

Protection

#0596

Study given by W.D. Frazee—January 8, 1982

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” Luke 21:25.

Have you seen any distress of nations? Have you heard any of it? Perplexity is like an animal caught. He runs here and there and finds no way out.

The Devil has quite a team to make heart attacks. Cholesterol is part of it. Nicotine is another one of the Devil’s work on it. But here it ways that men’s hearts are failing them for fear of those things that are coming on the earth.

Was there ever a generation that had the means so readily at hand to look at so much trouble? You can see it. It produces heart failure. I know that Jesus is speaking here of the mental and spiritual side, but it works on the physical as well. My point is, Jesus puts His finger on this generation as the one that is about to see something. The powers of heaven shall be shaken, and then they shall see the Son of man coming in the cloud with power and great glory.

Oh, what a glorious message of hope we have to present to a distraught world. Notice that Christ tells us where to look:

And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” Luke 21:28.

I hope everybody will have the joy of looking up. Not after the trouble is all over, but while the troubles are all around us. In the midst of trouble we are to sing the battle song, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (Psalms 46:1). God’s remnant are going to learn that song so thoroughly in their experience that they will sing it in the greatest time of trouble that the church as ever gone through, the time of Jacob’s trouble. And not one will wilt and fail in that crisis hour.

What do we see when we look up? We see through the open door of the most holy place in the sanctuary a Man who is our brother, who is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. His name shall be called Wonderful. He is not in Jerusalem or Nazareth or Bethany. He is there in the temple of God in heaven.

Have you seen Him. Are you looking there? That is our destiny. That is our great opportunity to look there and cause other people to look.

You can go down the street in Chattanooga and see a balloon that other people are missing. Pretty soon a number of passersby would stop and either look where you are looking or ask you. Ah, friends, this is the picture of the remnant church looking above us. Looking not at the hopeless conditions that breathe hopelessness, but looking where there is light and blessings.

Looking to Jesus we find acceptance in the beloved. Looking to Jesus we find strength. Thanks be to God which gives us the victory in our Lord Jesus Christ. Looking to Jesus we find guidance. He will instruct us and teach us.

There is another blessing we find in looking to Jesus. It is the blessing of protection. I need protection. Do you? People don't always treat me the way they ought to. I have been abused again and again. I have been lied about. Sometimes it hurts worse to have the truth told about me. But through all these experiences of being talked about and abused and mistreated, and not appreciated, Jesus has made all those things work together for my good.

I am not preaching a sermon. I am telling you from my heart. I wouldn't have missed it for anything in this world. I have been watching it for decades, and I know that all things work together for good to them that love God (Romans 8:28). And in my poor, weak way I do love Him.

Too many people have the idea that if a man is a Christian he ought to have an easy time. That is like saying that if a man is a soldier in the United States army that he ought to have an easy time. Soldiers don't have easy times in war time, do they? They are out on the battle front. They get shot at. A soldier who enlists is not expecting an easy time.

In God's army there are none drafted. All are volunteers. In fact, it is even a step further. You can leave any time you want to. What an army. How in the world would an army like that every fight a battle?

That's the army that is going to win at Armageddon. All are volunteers. All can leave any time they want to. But they wouldn't leave for all the money in the world, and they are not going to be scared out by all the fear in this world. They love Jesus. Love is a mighty conqueror.

Yes, my Lord is taking care of me. He is taking care of you if you let Him. The Psalmist sings:

"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" Psalms 76:10.

God is taking care of His church. He is taking care of His prophet. He is taking care of the gifts of the Spirit. We don't have to worry about that. I read an interesting statement some time ago:

“God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, page 453.

Someone was telling me about an article in the *National News* magazine which told about something that Sister White predicted. Thank the Lord. There will be at least a few people who would want to get that magazine and read it. I would. But thank God that by the means of reproach and contempt heaped upon the church or the Spirit of Prophecy, thousands and millions may be led to examine it and find the real pearl of great price.

But God is not interested only in masses of His people. He is interested in me and you. He would send every angel out of heaven rather than suffer me to be overcome. He is looking after me. Jesus told His followers:

“But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also” Matthew 5:39.

Then He went further to do what to our enemies? Roast them?

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you” Matthew 5:44.

He prayed on the cross, Father forgive them, for they know not what they do. Who are the hardest people to forgive? Your brethren. It is easier to forgive a cannibal or a heathen.

Did Jesus forgive Peter who denied Him? Was He mean to Judas who betrayed Him? And to us He says that we should do to others as He has done to us.

“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another” John 13:35.

But we will never be able to reproduce the life of Jesus by our human works. We are like that beautiful moon. Isn't it lovely? Don't you wish you could shine like that? Well, you can if you will just look at the sun. That's all it takes. The moon doesn't have one spark of light of its own. It is as dark as a lump of coal by itself. But it keeps looking at the sun, so it reflects back the light of the sun.

Jesus is our Son. The Bible calls Him the Son of Righteousness. He is the light of the world. And if we will look at Him instead of ourselves, we will reflect that love.

I got a letter from a man not long ago. He said, Brother Frazee, there are some things I don't understand. When I write him I am going to tell him that there

are a lot of things I don't understand too. But the things he doesn't understand is what his enemies do to him.

Can a man who has been abused and lied about find peace in his own heart, and can he find love toward those who have abused him? Yes, he can, provided he will look to where Jesus is. If he looks to himself he won't find it. If he looks to his enemy he won't find it. The more he dwells on himself the sorrier he will feel for himself. The more he looks at his enemies the madder and more irritated he will be. It works that way. But if he will look at Jesus, he will find someone who is real love.

