

True Medical Missionary

#0718

Study given by W.D. Frazee—December 24, 1954

We will all enjoy studying into the real meaning of the effort on the part of God to reach man, and reaching man, to bring him to God. The whole work of the Gospel is involved in this plan.

“And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” Luke 2:9-14.

The words I have read will be read many times this week. They are being echoed around the world. It is amazing to me how much the vocabulary of the Bible can be used with so little understanding by those who read or those who hear. The world is full at this season of the syllables that make up this story.

I have been reading the words of the angels. The night Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the brightest of the angel host came to tell men that the Son of God had become the Son of man. Humble shepherd's were the one's chosen by heaven to receive this glad announcement and herald it to others.

What was the message the angels brought? “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men.” Satan had been trying to separate men from God by picturing God as not interested in the happiness of man, but rather cold and austere and stern. But Jesus came to reveal the Father's character and to bring the Father's message of comfort, of peace, of reconciliation, and of love.

I will not spend this hour dealing with the historical incidents of that night in Bethlehem. I trust we are all familiar with them. I would like to press on to the purpose of Christ's mission; why Christ took this trip from heaven to earth, and how He went about carrying about that mission. It is evident He came here as an ambassador of good will. He came to show men God loves them. He came to reveal how heaven thinks about earth. He came as the Prince of Peace. He came to live here on earth the life of heaven, and to demonstrate the principles of heaven. He came to show that God's will for man was a will of joy and happiness.

I love to think of how He went about that. We are given a picture of it in prophecy. Jesus applied this to His own work and mission:

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me; because the LORD hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness” Isaiah 61:1-3.

Jesus said He had come to give men life and light, joy and peace. How did He do that? We sum it up in saying He engaged in medical missionary work. That is a broad comprehensive term. Medical missionary work, as outlined in the Bible and magnified in the Spirit of Prophecy, means helping people in whatever way they need help. I like the way it is put in this beautiful book, *Ministry of Healing*, which is a textbook not merely on how to be well, but how to do medical missionary work.

“To reach the people, wherever they are, and whatever their position or condition, and to help them in every way possible,—this is true ministry” *Ministry of Healing*, page 156.

That is what Jesus did. His effort was to reach the people and help them in every way possible. I say reverently, even God cannot help people unless He can reach them. So we certainly will not be successful in any effort to help people unless we reach them.

That is why Jesus came as He did and where He did. He was making a supreme effort to reach men. In that dream that was given to Jacob as he lay out on the cold ground at Bethel he saw a ladder. The top of it reached to heaven. Where was the lower end? On earth. Right down where Jacob was. We are told that ladder represents Jesus on whom the angels of God ascend and descend (John 1:51). If that ladder had failed by one single rung of reaching earth, all of us would have been lost.

It is a wonderful thing that Christ is perfect. It is a wonderful thing that Christ is the Son of God. We can rejoice that He took our humanity. That is the story of Bethlehem. The One that is cradled there in the manger is the Son of God. He is also the Son of man. He has come where we are. What for? He has come to get us.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us”
John 1:14.

He came to live with us. He pitched His tent by the tents of men. He came to reveal to us God. He came where we were in our lost condition. He came as the

Shepherd after the lost sheep. He didn't only count the sheep and find one missing. He didn't send out word in the neighborhood that a reward is offered for anyone finding a lost sheep and bringing it back. No. He, the Shepherd, left the ninety and nine in the fold and went out into the wilderness, into the mountains. The measure of His journey is the measure of our wanderings. There is no limit. Wherever we are, that is where He has come.

The more we study the law of God and see our sinful condition, the clearer views we shall have of the great journey that Jesus took to accomplish our redemption. Don't misunderstand me. He did not partake of our sins.

“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;
that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”
2 Corinthians 5:21.

In a way which will always remain a mystery, He partook of our flesh without being made impure. He, the sinless one, Holy, harmless, and undefiled, came into our humanity. The Son of God became the Son of man. He identified Himself with us that there might be an answer to the question of how far God would go in an effort to save man.

