

Path of Blessing

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Study by W. D. Frazee—March 1,

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”
John 13:17.

The way to be happy then is to what? To do what we know. And know, of course, what He wants us to know. It is like cooks in a kitchen. If they have a good recipe and follow it, then we get a good loaf of bread or cake to eat. But if they don't know the recipe, or if they don't follow it, it may not turn out so well.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”
John 13:17.

So we should be praying day by day for two things—to know God's will, and to have power and strength to do it.

Now suppose we don't know? There is a verse for that. Jeremiah 33:3. Here is a wonderful promise that works when we don't know what to do.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not”
Jeremiah 33:3.

Now what is the word in this that is in the other verse? Know. Only here it is “knowest not.” In other words, if we know what to do, John 13:17 is our text. We are happy if we what? Go ahead and do it.

But if we don't know what to do, then Jeremiah 33:3 is our text.

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not”
Jeremiah 33:3.

I am so glad we don't have to jump in the dark. Aren't you? We don't have to leap into the unknown. If we don't know what to do, then we know just what to do. That is to pray. To wait on God. To call.

God never asks us to risk, to gamble, to venture into the unknown. He says, “Come now and let us reason together.” Isaiah 1:18. Those that will cry to Him and call to Him will get light. Of course, when we ask Him for light it should be with the thought of walking in it. God is not interested in just satisfying our curiosity. When we ask Him to know our duty, it should be with our minds made up that we are going to do what? Do it. Isn't that right? Yes.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”
John 13:17.

So this morning there isn't a single decision in any of our minds waiting to be made of what one or the other of these two verse touches. This covers every situation that can possibly arise. For regarding any matter we either know what to do or we don't know. If we don't know, what? Call unto Him.

Somebody says, “Well, I have and I still don't know.” Call again. Call again. Sure. God says, Keep calling, keep asking. Persevering prayer, friends, brings the answer. And you know, the wonderful thing about working with God is that when we carry out His directions, He is responsible. Isn't that right? What a wonderful thing to be thus in partnership with God.

But suppose I know what to do. Then do I need to pray to know what to do? What do I need to pray for? Strength to do it. Yes. If I know what to do, then I don't need to pray, “O Lord, what shall I do?” If God has made it clear to me in His Word, or by His providence, or by His Spirit, then instead of praying, “Lord, what shall I do?”, I should pray, “Lord, I know what to do. Now help me to do it.” Will He do it? Oh yes.

Now turn back to John. This time I want you to go a step further and read in the fourteenth chapter. The fifteenth verse. John 14:15. Here He shows us how to do the thing that we know about. He shows us where the power is.

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

What is the word in here that shows us where the power comes from? Love. Another translation has it, “If ye love me, you will keep My commandments.” Isn't that right? Love finds joy in obedience. Love delights to serve. Love delights to do the thing that is wanted.

I was reading about a soldier who was on duty. His commander had left the post and had left him there to guard the headquarters. So he was pacing back and forth in front of the headquarters office, and he got to thinking about it. He thought, you know, the commander would be back by and by and it would be a wonderful thing to give him a special welcome. So he went on down the street a little ways and bought a nice present to give the commander as a welcoming present when he came back. But while he was gone, the commander came. And he wasn't where? Where he belonged. He wasn't on duty. Do you think he got a commendation? No. No.

There are people today in the religious world that say they are doing something to honor Christ that Jesus never told them to do, and are forgetting to do what He did tell them. Which day did Jesus tell us to keep as the Sabbath? The seventh day. Did He say anything about keeping any other day? No. No. But millions in the religious world today honor Sunday, they say, to honor Christ and His resurrection. They are doing something that He didn't tell them to do instead of what

He did tell them to do. There is nothing that can bring greater honor to Jesus than just doing what He says. Is that right? Yes.

“If ye love me,...”

Do what?

“...keep my commandments”

Turn please to 1 Chronicles the twelfth chapter and the thirty-second verse. Here is an interesting text hidden way back here in the records of the old kings of Israel. This is the time when they were making David king. This twelfth chapter tells about the different tribes that came to make David king. But when we get down to the thirty-second verse, it tells something interesting about the tribe of Issachar.

“And of the children of Issachar, *which were men* that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do” 1 Chronicles 12:32.

Here these men of Issachar, especially singled out that they knew what? They knew what to do. They knew what to do.

Now you notice it says why they knew what to do. They had understanding of what? Of the times. Does it make any difference? Oh yes. Suppose I wake up and it is dark. I think, “Well, let’s see. Shall I get up? Or shall I turn over and go to sleep?” I have been a sleep now several hours. I don’t know how long. So I lie there. How can I find out what I ought to do? See what time it is. I look at my watch and it is two o’clock in the morning. What do I do? Why, I just turn over and go to sleep. Am I doing the right thing? Yes. According to the time.