As I have met people who are having problems of this kind I have tried to lead them to the question, Who is treated worse, you or Jesus? Jesus was treated worse than anybody has been treated. Then if He can be loving and kind and forgiving toward those who mistreated Him, if you and I will look to Him and reflect that kind of love we can be loving to those who treat us wrong.

There is something very interesting about the matter of being mistreated. Usually when we are going through it we imagine that we are having an unusual experience. The truth of the matter is that it is quite common. Everybody is in the same boat.

We are not only on the receiving side of this thing. We are on the giving side. That should humble us, shouldn't it? It should make us realize that we need to forgive not only because Jesus forgave us, but we might need to do what?

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen" Matthew 6:9-13.

We are to be forgiven as we forgive. I want everyone here tonight to be free and happy in the Lord. I want you to have a happy New Year. You can't if you cherish an unforgiving spirit. You can't if you wait until everybody treats you nice.

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" Ephesians 4:32.

Why are you to forgive others? Not because they are nice to you and say, I am so sorry that I misunderstood you. That is not the reason to forgive. The reason to forgive is that God has done what? Forgiven you. Not for your sake, but for Christ's sake. Don't forgive people because they do this or that or the other thing. Do it for Christ's sake.

There is a wonderful lesson on this. Philemon was one of Paul's converts. Paul wrote him a letter from a dungeon in Rome, and sent it by a man whose name was Onesimus.

Onesimus was a runaway slave. Do you know whose slave he was? Philemon's. In those days slaves had a hard time unless they had a good master. If they ran away they might really have a hard time if they were recovered. But Onesimus had run away, and Paul had won his soul to Christ. What did Paul do? He sent him back to his master.

I think that Paul helped Onesimus to see that was the thing to do. I don't know whether Paul let him read the letter or not. If he did, I don't think he would mind going back. But Paul wrote to Philemon and said, I want to ask a favor. I want you to receive Onesimus as you would receive me. And if there is anything he owes you, put it on my account, and I am writing with my own hand that I will repay it.

"If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself. If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account; I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides" Philemon 1:17-19.

Remember Philemon, you owe me your whole life. Philemon was Paul's convert too. I think that Onesimus got along all right, don't you?

Why do you suppose that is in the Bible? Paul and Onesimus and Philemon have all been dead for centuries. But Jesus is saying to you concerning anybody that has wronged you, or you think that has wronged you, receive that man or that woman who has wronged you as Myself. I will repay it.

And then He adds, Remember, you owe Me something yourself.

Put it on the account. How will it balance up? How does what anyone has done measure up to the pain and sorrow that we have brought to Jesus? Which do you think owes the most, the one who has wronged us or what we owe the Lord. You would all agree that we owe the Lord more.

Jesus says, Put it on My account. Let's do it and leave it with Him. So many people are so anxious to take care of themselves and avenge themselves that they don't leave God much room to work.

I was reading about a man who, through an accident, had a hole in his stomach. A scientist got hold of him and used him as a guinea pig. They gave him various things to eat. Then they would look in through that hole, and they could examine and photograph what they saw.

They found out that when that man had periods of resentment or anger it affected the way the lining of his stomach worked and looked. He actually got an ulcer through a period of resentment.

The world has an expression, I wonder what is eating on you anyway. That's the point. It is eating on you. If someone has done something to you real or imaginary, and you let that eat on you, it will eat on you.

Why not give it to Jesus? Why not turn from looking to what others do and look to what Jesus has done for you? It is better scenery. You will have better digestion and circulation. Jesus has suffered far more for you than anybody who has ever mistreated you. Why could Jesus take it?

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” Psalms 34:7.

The morning that Elisha woke up, his servant looked out and said, Oh master, what are we going to do? There was a heathen army clear around that city trying to catch the prophet. Elisha wasn't worried, but his servant was worried. Elisha prayed that the Lord would open the young man's eyes.

What did he see. He saw that the mountains were full of chariots of horses and fire all around. There were thousands of angles guarding the prophet of God. God took care of His prophet.

God took care of His Son too.

You say, “Why did He get hurt then?”

“The Father's presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us”
Mount of Blessing, page 71.

He knew that His Father wouldn't let one single hand strike Him unless there was in that some blessing. Would you be willing to be hit that God's name might get glory? Would you be willing to be spoken against that God's name might get glory and souls be blessed?

“He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Saviour who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ” *Ibid*.

The Devil wants to hit me, but that blow can never reach me unless it first reaches Jesus. That is the answer.

So if God allows it, I can accept it from Christ. This is why Jesus prayed to His Father:

“O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt” Matthew 26:39.

He chose to take the cup.

“Whatever comes to him comes from Christ.” Do you believe that? If you believe that it will give you rest and peace no matter what people say about you or do to you.

We can leave our reputation all to Jesus. We will do our best to represent Christ right, but Jesus said to rejoice and be exceedingly glad when you are reproached for righteousness sake. Let's learn the lesson. What do you say?

The remnant are going into a time of trouble similar to what Jesus endured as far as physical suffering is concerned. The mobs will soon be on their way. The courts of justice will be running us through. God help us to develop in our daily experience that peace and joy and forgiveness. And remember, you can't make yourself do it, but you can look where the light is.

We are moons, and moons reflect light. So instead of looking around us at trouble, we are going to do what? Look up. Who is up there? Jesus. Where is He? In the sanctuary. What is there? The ark. What is in the ark? God's law. And the basis of that law is love.

Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.

If we love it will be easy to forgive. Let's pray that God will bless us with that experience.

Blessed Lord, we have of ourselves nothing like what we have studied tonight, but we want it. We thank Thee that the more we look to Jesus the more His love is reflected in us. We thank Thee for the great privilege of looking away from ourselves to the One who gave His life for His enemies. Give us that deep, abiding love for His sake, Amen.

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