The answer is, His love knows no limits. He comes where we are. And if it were possible to conceive of a greater need than we have, He would have filled that need. If it were possible to picture greater sin than we had indulged in, His love would have met that need. An infinite love was poured out in infinite measure that we might be saved.

We have a wonderful lesson in the method Jesus used to make that practical for men. He was not content to merely preach and tell men God loved them. His loving heart could be satisfied only with the endeavor to show them. He came not only to preach but to heal; not only to tell but to bind up and deliver. As we often like to say, He spent more time in healing than He did in preaching. The purpose of that was to reveal God's love to man.

He sought out the most difficult cases, the most unlikely and impossible cases. He sought them out that He might end them and show how much God can do through love.

I would like to have us picture this experience of Jesus, as God, reaching down to man. That is love reaching down. God wants us to do the same. The great purpose of medical missionary work is to reveal the love of God that men may see today just what they saw nineteen hundred years ago in the life and ministry of Jesus. If that is so, you can see what a contradiction of terms medical missionary work becomes when it is in any sense made mercenary; when it becomes a means of keeping people from the spirit of sacrifice instead of bringing into their lives the spirit of sacrifice.

When what is called medical missionary work becomes prostituting to the wealth of individuals so it becomes simply a process for piling up vast fortunes, God is dishonored. The servant of the Lord says when that is done it should not be called

medical missionary work. It may have to do with health, but it does not have to do with the revelation of God's love.

I trust that every one of us here, physicians, nurses, workers in any line, will be so thoroughly boiled in these principles that they can never be lost in our lives, that we shall realize the blood has been sprinkled upon us, and that we are consecrated to a high and holy calling—the revelation of that love.

I trust that we would no more sell out for so much a week or so much an hour than we could imagine Jesus doing; that we would no more sell our talents to the world than we could imagine Jesus doing. The great purpose of medical missionary work is to reveal the love of God. God wants everybody to have a part in that. The Lord's messenger tells us that we have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work.

The book of Isaiah which tells of Jesus as a medical missionary also tells of God's Sabbath-keeping people in this remnant of time being medical missionaries. The Sabbath reform and genuine medical missionary work are linked together. Let's remember that the great purpose of every approach to the sick is to reveal the love of God. That is why God arranges for us to do something for them.

Do you like to do things for people? I would like to make this very practical. It is an interesting thing that when Jesus' mother came to Bethlehem just before the birth of our Lord, there wasn't any room for her or Joseph. People were too busy.

I am told by those who have to do with nursing that in the world, and even in the church, it is a difficult thing to find people to actually nurse. There are people who are willing to give orders and take positions and assume degrees and draw salaries as administrators. But to find people that will actually get to the bedside of the sick and do something for the sick man or sick woman is a difficult thing.

There are people who will do it for money. Yes. You can even find people who will go into the sewers of our big cities for money. There are people who will sweep out the gutters for money. There are a lot of disagreeable things people will do for money.

But to actually minister to the sick for love's sake, to seek out the needy and the weak and the fallen, the filthy and the hungry, the miserable and dejected, and minister to them in Jesus' name for love's sake is a rare thing in this twentieth century.

Everyone here has been called to such a spirit, to such a ministry. The details of our service will vary according to our experience and opportunity. But I trust none of us will ever be limited because of a lack of love or willingness. I trust that in no heart will be the thought, Well, I could be a medical missionary, but the parts I want to engage in are the parts that do not make it necessary for me to get around somebody who is sick or dirty or somebody who makes me uncomfortable.

I want the love of Jesus. Don't you friends? And when we get this love in our hearts, instead of it being hard to find people to minister to the sick, it will be hard to

find people to do some of the other things that are a necessary part, yet does not bring us into close contact with actual needs. I say again, it is because the great object of medical missionary is to reveal the love from God to man that God purposely arranges a program which brings us in contact with the sick and needy. Human ingenuity seeks to bypass that, to make as little contact as possible. There are all kinds of machinery. The great value of the drug system is the fact that it gets results quickly with very little contact between the nurse and the patient.

