

# My Father's Business

Sermon #0941

Study by W. D. Frazee—November 9, 1963

You will remember that when Jesus was only twelve years old, in answering a question that His mother asked Him, He gave reference to the great motto that guided His whole life. It is found in the second chapter of Luke, and the forty-ninth verse.

“Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”  
Luke 2:49.

He had just one errand in the world, just one mission, and that was His Father's business.

That thought is echoed again in the words that He gave to His disciples there at the well of Sychar. You remember that He was hungry and thirsty, the disciples went into the village to buy food, He rested. The woman came. He asked for a drink. He never got the drink, but He got the soul. That satisfied His soul more than food or water. And so when the disciples came back and found Him, urged Him to eat, He said:

“But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him *ought* to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work” John 4:32-34.

He hadn't lost any of the vision He had when He was twelve years old.

Now I would like to study with you a little while tonight the great privilege that God has given us of really finishing the work. Jesus finished His part of it, that is the part that He was to do in the flesh. But when Christ left, He said, “As *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” John 20:21.

We have a work to finish just as He had a work to finish. When it is finished, He is going to come and get us and take us home. Do you suppose that He would like to have it finished? Yes. I keep reminding myself that it is a hundred and nineteen years ago since He went into the most holy place with the one objective of really finishing things. He is going to. He is waiting for us that we may enter in.

In the twelfth chapter of Hebrews, verses 1 and 2, Paul, after bringing before us the great gallery of illustrious men and women who in ages gone by have fought the battle and won the victory, says:

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1.

There is a time to stop. There is a time to walk. I think it is time to run. What do you say? Of course, in order to run effectively we need to do what he suggests here and that is lay aside everything that would hinder us.

You have probably heard the story many times of the experience from which this illustration is taken. Some of the Greek runners in practicing for those great athletic events would fasten weights of various kinds to their feet and weights. They would practice with weights strapped on. Just imagine running up and down these roads, over these trails with weights strapped on.

But when it came time for the actual race, did they keep those weights on? No. What did they do? They put them aside. How many? Every one. And my, how they could run then. With the weights all gone they just seemed to fly over the ground. That is the way this work is going to be finished, friends. This work is going to be finished by people that have laid aside every weight. Like Jesus, they are here for just one thing, that is to finish the work.

Everybody here tonight has probably moved some steps in that direction. If there is anybody that hasn't, will you not take some steps in that direction tonight? Will you not move in the direction of laying aside anything and everything that would hinder you in the finishing of the work?

But my great appeal is to those who have already made some steps in this direction. I really believe in my soul, friends, I say this thoughtfully, quietly, candidly, I really believe that there is an impetus that we can give to this work that we have not yet given. I believe that there are weights that we can lay aside. I believe that there are hindrances that we can get out of the way.

There are the hindrances of sin, but that isn't all. Paul speaks here “let us lay aside every weight, *and* the sin which doth so easily beset us.” *Ibid*. There are things that are not necessarily sins that weight us down and hold us back.

I was quite impressed with something somebody was telling me that in the United States Navy, ordinarily in peacetime you visit a battleship and you may see sailors out there scrubbing and polishing the brass railing around the deck. They make it shine. But the moment war is declared and that message goes out over the air to every

commander, one of the first thing that happens, what do you suppose it is? They take that brass railing, that beautiful brass railing which sailors have spent in the aggregate thousands of hours polishing and keeping brilliant, and throw it overboard in the water.

What is the matter? War is on. We haven't time to polish rails now. There is just one thing that a battleship is for in times of war and that is to fight. Right? I think if Paul were here tonight, he might say, Let us lay aside the brass railing.

Now the Spirit of God will have to interpret that to each one of us because the things that some of us will need the most help on tonight are things that only the Spirit can speak to us about. It is the preacher's business to speak against sin, but it isn't the preacher's business to go down the line into the intricacies of personal life and say just when you are to leave off some expenditure and put that money in the week of sacrifice offering or the harvest ingathering donation, or the Sabbath school, or to help build a school or a sanitarium. The preacher can't tell you that.

If you have been stealing, the preacher can tell you that it is time to quit stealing right now. If you have been swearing, the preacher can say, Right now make up your mind. Never again. But what we are studying tonight is not giving up the bad things so we can be saved, it is giving up a lot of good things so others can be saved, so the work can get finished.

