

# Medical Missionary Work

## *Cure For Selfishness*

Sermon #1034

Study given by W. D. Frazee—June 14, 1959

I would like to direct your attention to Isaiah 30. This is a Scripture I think is worthy of our special attention and study.

"Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of Me; and that cover with a covering, but not of My Spirit, that they may add sin to sin: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at My mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion" Isaiah 30:1-3.

God led His people out of Egypt, and He never made provision for them to return. A number of them talked about going down to Egypt in the days of Jeremiah. They asked him to ask the Lord, and promised they would do what the Lord said. But when the Lord told them not to go to Egypt, they said they would go anyway.

It is worthy to note that the educational system which the world and popular churches are following today comes down to us from the Papal system of education. The Papal system was largely influenced by the Grecian system of education. Greece got its principles of education from Egypt. Back in the days when Isaiah was writing, the problem was that many of God's people were looking to Egypt for help. God said, Woe to those who go down to Egypt, and have not asked at My mouth.

There is great danger today that in our educational work, our medical work, and in all our work for God, we shall be led by the policies of the world rather than by the counsel God has given through His inspired messenger. God says woe to those who look to the world for counsel concerning matters He has already spoken on.

Those who do this add sin to sin. They multiply one sin after the other. It is a sin to go to Egypt to get counsel on matters that God has spoken on, and it is a sin to follow it, because it leads away from God and away from a preparation for His coming.

I was interested in the way the Revised Standard Version translates this text. I will read the first part:

"Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, who carry out a plan, but not Mine." Isaiah 30:1 (Revised Standard Version).

They have a plan, but it is not God's plan. I don't suppose there has ever been a time in history when there are as many plans as there are today. We hear of nations with their five year plan, three year plan, seven year plan. Committees are appointed and conventions called. Conferences are held. There is a place for planning, but the important thing is that we shall never attempt to let a human plan be substituted for a divine plan. That is the great danger in all human thinking and planning. God says woe to the rebellious children who carry out a plan that is not His.

I was reading in the *Desire of Ages* about the experience of Peter. Peter was warned by the Lord concerning his weaknesses, and was urged to watch and pray, and seek God for conversion. This offended Peter. He said, Lord, You can depend on me. I know I will be all right. I will be true to you. If everyone leaves you, I will stick with you.

Peter did not know himself. He didn't realize what was in his heart. Jesus know it. Peter denied the Lord with cursing and searing. In the providence of God his eyes were turned to Jesus. Looking upon the Savior he beheld a look of brokenhearted love. Peter had failed, yet in that look there was encouragement. He knew Jesus loved him. He knew Jesus had prayed for him. So he went out to Gethsemane, and where Christ had wept and prayed, Peter wept and prayed for himself. It is what he should have done several hours before, but thank God he did it.

While he should have done it before midnight, he did it after midnight. This is a great warning for us, and also a great hope for us. Even if we have failed, thank God, He will meet us in the garden. Even if we are late, He will meet us.

Now I want to bring to you the story of Peter's meeting with Jesus on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. It was on a morning when Jesus was standing on the shore watching the disciples as they toiled through the night trying to catch fish. They didn't catch any. In the morning they saw this lonely Watcher on the shore. He bid them cast their nets on the right side of the ship and the nets were filled.

As they drew near, Jesus invited them to eat. Then He took Peter and pressed him three times with the question, Do you love Me? Each time Peter appealed to the Savior as witness, as One who knew he loved Him. Peter was reinstated. He was given the confidence of Jesus and his brethren, and given the responsibility of feeding the lambs and sheep. But it was a different Peter. It was a humble Peter, confident in God and not in his own humanity. There were some sentences that stuck in my mind as I read the story.

"Hitherto Peter had been inclined to act independently. He had tried to plan for the work of God, instead of waiting to follow out God's plan. But he could gain nothing by rushing on before the Lord. Jesus bids him, 'Follow Me.' Do not run ahead of Me. Then you will not have the hosts of Satan to meet alone. Let Me go before you, and you will not be overcome by the enemy" *The Desire of Ages*, page 816.