Suppose here is a patient who is restless and needs to go to sleep. How will you put that patient to sleep? With hydrotherapy and prayer, or with a drug? Which will do it quicker?

You know which will do it quicker, don't you? Yes. We think we had better use that because we are short on help. Time is valuable. We think we need that time to do some other things. We might even think we need it to give Bible studies.

May I tell you that one of the greatest reasons God gave us hydrotherapy is because it does take time. It is no accident. It is nothing to moan over or deplore. He rejoices as His servants are brought in contact with the sick, and brought in contact with them long enough that Christ's life and love shall flow through the human agent to the one who needs that life and love.

It is not alone in the experience we choose to call miraculous in the anointing of the sick and laying on of hands in that special service spoken of in James. God wants every nurse, every medical missionary, as His agent through whom the healing power of love shall flow. I am not talking about some strange mystical occult power. I am talking about the plain promises of God as given in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Read it in the chapter in *Ministry of Healing* on *Prayer for the Sick*. Read it in the chapter on *Mind Cure*. God has made it very plain that He wants to use you and me. Let me read one beautiful statement:

“In all your work remember that you are bound up with Christ, a part of the great plan of redemption. The love of Christ, in a healing, life-giving current, is to flow through your life” *Ministry of Healing*, page 156.

Isn't that nice? Dear ones, I trust we shall thank God for every opportunity to come in contact with men and women. The closer we can get to them the better. That is one of the great reasons why God has told us that as far as possible in medical missionary work men should work for men and women for women. That is the reason. There is to be a coming close physically, mentally, and spiritually; a blending of mind with mind and heart with heart.

I thank God for this beautiful program of medical missionary work in which the human agent becomes the link between the visible and the invisible; in which the human agent becomes the channel through which the love of God coming from the skies is poured out to some hungry, thirsty soul in this world. Haven't we a glorious privilege friends? We need to be skillful in being those channels.

“All gospel workers should know how to give the simple treatments that do so much to relieve pain and remove disease” *Ministry of Healing*, page 146.

Not just the doctors. Not just the nurses. Everybody. The preachers, teachers, stenographers, cooks, housewives, farmers, colporteurs. All of us should know how to give those simple treatments.

Do you know how to give them? If you don't, there is a chance to learn. If you do know how, let's keep in practice. And what is the purpose of it? It isn't just to bring the blood to the surface with a fomentation, or take some of the load off the heart with a cold mitten friction, or relieve some congestion with a hot foot bath. The great purpose is to reveal the love of God. And what a contradiction of terms it is to give a treatment with an atmosphere different from love.

If I am giving a treatment because in a professional way I have to, or if I am doing it with my mind on something else, and I want to hurry and get through so I can go and do what I want to do, the patient might be better off if I would skip it. Remember, the great purpose of every treatment and every contact is that the love of God shall be revealed. A wonderful privilege. I am going to read something I think a great deal of. This is inspiration speaking. It is a beautiful paragraph. Listen:

“The Great Physician co-operates with every effort made to suffering humanity to give life to the body and life and restoration to the soul. And why is this? Satan came into our world and led men into temptation. With sin came sickness and suffering, for we reap that which we sow. Satan afterwards caused men to charge upon God the suffering which is but the sure result of transgression of physical law. God is thus falsely accused and His character misrepresented. God is charged with doing that which Satan himself has done. God would have His people expose this falsehood of the enemy. To them He has given the light of the gospel of health, and as His representatives, they are to give the light to others. As they work to relieve suffering humanity, they are to point out the origin of all suffering and direct the mind to Jesus, the great healer of both mind and body. His heart of sympathy goes out to all earth's sufferers, and with everyone who works for their relief He co-operates. As with His blessing health returns, the character of God will be vindicated, and the lie thrust back upon Satan, its originator” *Spaulding and Magan Collection*, page 127

Isn't that wonderful? What are we doing? We are carrying out that mission that Jesus came to Bethlehem and Nazareth and Capernaum and Jerusalem to accomplish. We are coming to reveal the love of God; to vindicate the character of God. We not only tell men, but show men that God loves them. We must do something for them in order to show that.