Now if I were about to raise some money for some good project, this would be a good introduction. But I am not going to raise any money tonight? I trust God will raise a lot of things in our lives and raise them out of our lives, and that we will be happy in doing it. You know, if you were a sailor on that ship and you knew that when the war was declared that would be the last war that would ever be fought, and that you could go home and be with your loved ones forever, wouldn't it make you happy to hear that brass rail splash in the briny deep? Wouldn't it? You wouldn't shed a tear. Brass railings overboard, brethren, what do you say?

"Let us lay aside every weight" Hebrews 12:1

I was thinking about a little statement over here in the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 485. I don't think this is brass railing what I am about to read now. I think we want to give this up whether we are in peacetime or wartime.

"We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another" *Ministry of Healing*, page 485.

We were talking at table today that it is too bad to have feelings so that we are

sensitive like a person with skin so thin that if you touch him he bleeds. Now here is the cure. It isn't to get thick skin like an alligator. It is just to get interested in something else more. Do you know there have been soldiers in battle, officers and enlisted men both, their minds were so full of what they were there for that they got terribly wounded and yet went right on with the battle. After the battle was over, they found what was the matter with them. That has happened again and again.

It is going to happen in this last war. It is too bad to have to run to first aid when all we did was stub our toe. It takes a man out of the line, and it ties up an aid man that ought to be helping somebody that is mortally wounded. But anybody that has ever dealt with the sick and wounded knows that you can't tell from the size of the cry what the measure of the pain really is.

Wouldn't it be too bad to find a sailor somewhere down below in the ship lying there in the bunk just crying, somebody that is supposed to be manning a gun up on the ship, and we go over to him and say, "Lad, what is the matter?"

"Well the officer spoke to me rather rough and it just hurt me so bad I couldn't go on with my work."

Of course, that probably doesn't happen in the Navy. At least not more than once. But can it happen in the work of God, friends? What would you think of a sailor, who, when he was asked why he wasn't doing his duty, would say, "Well, I will tell you. It is so long since the officer has even come down and made a social visit with me that I don't know whether they want me or not."

Brethren, what are we here for on this campus? Is it just to have social visits with one another? Is that what we are here for? Somebody says, "Oh, I think we ought to have more social visits." I do too. If we will get our job done, we can have an eternity of it, friends. Yes, we can. In a safe and secure place.

But with bombs bursting, and cannon firing, and men dropping wounded and dying all around us, I say, friends, the purpose of social visiting is to get people into the kingdom of God. What do you say?

Now I know there is a time for recreation. I know that even in battle men can't endure the strain of battle twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. I understand that. But do you see what I am trying to get at, friends? What are we here for? What is it all about? Jesus says, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" John 4:34.

"Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"  
Luke 2:49.

“We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls” *Ministry of Healing*, page 485.

Do you know there are workers that could be kept busy all the time just going around helping somebody’s feelings? If enough people would keep me informed, they could keep me busy with that. If they would either call me up directly, or whisper the word to somebody else, Brother Frazee could be kept busy just dropping in to see people that are a little irritated, or a little disappointed, or a little unsettled, or a little dissatisfied, or think that somebody ought to call on them, or that they haven’t been treated quite right, or any one of a number of things.

Now if what I just said hit you, it probably wasn’t because I knew that you needed it personally. But if you needed what I have just said, don’t let any apology of mine keep you from the blessing. So I won’t make any apology. Oh friends, it is going to be a wonderful thing to be so close to Jesus in this closing work that there is just one thing we want and that is to get God’s work finished and make Him happy, and go home with Him. What do you say? Amen. Shall we do it?

“We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another” *Ibid*.

And let me say, dear friends, church officers, Sabbath-school teachers, home heads, anybody else that has human souls to do with, church elders, nine times out of ten the biggest help you can give somebody that is discouraged, disgruntled, dissatisfied, disappointed, is to help them get busy helping somebody else that needs help worse than they do. Let’s do it. What do you say?

Well, that is some of the weights to lay aside. And really, don’t you feel lighter already with that weight gone?

I was reading something here in volume eight that I want to share with you. It is one page 24. This is tremendous. Most of the illustrations of the servant of the Lord are taken from things that she saw in vision or experiences of life that she was acquainted with. But this is one of the few cases where she begins her illustration with “let us suppose.” She is using her imagination and she invites us to use our imagination. But it is quite a story she presents here. I want to read it to you. See if your imagination can catch it as she presents it.