But suppose I look at that clock and it is time to get up. Then what do I do? I hope I get up. Don’t you? Yes. What is it that helps me to know what to do? The watch. The clock. The men of Issachar knew what to do because they had understanding of the times.

The same with a calendar. Suppose I wake up and I rub my head and I think, “Well what day is this anyway?” And finally it dawns on me what day it is. It is the seventh day of the week. Does that have any bearing on what I do? Oh yes. It has a bearing on what clothes I put on when I get up. Doesn’t it? And a lot of things all day long.

Knowing the time affects knowing what to do. The hour of the day. The day of the week. So we need to have understanding of the time. Now we are living in the great prophetic day of atonement. You are familiar with that aren’t you? Yes. Daniel 8:14. The wonderful number told to Daniel.

“And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed”
Daniel 8:14.

Turn to Leviticus the twenty-third chapter. I want you to see what God intends His people to be doing on the Day of Atonement. The day of judgment. The day of the cleansing of the sanctuary. This is not an ordinary day. This is not an ordinary time. This is a special day. A special time. There are special duties for us as there were for the people back there.

You know as we have been studying in our Friday night services, and I enjoyed so much what our brother said a little while ago about the blessings he was getting there, I am getting a wonderful blessing too friends. It is a great blessing to look into the sanctuary because this one that God made on earth of which we have the miniature model is simply a copy of the one in heaven where all the universe is focused right now. If we were to travel to some of the worlds this morning, we would find that they have there, shall I say, TV beamed in on the heavenly temple there. They are beholding what is going on there. And it is all for us.

Now God had this copy made down here in this world so that you and I especially in this last generation could study it, and by seeing what the priests did on the Day of Atonement, we would know what our Priest is doing in heaven. And by seeing what the people did on the Day of Atonement, we would know what we are to be doing today.

What the priest did back there, Jesus is doing in heaven. What the people did while the priest was busy in the sanctuary, that you and I are to do today. I will refer to this more fully in one of the Friday night studies up there, but I just want to lift a thought out of it for our study here this morning.

“Also on the tenth *day* of this seventh month *there shall be* a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD. And ye shall do no work in that same day: for it *is* a day of atonement, to make an atonement for you before the LORD your God”
Leviticus 23:27-28.

Now notice. While the priest was in the most holy place, they were to come to the sanctuary. That is what convocation means. Convocation means a coming together. A calling together. And on that day the Jews came from all directions and gathered around the sanctuary. This is the most solemn day of the Jewish year. In fact today, even though the Jews are forgotten and neglected, many of their ancient customs and laws they still remember. They call it Yom Kippur. It comes in the fall. And even the Jews that keep their stores open every Sabbath, they close them when Yom Kippur comes. That is the day of judgment. This is THE day of the year.

But remember, we are in the true Yom Kippur. We are in the real day of atonement. Our High Priest is gone in before the mercy seat. And while He is there spending all His time in the work of judgment and blotting out sin, He wants us to gather at the sanctuary. He wants us to make what He is doing the great business of our lives.

Now in our Sabbath school lesson we had this thought—let us draw near. We are to draw near to the sanctuary. We are to behold what He is doing.

Now notice some other thoughts here. It says “ye shall do not work in that same day.” Why weren’t they to do any work in that day? There were other things more important.

Well somebody says, “I don’t see how we could go without work since 1844?” No. But that doesn’t mean that we are to dismiss this with a wave of the hand and say it has not meaning for us. Remember, this has more meaning for us then it did for them. That was typical. This is true. That was a copy. This is the reality.

You see, friends, the reason that God told them not to work on that day was He didn’t want any excuse for their not coming to the sanctuary. A man couldn’t say, “Well, you know, I would like to go to the sanctuary up there while the priest is in the most holy place, but really, I just got so much to do out on the farm. My business has to be looked after.” The Lord fixed that very easily. He said, We won’t have any work today.

Now, dear friends, down here the message is, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness.” Matthew 6:33. God intends that our work today, instead of interfering with out sharing with the Priest in this work of getting rid of sin, that our work should help us. It is possible, my dear friends, for us to be so in partnership with Jesus that our very work will help us to enter in to the judgment with Him.

When Jesus came down here as our example and grew up in Nazareth and lived there in that humble home, He spent much of His time in a shop. What kind of a shop was it? A carpenter shop. He worked with His what? His hands. Do you think that made Him unspiritual? Do you think that caused Him to loose His religion? No. He carried His religion into the work shop.