So instead of inventing methods of keeping us from the sick, instead of being interested in all the gadgets and paraphernalia and methods that keep us from the bedside of the suffering, let us follow the footsteps of Jesus. We will find His footsteps beside the sickbed.

Let's get there as much as we can, not only in the sanitarium but out in the homes of the people. Let us rejoice in every privilege we have to come where people are, for it is people who need our help.

That is only half the story. That ladder is intended to be traveled in both directions. That ladder Jacob saw had angels descending and ascending. That same Savior who came from the highest and stooped to the lowest has ascended to the highest. He came and took our humanity that He might carry with Him our humanity to the highest level. So we want to think of the work of Jesus as not only coming from God to man, but as coming from man to God. In that work He invites us to join Him. He wants us to cooperate with Him in this process. He wants us to unite with Him in reaching to the lowest and also to unite with Him in lifting the lowest to the highest.

What does that mean? It means God is seeking to bring man back into harmony with Himself. That means obedience to law. Just as I have shown how drugs interfere with this revelation of God's love, drugs most definitely interfere with this effort to teach obedience.

How? It started back there six thousand years ago. God put Adam and Eve in the garden, and gave them a program of obedience to law. He told them if they did not obey there would be certain results. He said they would die. But there was a radio broadcast that took place in the garden.

Just as many people love to gather and hear something about how they can do this and that and will not have to suffer, so Eve listened to the suggestion of the serpent that she could disobey and she would not die. God said she would die. Who did Eve believe? She believed the serpent. She ate what God said not to, and honestly believed she would escape the consequences.

From the forbidden tree today Satan presents mixed knowledge. He suggests that if men will only follow his counsel they will be able to eat what they please and not suffer for it; that they will be able to disobey and still escape the consequences. But mark the point. True medical missionary work exposes that falsehood of Satan.

The first falsehood of Satan is that God does not love you, and that He is responsible for this pain and suffering. That is a lie. The true medical missionary, in ministering in Jesus' name to relieve this suffering, gives the lie to Satan.

The true medical missionary exposes the second lie of the Devil that it does not make any difference whether you obey natural law or not. There is a way to be well and escape suffering. If you will just take this or that you can go ahead and eat as you please and live as you please. That is a lie. It will not work. All the efforts of Satan, and all his false remedial program can only give a temporary delusion on that subject.

Sooner or later, in this world or the world to come, the soul awakes to the fact it was all fiction; that no true relief or blessing came from that program. Where then lies healing? Jesus said to those He ministered to, Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come unto thee. Through Moses He gave the promise to Israel,

“And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that heals thee” Exodus 15:26.

This promise is wonderful. Do you see the difference between Satan's program and God's program? Satan promises men life in disobedience. God promises men life in obedience. God's program is obey and live; disobey and die. Satan's program is disobey and you will not die.

The true medical missionary cannot be content merely to do things for people. He must teach as well as heal. And those two are not to be separated:

“In the work of the gospel teaching and healing are never to be separated” *Medical Ministry*, page 141.

As we reveal the love of God we are to teach the law of God. As we teach the law of God we are to reveal the love of God. They belong together. They are two faces of one coin. They are two sides of the same thing—the character of God. I want you to think of that picture of Jesus coming down until He can stoop no lower. Why? That He may reach the lowest. What does He do? Does He say, I have come down here now and everything is all right? You are going to stay right here where you are?

Oh, no. He takes that poor, fallen, sad soul and points him to glory. He says, “Look. That is where I came from. If you will, I will take you there. Oh, can I go there? Yes. So I give Him my hand and He starts walking with me step by step up that ladder of obedience. Step by step He keeps lifting me up higher and higher until some day I shall share His throne with Him. Someday His perfect obedience shall be perfectly duplicated in my life.

