attempting to make it seem necessary for everybody to give tonight. Quite the contrary. I want any giving tonight to be because you see in it a specific call from Jesus to give at this particular time. Of course, I invite all of you this first Sabbath of the new year to re-consecrate your life to Jesus, fully and completely, and to give Him all the time and money you have and ever will have. I invite you to do that without reserve.

But specifically, the program I wish to present tonight is this program here at Wildwood, a program of caring for suffering humanity in the spirit of Jesus. A program of training students to give their lives to unselfish ministry. To me those objectives are worthy of all that I have. I recognize that underlying those two things, and reaching far beyond, is the great basic objective of preparing a people for the coming of Christ. I see these things as something that calls for all the energies of my soul. Think of it. To help suffering humanity. To train students to give their lives to this unselfish ministry. To make ready a people for the coming of Jesus. To get them ready to live forever in the mansions of the blessed. Oh, isn't it a wonderful thing?

Just a few evenings ago Brother Boykin and I were in Chattanooga to see a man we have worked for through the years from time to time, seeking to help him. He has been here as a patient at the sanitarium. Habits of sin have held him down, but gradually the light of God's love has been getting into his soul. He has been getting nearer.

As we sat talking to him he said, "There is just one thing that stands between me and the fellowship in this church."

I knew what he meant. The tobacco habit. We began to open the Bible and read the promises of God. We began to read some of those precious things we studied here two weeks ago tonight about the cross. And before we left that dear man knelt down with Bill and me and gave his heart fully to Jesus, and gave up that habit that had held him for years and years. The Lord gave him the victory and deliverance.

That is the kind of thing I choose to live for. But it took all of us together to do it. God bless the sanitarium for ministering to that man time after time, when under the influence of alcohol he came to get help and relief. Some of the best men of the world come under the domineering slavery of alcohol. And I thank God we have a place where a man or woman can come and get help from God. Not merely prayer. That is important. But some hydrotherapy, diet, and spiritual ministry. It takes the whole program.

Just yesterday my wife and I went to visit a dear woman who has studied this message for years, but who had been held in slavery to tobacco. Again and again she has tried to get the victory from it. As we presented the cross and the love of Jesus, and how it hurts the Savior when we in any way turn from His path, the love of God got hold of her heart.

We knelt together, and that dear woman prayed one of the most beautiful and earnest prayers I have ever heard come from the lips of a soul in need. Bless the Lord, she got the victory, and she is on her way to Canaan. This is the thing we are interested in. But it takes the whole program: the medical part, the educational part. It takes it all.

I thank God for our agricultural program. Just a few days ago two of our young men were visiting in Chattanooga with a family with whom they had been studying. A young man who recently returned from the service of his country listened to what they were saying. He was interested in what they were telling about our agriculture out here. He thought he might be interested in something like that. He decided to come out for a few days. He was here this week. Some of you met him. We are praying that this young man will find his way into this farm program. Do you think that will be better than working in a factory or clerking in a store? Are you glad there is a city of refuge where young people can come? Yes.

But all of this—the medical program, the agriculture program, the educational program, the evangelistic program—takes money. It takes money to put up these buildings. It takes money to buy tractors and plows. It takes money to buy treatment equipment. It takes money for operating expenses of this institution earned from week to week by the united labors of teachers and students.

Teachers and students have worked together to put up these buildings. But the income we receive here is not sufficient, never has been, nor ever thought it would be sufficient. These buildings are all put up with the gifts of the loving labors of teachers and students, the loving gifts of friends, those in the program and those outside the program.

Almost all of the money that has poured into this place is unsolicited. Almost all of it came just because God impressed people that here was something He wanted them to put money into. Do you know how much money has poured into this place in the last sixteen years. I don't have the exact figure, but it would crowd a \$150,000. And the end is not yet. It will take more. And I am glad of it.

I am glad for a chance to give my time and money to something I know is worth every hour of service and every dollar I can get my hands on. I am thankful for a part in it. So with joy I invite you.

A year ago we had a little service like we are having tonight. We gave opportunity. You know what we did? We raised \$1,000 in pledges. Much was paid monthly. Little pledges coming in. A dollar from this one and five dollars from that one. Maybe ten cents from somebody else.

I always like to encourage the children. If all you can give is a nickel a month, Jesus can multiply it. The size of our offering is not the important thing at all. What are we doing all this for? For Jesus. To show Him we love Him. Don't let anybody think they need to. Oh, no. God can get along without it. He has a thousand ways we know nothing about.