That is an interesting statement. That was the trouble with Judas. He was always figuring out what Jesus ought to do and how things ought to be managed. Again and again he was disappointed. But it wasn't just Judas. James and John got together with their mother and had a committee meeting. They laid a wonderful plan. They came to Jesus to get His approval because it involved Him, and it was necessary to get His consent. But Jesus didn't enter in and help them carry out their plan for James and John to be first.

All the disciples were planning through the ministry of Jesus how to carry on the Lord's work. Peter was one of the foremost. But on his face in Gethsemane he learned a different lesson.

My dear friends, I pray that we may be kept from human planning that becomes a substitute for the divine plan. That is our danger educationally. That is our danger medically. That is our danger personally. Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, that carry out a plan, but is not Mine. A plan that is their own plan or some other human plan.

I wonder if you and I have been thoroughly disabused concerning this matter of human wisdom and human planning. I wonder if we have been fully cured of depending upon our own human wisdom and that of others. I wonder if we have been fully impressed with the great privilege we have of being taught of God and guided by God, and led by the Holy Spirit into the fullness of God's purpose for this work. It is a wonderful privilege we have.

It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught of God." Oh, that we may sense that glorious privilege of being guided into the plan of God by the Holy Spirit. That is why God gave us the Bible. That is why God gave us the Spirit of Prophecy. If we will study the Word and the writings God has given us, we shall find the divine plan.

It is amazing how many thousands of details have been given to us. If we will dig into these things, and follow them, we can have the light of the world. But many times I fear our danger is we think we may be missing something. Yes, we are missing something, and God help us to rejoice we are missing some things instead of feeling sorry for ourselves.

With this as a background, I would like to study more about divine plan. It centers in two great objectives. Really in one, but the two are like two sides of a coin. It is the same coin, but there are two sides to it.

The first is God's great objective to reveal His love. The second is to crucify and put to death selfishness. Everything God asks us to do is with that double purpose. Anything God wants you and me to fit into is to get and reveal to others a clear view of His love, and to lay the axe deeper and deeper at the root of the tree of human selfishness.

The Devil is constantly seeking to get us to avoid that. He may speak a great many beautiful and sentimental things about love. But if we get down to business in

dealing with the opposite of love, which is selfishness, Satan gets alarmed. He throws up his hands in horror at the very idea of touching such a tree. He may admit it needs pruning a little. He may suggest certain branches have grown a little out of balance. But the idea of actually getting rid of human selfishness is abhorrent to Satan. And it is abhorrent to the natural heart.

Do we see our selfishness as actually abhorrent to God? Has it become abhorrent to ourselves? When we are truly converted, we shall loathe every thought of selfishness. We will flee from it as Eve should have fled from the serpent. Selfishness is repulsive to the converted heart. Particularly our own selfishness. But Satan is constantly seeking to teach us how to carry on God's work without getting the axe at the root of the tree of human selfishness.

The plan God has in mind is to try to get rid of selfishness. I am going to study about medical missionary work as it relates to this matter of getting rid of human selfishness and revealing the love of God. There are many things we might call attention to, but there are two things I want you to think about that in the medical missionary plan God gave us are prominent.

One is what I call Christian help work—doing things for others. It is the medical missionary work that the 58<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah talks about. This is written to the people of God, and you might be interested to know that of all the different chapters in the Bible, this is the one that is referred to most often by the Spirit of Prophecy. This is the chapter that deals with the Sabbath reform, but most of it is devoted to the medical missionary work of doing for others.

In the opening verses God's people have been praying, but they don't seem to get the answer to their prayers. They are weeping. They are even fasting, but they say that they are not getting the answers. Then God tells us what it is He wants us to do, and our prayers will be heard. He says:

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"  
Isaiah 58:6.

Then He tells us:

"Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" Isaiah 58:7.

If we will do that, He says:

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily" Isaiah 58:8

Great blessings will come. The thing I want you to notice is that all the things mentioned are things you and I can do personally. Yea, we are urged and called

upon to do personally. We are told that everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. Why?