But I want to ask you something? Do you think He had time to pray? Do you think He had time to study the Scriptures? Why, the way in which He used the Scriptures when He went out to preach shows that He was familiar with them. The only time He had to learn them was while He was growing up there in Nazareth. He didn’t go to the schools of His time. That is what it says.

So, watch the point, while He worked and worked hard, He did not allow His daily work to keep Him from studying the Bible and prayer. Now do you know, friends, in some ways it is easier to just not work at all then it is to work and be temperate about it. Something like eating. I was talking to someone not long ago and he said, “Brother Frazee, I wish you would help me if you can. I have such a problem with overeating.”

Well we talked together, and we studied some things, and we prayed together. But you know a person who has a problem overeating, it would be easier sometimes to just say, “Alright, I don’t eat at this meal” then it would be to sit down and eat a moderate amount and stop. But friends, just because a thing is easy or

hard, that doesn't affect whether it is good for us or whether we should do it. "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye" what? Do them. John 13:17.

Shouldn't we be able to sit at the table and enjoy our food and then stop when we have had enough? Shouldn't we be able to enter in to our daily work in the home or in the shop, in the field or in the store, in the factory, or wherever and stop when it is enough? Shouldn't we? Ah yes. This is a part of the great lesson we need to learn especially in this day of atonement. Dear men and women, unless we learn it, we will be as Jesus warned us—overcharged with the cares of this life and that day will come upon us unaware. See Luke 21:34.

The answer, watch this point, the answer is not to work and work and work and work to heap up enough money that someday we will be able to take a long vacation and sit and study the Bible. No. That isn't it. In the first place the Devil will likely keep us busy chasing that rabbit a long time. The second place, even if we caught it, and even if we had all the money we could ever spend, and even if we should decide now to just lay off, take time, study the Bible and pray, just sitting around doing nothing but studying the Bible and praying, friends, would make us lazy and that wouldn't get us ready for heaven.

God wants us to be earnest and active, but He wants us to be temperate. He wants us to take time every day to study His Word and prayer. This is part of the partnership.

Now go back here to Leviticus 23:27 and I want to notice another expression there.

"Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD" Leviticus 23:27.

Offer and offering. The offering back there was made in the form of lambs or bullocks, "an offering made by fire unto the Lord." We don't bring lambs and bullocks today. When we want to bring an offering to the Lord, in what form do we usually bring it? We bring it in this form. A part of the great work of the Day of Atonement, friends, is to learn to bring to God our offering. Not only our tithe, but our offerings. This is an important and vital and essential part of our stewardship and our partnership with God.

Now I would like to illustrate something here if I can. I need seven boys and girls up here. Will seven boys and girls come up here please? I want you to handle some money for me. I have ten one dollar bills here in my pocket. You can think of this as ten dollars or a hundred dollars or a thousand dollars.

Now here I am. I get ten dollars. What is the first thing that I ought to think about when I get this ten dollars? Tithe. How much is tithe? Ten percent. How much is ten percent of ten dollars? One dollar. Now I am going to let one child hold the tithe.

What else do you think I ought to think about? Offering. Alright. Well, I wonder how much of that I ought to set aside for offering? Remember I have got to buy groceries, or pay my rent, or make the payment on the house, or pay the taxes on the house, pay the light bill, maybe buy a pair of shoes. There is quite a number of things here that I have got to think about. But any rate, I have got the tithe paid.

Suppose we try out one dollar for offering and see how we come out. I am going to let one child hold one dollar for the offering.

Now let's see. What do you folks think? Do you think it is a good thing for folks to save money? Yes. You can read that in the Bible. It says to go to the ant and consider her ways and be wise. What does the ant do? Saves up in the summertime. What for? For a rainy day. That is right. I am going to let one child hold one dollar for savings. That is going to come in handy one day if we have something saved up and some emergency comes along. That is right.

Now I wonder how much of this money it is going to take to feed us. I am going to say it is going to take three dollars. If any of you think that is high you can cut it down, but I am going to say three dollars. I am going to let this child handle the money for groceries.

Now we are going to have to have some money for the house, to rent if we are paying rent, for the expenses of the house if we own. I am going to allow twenty percent. I am going to give twenty percent to this child and that is to take care of the house.

Now how much have I got left? Not very much have I? I wonder, I have got to take care of the automobile, and I have got to take care of clothes, and this and that miscellaneous. I am going to let one child hold a dollar for the automobile, and another a dollar for clothes, and all the rest of the things that didn't get thought about.

Now it is all gone. Now you might raise or lower one a little here or there, but I want to ask you something, friends, can you get any more than ten dollars out of ten dollars? No. The only way you can get any more to these girls or boys is to give less to what? To one of the others.