I am so glad He lets me have a chance to put my life and money into it. Wouldn't it be strange if there was something worth putting my life into that wouldn't be worth putting my money into? I think that would be the strangest thing I ever heard about. Jesus said that where your treasure is your heart will be there also. So tonight I am going to give an opportunity for you to give. But to give only as the Spirit of God with the motive of loving unselfish ministry shall work upon your heart.

Some of you may be impressed that God is calling you to make a decision that involves far more than money—your own life service. I will tell the story with which the gospel church began. You remember that Jesus was baptized in Jordan at the age of thirty. He went out and was tempted, and came back to be presented to the multitude by John the Baptist. He made some disciples. But for a while those disciples spent part of their time with Jesus and part of the time out making a living, catching fish.

One morning Jesus, by the Sea of Galilee, met Peter and James and John and Andrew in their boats. They had toiled all night and caught nothing. He told them to cast their nets on the right side, and they drew in the nets filled with fish. Then Jesus said a strange thing. He said he wanted them to leave the boat and nets and fish and come and follow Him.

What did they do? They did it. Foolish men? No. Wise men. Did He offer them a greater salary? No. Did He offer them a greater position? No. Did He offer them security? No. He offered them fellowship with Himself, and the greatest work in the world—the medical missionary training program. That's what He offered them, and they took it.

What did it lead them to do? It led them to be martyrs. Was that good? They thought so. They rejoiced that they were able to give their lives in service year after year, and then cap it by giving their lives. One was crucified. Another had his head cut off with a sword. Others were killed in other ways. After a life of service some met martyrdom at Rome.

Was it worth it? They thought so. There may be someone here who is making a decision that involves far more than money. The Savior may be calling some man or woman to put their life into His program. The Savior may be calling you to put your life into the work of soul winning, to put your life into the gospel medical work of getting men and women ready for the kingdom of God.

Brother, sister, if God is calling you to do that, it is a decision that involves far more than money, and is worth far more than money. It takes far more than money to do something. If somebody would lay a million dollars down here before us tonight, unless we could get people to go with the schools and sanitariums it would build, what would it be worth?

Young men, young women, and older ones, God needs you. Your money? Yes. But He needs you. Will you do what Peter and James and John did? Will you quit dallying around the edges with your feet in shallow water? Will some man, some woman, hear the call of God and say, Yes, I am going to plunge for God. I am going to give God my life for His work, and for this program. There are men and women here tonight that if God could put that into their souls, they could have stars in their crowns for eternity.

Don't let the Devil tell you God cannot use you. Don't let the Devil tell you that you are too young or too old. The Devil doesn't care how he gets you off. He will tell some of you that you are too young. He will tell some of you that you are too old. He is a liar either way. Don't believe him. He will tell some of you that you are too good to be used this way. He will tell others you are not good enough. He is a liar either way. Don't listen to him if the Spirit of God is calling you to put your life into this program.

God needs you. He will use you like He did Peter and John and Matthew and Thomas and all the rest. He has a work for you to do. Don't think of it as something to do for six months or a year, or two or three years. Think of it as something to do for life.

When the war began between the states nearly a hundred years ago, president Lincoln called for volunteers for three months. Seventy-five thousand sprang to arms for three months. But what happened before three months was over? The nation saw that three months wasn't even going to get a good start, so they began to ask for enlistments for the duration of the war. That is something different.

How long are you enlisted for? I am going to enlist for six months. Well thank you. How long are you going to enlist for? Three years. Fine. That's several times better. How long are you going to enlist for? For the duration of the war. That's better yet. That's what God is looking for. And that is what it is going to take to put this thing over for God.

It is a joy to me to give the precious opportunity that came two thousand years ago to those who believed in the Savior, Give your life, give your service, give your money.

Precious Jesus, move upon our hearts and let the Spirit that was expressed in our Lord's sacrifice on Calvary be expressed here tonight. May we as little moons reflect the glory of Thy Son of righteousness. May we catch the beams of light and love and glory, and cause them to shine back upon others.

Impress our hearts as to what You would have us do. Make Thy call clear and plain to our hearts. If there are men and women, old and young, that Thou are calling to make the decision to put their lives into this program, help them to do it and not be sorry. If there are those who have money You would like to have come into this program, put it into their hearts. Let love open our hearts, our purses, our hands. Let the apostolic spirit be restored to us. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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