"Human wisdom tends to consolidation, to centralization, to the building up of great churches and institutions. Many leave to institutions and organization the work of benevolence; they excuse themselves from contact with the world, and their hearts grow cold. They become self-absorbed and unimpressible. Love for God and man dies out of the soul" *Ministry of Healing*, page 147.

I told you that the central thing in God's plan for us is to reveal love, and crucify selfishness. That is the very reason God has allowed as much poverty as there is in the world—to call out love in our heart. To "draw out your soul after the afflicted."

Oh, that we might be drawn out to help others. But the Devil comes along and shows you and me how we can do that with some great organization that will do it for us, and all we have to do is give some money to the organization. And it doesn't make any difference whether it is the American Red Cross or the Seventh-day Adventist Welfare society.

Please do not misunderstand me. I am thankful for the Red Cross and the welfare society. Those institutions have their work. But if they become the means of keeping you and me from personally helping the poor, personally feeding the hungry, personally finding and helping the poor and needy, then Satan has accomplished his object. Then we come under the condemnation, "Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, that carry out a plan, but not Mine."

God's plan is to get every member of the church personally doing something for somebody who is in a worse condition than they are. Who needs help. Why? Because that reveals love. It exhibits love. It exercises love. And love, like faith, grows by exercise.

The more our hearts are drawn out to help others, the less our own human selfishness gets a chance to be exercised. That is why God has put us into contact with human suffering. God intends every Seventh-day Adventist hospital, clinic, dispensary, sanitarium, and treatment room to be a place where love is revealed.

If you are really seeking to reveal love, will you study to find out as many ways as you can to keep from being with the patient? Will you study to find methods, mechanical or chemical or whatever, that will be a substitute for helping people personally?

"Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. . . .

"Christ commits to His followers an individual work,—a work that cannot be done by proxy. Ministry to the sick and the poor, the giving of the gospel to the lost, is not to be left to committees or organized charities. Individual

responsibility, individual effort, personal sacrifice, is the requirement of the gospel. . . .

"He brings men into touch with those whom they seek to benefit. 'Bring the poor that are cast out to thy house,' He says. 'When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him.' 'They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.' Through direct contact, through personal ministry, the blessings of the gospel are to be communicated" *Ministry of Healing*, pages 147,148.

That is one of the reasons why God has given us natural agencies. One of the best things about them is that they take time, yet that is one of the things you hear people lamenting about. But they were meant to take time. The One who made time made those agencies. He intended to bring us into close contact with people who need help, in institutions and out in the home. And mark it, He purposely arranged that using those agencies would take up time.

Why? Because it takes time to reveal love and to get rid of selfishness, and there is a great deal more opportunity to reveal love and get rid of selfishness in a forty-five minute hydrotherapy treatment than there is in a one minute injection of some kind.

Don't misunderstand me. There is a place for some injections. That isn't my subject. My subject is that God's great plan always has in it that which will reveal love and get rid of selfishness. And we should learn to watch for things in God's plan that accomplish that two-fold aim, and cherish it rather than try to avoid it and get rid of it. So instead of looking to build up great organizations and institutions or churches that will take care of the problem of the poor so we do not have to be bothered with it, I should recognize that God is expecting me personally to find the poor, the sick, the needy, the helpless, and help them to see the love of Jesus, and to let the love of Jesus flow through my soul to help them. Why? That they may be blessed through that love, and that my own heart may be cured of this awful disease of selfishness.

I would like to go a little further. Let's get the axe a little deeper into these roots. There are some people who are so selfish that they have to have extra help in getting over selfishness. I will confess that I am one of them. There may be someone else here who is that way too. I will let you decide that.

God has done two things for me to try to cure me of selfishness. There are two things He has led me into that He requires of me more than He does of some other people. I am so thankful I have learned that He is the One who has done it, and that He has a reason for doing it, and that I know what the reason is. It is to cure my poor heart of selfishness.

One thing that gives me courage is that I find the same thing He led me into He led His disciples into nineteen hundred years ago on the same point and for the same reason.

Jesus led those disciples into a program of sacrifice more than most people expected. Peter and John and James and Andrew were carrying on a fishing business there on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus walked down by the sea and asked them to leave their nets and follow Him. Did He assure them that they would get at least as big a salary as they had catching fish? No.