You know, a lot of people haven't found that out. A banker was telling me that a man came in, a man that he knew and that knew the banker, and he talked with that banker and tried to get the banker to loan him some money. The banker sat down with him and went over his finances and it came out that he was already spending in payments everything that his monthly check was. And yet he still wanted to borrow some more money.

Well, here is a little lesson in economics. Now I want to show you something else that is interesting. Here is another ten dollars. This time, instead of ten dollars, you see, we have twenty dollars. So this time we have twenty dollars to work with instead of ten. In other words, my wages have been raised. They have been doubled.

Now let's see what I do. And remember, you can make these ten dollar bills or hundred dollar bills. What is the first thing I do with my twenty dollars now? Pay the tithe. Alright.

What shall we do about the offering? We have twice as much now. Do you think we ought to give twice as much offering? I want to ask you something, friends, do you think we usually do? Do we usually give twice as much offerings when we get twice as much money?

What about savings? Do you think we still ought to save ten percent? Or because we have more money do you think we ought to save less? It ought to be easier to save a little more. Shouldn't it? That is right. And if we can save a dollar out of ten, we certainly ought to be able to save two out of twenty. Do you agree with me? Alright. There goes the savings.

Now let's see. What about groceries? Shall I eat twice as much as I did yesterday? If I spent three dollars on food out of ten dollars, shall I pay six dollars for food out of twenty? Unless I was really undernourished and not getting enough, do I really need any more just because my salary got doubled? No.

Now let's see. If my salary doubles, do you think I ought to move into a house that costs twice as much? If I was living in a decent house. Well, there is two more dollars we can save. They are extra. We are going to see what to do with those pretty soon.

Let's see. Do you think I need an automobile that costs twice as much just because I got a raise in salary? What do you think? If the car that I was getting along with on the ten dollars, if that was taking me where I needed to go, just because I got a raise shall I blow myself for a big fancy car that costs a lot of money? Well I could. But we will remember that it is the Day of Atonement. We are in partnership with God. He is spending His blood, He has asked for our life. Our money. So we are going to put that in extra over here.

What about clothes? Can any of us wear more than one suit of clothes at once? Now if the first amount of money that we had for clothes was enough, of course if it wasn't and we get a raise maybe that will help us a little, but after a man gets a new suit of clothes or new shoes, that is all he can wear isn't it until he wears them out? I am going to just think we were getting enough before so we are going to put this in extra.

Now how much do we have in extra? Seven dollars. And is our tithe all paid? And we are giving twice as much offerings as we did before? And we have twice as much savings? And we have just as much to eat as we did before? Just as much for the house and clothes? And still we have seven dollars extra.

I wonder what the Lord ever intended to give us all that extra for? Well, my dear friends, I think there is several things. I believe that one of the greatest lessons that you and I can learn this morning is that if we will honestly and deliberately and intelligently and sincerely go into partnership with God, there are wonderful things that He wants to do in pouring money into our hands so that we can help the poor

and needy, so that we can help spread this message, so that we can help finish the work so Jesus can come.

Believe me, friends, this is the path of blessing. Turn to Deuteronomy the fifteenth chapter and the tenth verse. Deuteronomy 15:10. This is talking about helping the poor and needy. And if you don't know anybody that is poor and needy that you could help, let me know, and I will see to it that you get a chance to help somebody that really needs it.

“Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto. For the poor shall never cease out of the land” Deuteronomy 15:10-11.

That is one of the great things that God wants us to bless us for is so that we can help the poor and needy. I am so glad you have this Dorcas and welfare work going on over here. But besides that each of us personally can be reaching out to help others. We can give more in Sabbath school, we can give more in ingathering, we can give to help in finishing the work they are doing here, and this Bible prophecy offering we had this morning. I could go on with a long list of these things.

God will open up before us one avenue after the other. And friends, if you and I will simply seriously go into partnership with God, as God keeps increasing our income, let's be sure that we don't spend more and more on food, more and more on houses, more and more on automobiles, more on more on clothes.

Let's have good clothes for ourselves and our family. Let's have proper transportation, a decent place to live, proper food, but we don't have to keep up with the Jones, do we? No. That surplus that God keeps adding day by day and week by week, God intends that the great bulk of that shall flow into channels of benevolence, helping the needy ones, and helping God finish His work.

Do you agree with me? Friends, let us live it out.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them”
John 13:17.

Now let us think of it nothing merely with money. Money, as you know, friends, is something easy to see. It is tangible. Let's think of it with our time, our strength, our health. Do we have better health than we did a year ago? If so, we are in debt to God to use it. If we were managing to get along a year ago, and yet, we have better health now then we have more strength to use in service for Him. Not just for ourselves, but for others, and so with our thoughts

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W.D. Frazee Sermons
PO Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org