Is that the program? Are we to teach that to the sick and suffering? Are we to encourage them to take a step in obedience?

Mark you, it is a series of steps, and God pity us if we try to make people jump from here to there. Even a kangaroo couldn't do it. No. We do wrong to God and the sinner and the sick when we expect them to make it all in one leap. I don't know anybody who does, but I think sometimes we may expect them to take several steps in one leap when all they can take is one at a time.

After three and a half years with the best selected men He could find, Jesus said He had many things to say to them but they could not bear them then. Well, we

might say, Lord, lay it on. Tell them. They ought to hear it whether they can bear it or not.

No. Why? It is love again. Love that stooped so low to save us is patient with us and leads us along a step at a time. The whole object is to bring us back into full harmony with God.

All Gospel workers should know how to give simple treatments and reveal God's love. Now let's see how many of us should be in this teaching business:

“Every gospel worker should feel that the giving of instruction in the principles of healthful living, is a part of his appointed work” *Ministry of Healing*, page 147.

Isn't that wonderful? You are to be a teacher of healthful living. The physician is to be a teacher. His greatest work isn't surgery. It is teaching obedience. The nurse is to be a teacher of healthful living. The colporteur is to be a teacher of healthful living. The cook, housewife, dietitian, stenographer, farmer, everybody. We are all to be teachers of healthful living.

If you know more than some others, fine. Teach more. But all a teacher needs to know is something that somebody needs. Teach them that. None of us know it all.

I am amazed with the new material they keep bringing out on diet and health and all phases of nutrition and physiology. It would make you think that ten years ago people didn't know anything. They have found out so many new things lately. It encourages me. If time should last another ten years, they would find out so many new things it would make much they teach now look antique.

But I have good news. If you and I will take this book, *Ministry of Healing*, and teach what is in it, we will never need to apologize for what we have taught going out of date. It contains the wisdom of the Great Physician. Now I am going to read an interesting sentence:

“Everywhere there is a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort” *Ibid*.

Could there be that tendency here? It doesn't say everyplace will yield to the tendency, but it says there is that tendency everywhere. There is on this subject. That is what it is discussing. Everywhere there is a tendency to have organizations doing what God intended individuals to do.

They have made a slogan, Let the Salvation Army do it. They have these iron pots down there, and the idea is that if you will throw a quarter or a dollar in, the Salvation Army will take care of your Christmas charities. Then you can go on and not worry about finding anyone that is poor or sick or discouraged.

I think it is a lot better to give something to the Salvation Army than do nothing, don't you? But friends, I would hate to have all those people get all this describes:

“Multitudes leave to institutions and organizations 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 men dies out of the soul.

“Christ commits to His followers an individual work,—a work that cannot be done by proxy” *Ibid*.

What is proxy? Oh, I belong to certain legal corporations. When time comes for a meeting and I can't go, I write out a proxy and say that so and so will represent me at the meeting. That person votes for me, and anything I am supposed to do there that person does. That's all right in a legal corporation meeting, but it will not work on this. It says it won't.

“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 see 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” *Ibid*, pages 147,148.

As we review the story of Bethlehem and hear again the angel's song, Peace on earth, good will toward men, let us not think merely of some lovely Christmas story. Oh, let us think of the great objective of it all—the revelation of God's love to men that men might be brought to God. And let us rejoice that the Savior did not keep to Himself that wonderful mission. He has invited you to share with Him.

Today He is going to have a group that follow Him whethersoever He goeth. They will go to the lowest and lift to the highest. Therefore they will learn the love of God in its fullness, and they will learn the law of God in its completeness. They will know the whole scale. From the lowest base to the highest treble they will be able to sing.

What a wonderful privilege we have of entering into fellowship with God in this medical missionary program. That is why God has made us medical missionaries. It is in fellowship with Christ that we shall learn the beauty of His character and the sweetness of His life, and thus we may share through eternal ages the joy of our Lord.

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