Not long after that Jesus went by the tax collecting office and found a man by the name of Levi Matthew. Jesus didn't hesitate to ask that man in public office to leave it. Matthew might have argued, But Lord, I can serve you wonderfully right here in the tax collecting office in the courthouse. I can let my light shine and do a big work, and still draw my salary and pay a tithe and give a good offering.

My point is—and don't miss it—God does let some people do that. God lets some people be in public office. God lets some people draw a big salary. But Jesus came to Matthew and said, Matthew, I want you to leave all that.

Poor Matthew? What do you think about it? Did he think he was honored to be with Jesus? Yes. He called his friends together and had a celebration. They all rejoiced with him, and Jesus was there as the honored guest.

If Jesus should ask you to leave every human, tangible, visible means of support and step out into a medical missionary program where you had no means of support, would you have a celebration and tell all your friends to come?

Some time later there was a young man who came and wanted to get into Jesus' company. At least he wanted to get the blessing he saw some other people getting. Jesus didn't tell that young man that if he wanted to enter into the program with Him to go home and sell all he had and put it in the bank in case something should happen. Does the Lord let some people put money in the bank? Yes. It is the very thing some people ought to do.

Oh, I long for us to understand why God does certain things with certain people. Do you know why God told that rich young man to go home and sell everything he had and disperse everything? Because he was so selfish. God knew that was the plague spot in his character. And in a desperate effort to help him, God said, If you want to be perfect, go and sell everything you have, give it to the poor, and then come and take up the cross and follow Me. Did he do it? No. He went away sorrowful because he had great possessions.

I fancy I hear Judas whispering to the other disciples, Ah, the Master made a mistake that time. That was poor public relations. Why, the idea of meeting a man of the honored counsel of the Jews and talking to him that way. Telling him at the first interview that he would just have to sell out everything and join the program penniless.

Aren't you glad God hasn't ask you to do anything like that? He might some day. He might go at it by degree. The thing I want you to see is that you are not to go out and sell everything you have. No. I want you to see what it is in God's plan that caused Jesus to do that, and to appreciate it rather than to depreciate it.

I hear today, sometimes like a soft zephyr and sometimes like a great noise, that if you are carrying on medical missionary work the way you ought to, it ought to be a prosperous program with money enough to pay everyone a good salary. If you don't, you are probably off the beam. Did you ever hear anything like that? I have often wondered if the people who say that have read what is written concerning the way Jesus carried on His medical missionary program? I know their arguments and references. I am not going to argue the point. I simply say that for three and a half years Jesus carried on His medical missionary work on a basis most people would call a hand to mouth existence without any question or controversy. When He got through, there was no legacy for people to quarrel over. At the end of the three and a half years, although the disciples had said they did not lack anything, the fishing party on the Sea of Galilee was because they needed something. They set out to catch some fish that night so they could sell them and buy some clothes.

I wonder how you would like to be part of a program like that? Would you think that what was needed was a more efficient business management? The idea of running for three and a half years with mighty miracles being wrought and thousands of sick people being healed. And they were not all poor. Some were rich, and the money must have flowed in at times. But Jesus saw to it that the poor and needy were helped. Judas saw in a different way that the treasury didn't get very big also. God allowed that. The point is that after the resurrection the disciples were still so poor they went out to sell fish to buy clothes.

What would you call a program like that? Most people would call it a failure, poor business, poor management. But what was Jesus after? He was trying to cure those disciples of selfishness.

Dear friends, if God calls you into some kind of medical missionary work where you do not make money, it may be because you are selfish. Don't murmur if God let's some people get money. Don't criticize them and find fault. Leave it with God, but try to understand what God is trying to teach you. That is what I am trying to get at. God is trying to link you in fellowship with Him to love unselfishness and to hate selfishness.

A few weeks later the same disciples who went out to catch fish learned in forty days with Jesus, and ten days in the upper room, such lessons of love and unselfishness that when the Spirit of God was poured out on the day of Pentecost some things began to open up, and money poured into the hands of those apostles.

I don't know how to figure it in money today, but I don't doubt that within a few years millions of dollars poured through their hands. The wonderful thing is that none of them started driving Cadillacs as a result. Why? They had settled the selfishness question. They had reached the point where money was to them one thing—a means of helping others.

When the cares of money problems began to get heavy because there was so much distribution, the apostles said, Brethren, look out from among the group some men who can look after this. We have got to go ahead with preaching and praying. They appointed seven men to look after it, and none of them got rich from it.



Oh friends, Pentecostal power is coming when you and I learn the lesson of real unselfishness. And if God lets us be poor and sacrificial in order to carry on His work, let us understand what His plan is in it.

Now another phase to this. Do you know what kind of men the disciples were? We say they were fishermen mostly. Matthew was a publican, a tax collector. They were men who did not have all the recognition. We are told in the fifth chapter of Acts that they were considered by the rulers and leaders of the people ignorant and unlearned. They had not been educated as men think of education.

Do you know why God handled it that way? It is not that God puts a premium on ignorance and despises education. Not at all. God would have been very happy to use the scribes and Pharisees to present His message. He finally got Paul, one of the greatest Pharisees of that time. And God would have been pleased to make the leaders of His church men just like Paul. So let us not misunderstand.

But among all the Pharisees and scribes who were there at the time Jesus began His ministry, there was not one of them Jesus could get hold of. So Jesus took those ignorant and unlearned men, as the world called them, and He gave them the privilege of training by an association with Himself.

Do you know why? Because human wisdom tends to glory in itself. Just as having money tends to keep people from being unselfish in many cases, so having education in most cases tends to blow men up instead of building them up. That is why Jesus could not find any educated people who would be humble enough to listen to Him, and do what He said. They were too full of their own ideas to listen. In fact, the disciples, even though they were ignorant and unlearned, had enough of the result of that education that came down through the ordinary channels that it was hard for Jesus to work with them.

Do you know what the great problem with education is? We are told that nine times out of ten when God gets ready to use an educated man, he is so self-important that God can't use him. Isn't that too bad? Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. When he got ready for God to use him, God had to send him off to the desert. He herded sheep. And in that hot desert he sweat out a lot of the things he had learned in Egypt. He forgot them. He put them aside. He became a humble shepherd. He learned meekness and lowliness.

There are not many men like Moses in sacred history. There are not many men like Paul. Paul, writing to the Christian church, said, You see your calling, brethren. There are not many mighty men after the world. Not many wise men. Not many learned men. Not many great men.

In the closing work there are going to be a few great men. If you will read *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, pages 81 and 82, you will find there will only be a few great men, and it will tell you why. If they are independent and self-sufficient, God cannot use them.

God would like to have a great many educated people, even as the world calls education. I mean well educated in all that is worth knowing. But God is going to

have to do down here today just what He did when He started His church nineteen hundred years ago. He is going to have to use a great many people the world will call unlearned and ignorant. Why? Because that is the only way He can find some people who will be humble enough to carry out His plan instead of making a plan of their own.

While God has called a few people to take these degree courses and pass state boards and be able to practice in a recognized way, He has called for thousands to be educated without any recognition. God's purpose is not just to get workers ready in a shorter time. It isn't just so they will not have to study a lot of things they will not need. Oh friends, there is something more basic in it. If you and I could get hold of it, it would give us a joy and satisfaction in the way God leads instead of the murmuring and discontent the children of Israel had on their way from Egypt to Canaan.

What is the basic reason? Most of us do not need any help in the way of pride and the selfishness that struts and crows when it finds something to strut and crow about. We don't need any help in that direction. Most of us have so much selfishness, so much pride, that we are going to need all the help we can get in being humble and stay humble.

You have seen people who, if they would eat just a little bit of strawberries, would break out in hives. Some people can eat strawberries and not get hives. If they can, all right. But if eating strawberries gives me the hives, what had I better do? I had better let the hives alone. But you say, I think there is some way I can go after this and it will not give me the hives. Well, I say you had better learn the lesson Peter finally learned by the trial and error method.

Instead of planning for God, you had better let God plan for you. God knows your heart, my brother, my sister, young and old. He knows your heart better than you do. And if God sees you are a Daniel who can stand as Prime Minister and not lose your head, let God get you there. But it may be as a captive slave you arrive. If God sees you are a Joseph who can stand as Prime Minister of Egypt and not lose your head and get exalted and do a lot of foolish things, let God put you there. You had better not set your goal to be Prime Minister, because your way of getting there will probably only be a selfish way, even though you think you are doing it for God. If God gets you there, He may take the method and plan He used with Joseph. You may be a slave. You may be a captive in a dungeon under false accusation.

Oh, that God may deliver us from seeking great things for ourselves. Remember the words of Jeremiah to his secretary, Baruch:

"And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not" Jeremiah 45:5.

God will disappoint you again and again if you do, like He did James and John who wanted to be first in the kingdom of God. Not the Devil's kingdom. They meant all right, but Jesus had to disappoint them.

I say to you that instead of lamenting that there is a type of medical missionary training which deliberately steers away from the remuneration and recognition that is common in some circles, let us seek to understand why God leads us into a program that involves sacrifice of money and degree and recognition.

And instead of worrying over it and wishing it couldn't be, let us say, Dear Lord, if I am so selfish and proud that I need that kind of a humbling and sacrificial program, God help me to rejoice in it.

Now I read a simple statement that covers this in one sentence. This is talking about this very type of medical missionary training that does not involve getting degrees and titles, and that doesn't involve being able to make big charges and ride around with the might of this world. It is talking about a humble, sacrificial program. Listen:

"Those who take advanced training in nursing, and go forth in all parts of the world as medical missionary evangelists cannot expect to receive from the world the honor and rewards that often come to fully accredited physicians" *Counsels to Teachers*, page 471.

They will not get the honor and rewards that come to fully accredited physicians. Why do they not get them? Because they are not accredited. As far as I know, this is the only time the word accredited is used in the Spirit of Prophecy. This is a very interesting statement. There is a place for the legally recognized physician. This same book makes that clear, but it is for few. And if heaven's plan were carried out, the people who get that would be people who were first tried and proved to see that pride and selfishness were dead in their hearts.

We cannot control that, but we can control what you and I do. Those who take this simple program, this sacrificial program, cannot expect to receive the honor and rewards that often come to fully accredited physicians.

"Yet as they go about their work of teaching and healing, and link up closely with God's servants who have been called to the ministry of His word, His blessing will rest upon their labors, and marvelous transformations will be wrought. In a special sense they will be His helping hand" *Ibid*.

Oh, that God may make us His helping hand. I leave it with your hearts. As I meditate on these things, I see the cross, that cruel cross blazing with glory.

And I remember Paul. Paul was a rich man and an educated man, and doubtless had all the degrees of his time, and the highest position he could get.

When he saw that cross he put aside all his wealth and used it up freely in service for others until he became a poor man and had to make tents to earn money to keep going. He went away from the careers his degrees and position entitled him to, and buried himself in humble ministry. He became a persecuted servant of Jesus

Christ, finally confined in a dungeon and beheaded for the witness of Jesus. He said:

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith" Philippians 3:7-9.

I say that in these closing hours anyone God calls to be among those few who will be great either in riches or honor will somewhere along the line learn these lessons. For most of us the best way to learn them is in poverty and obscurity. For most of us it is the only way we will ever learn them.

Let us thank God for the school He has put us into, and for the training He has appointed us. Let us hug to our hearts the plan of heaven, and not be among the rebellious children who carry out a plan, but not His.

Let us not be like Peter before his conversion to try to plan for the work of God. Let's be like Peter after his conversion, and wait to follow out God's plan.

In the silence of this vesper hour, dear Lord, speak to our hearts. Lay the axe at the root of the tree in our lives. Reveal to us the hidden selfishness that keeps us from a closer fellowship with Thee. Give us eyes that discern the meaning of Thy providence. Give us the joyous loving response that says, Anywhere Lord, anything. Help us to be heart to heart with Thee in crucifying selfishness. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

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