“Let us suppose that a distant colony belonging to Great Britain is in great distress because of famine and threatened war. Multitudes are dying of starvation, and a powerful

enemy is gathering on the frontier, threatening to hasten the work of death. The government at home opens its stores; public charity pours forth; relief flows through many channels. A fleet is freighted with the precious means of life and is sent to the scene of suffering, accompanied by the prayers of those whose hearts are stirred to help. And for a time the fleet sails directly for its destination. But, having lost sight of land, the ardor of those entrusted with carrying food to the starving sufferers abates. Though engaged in a work that makes them collaborators with angels, they lose the good impressions with which they started forth. Through evil counselors, temptation enters. A group of islands lies in their course..." *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 8, page 24.

I want you to think about these islands.

"A group of islands lies in their course, and, though far short of their destination, they decide to call" *Ibid*, pages 24, 25.

Who is calling? Why this group of ships. Where are they supposed to be? On their way to this distant colony where the people are starving. What have they got in the ships? Food. Where did they get it? They got it from Great Britain, the home country. It was donated for that purpose. They have just one mission, that is to get there as quick as possible before some more people die.

But here are a group of islands and they decide to call. Somebody might have had a sore throat or a stubbed toe. I don't know why they decided to call, but at any rate:

"A group of islands lies in their course, and, though far short of their destination, they decide to call. The temptation that has already entered grows stronger. The selfish spirit of gain takes possession of their minds. Mercantile advantages present themselves" *Ibid*.

What does that mean? Why I suppose that means that somebody said, "Look here. Here is a chance to double your money in six months." And so wise head over there in one of the ships says, "Look here, we have got five thousand dollars worth of stuff on this ship, we can take it over there and in six months we will have ten thousand. We will be that much better off for the starving folks where we are going to."

"Those in charge of the fleet are prevailed on to remain on the islands. Their original purpose of mercy fades from their sight. They forget the starving people to whom they were

sent. The stores entrusted to them are used for their own benefit. The means of beneficence is diverted into channels of selfishness. They barter the means of life for selfish gain, and leave their fellow beings to die. The cries of the perishing ascend to heaven, and the Lord writes in His record the tale of robbery. Think of the horror of human beings dying because those placed in charge of the means of relief proved unfaithful to their trust. It is difficult for us to realize that man could be guilty of so terrible a sin. Yet I am instructed to say to you, my brother, my sister, that Christians are daily repeating this sin" *Ibid*.

Now I could stop right here, friends, and we would have enough to think about the rest of this Sabbath. Wouldn't we? I wonder where those islands are? Well, they are not at the north pole, friends, I can tell you that. They are some place more comfortable than that. There is something about these islands that I think we need to study.

You notice that the islands were on the way to the destination. Isn't that what it says?

"A group of islands lies in their course, and, though far short of their destination, they decide to call" *Ibid*.

Let's say they are half way. I don't know, it doesn't say just how much. But let's say they are half way. What good is it to get half way with that cargo of relief? My dear friends, it is worse than nothing. For if the materials were home in England, the government would do something about it. They would get some other people if those wouldn't do it. Wouldn't they? But here they are half way to the destination. They have got the stuff. The government at home supposes that they are on the road.

It doesn't say they were trading in whiskey, or bowling equipment, or racing horses. It was the materials that had been donated to succor the starving. Well, friends, I believe the Spirit of God would like to help us to think about it. I believe He would like to help us to think "Where are those islands, and where is my danger in settling down short of the destination?"

I don't think it is primarily geography that she is talking about in that illustration. Do you? No. I think it is what we do with the time, and the money, and the talents that God gives us every day. What do you say?

Do you know what self-supporting work is? There are a lot of things that are called self-supporting work. My understanding, of at least the thing that I would like to study about with you tonight, is this, that a man works for God full time just as earnestly

as though he had all the money that could possibly be needed. He does not let the making of money interfere with his mission. He believes that God has supplied and will supply whatever is necessary.

Now that is the basis on which Jesus called His disciples. Turn to Matthew the fourth chapter. What did Jesus say to Peter and John?

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left *their* nets, and followed him” Matthew 4:19-20.

It doesn't say they left their bowling allies, their race horses, their whiskey, their stills, or breweries. Why didn't they leave those? They weren't in that business. Is it all right for some people to have nets? Yes. There is nothing wrong with it, friends. But I want to tell you something. If you have been appointed to be in charge of a relief point with supplies, then it is too bad to stop and use what is in the boat to make money even if it is good legitimate business. You had better be on your way to where God has sent you.

But in this same Volume eight, page 148, I read:

“Not one in a hundred among us is doing anything beyond engaging in common, worldly enterprises” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 8, page 148.

She isn't talking about swindling. She isn't talking about selling tea and coffee and pork and rum and gin. Just common worldly enterprises. Not one in a hundred among us is doing anything beyond that. There are thousands of people that have the idea that religion means to be a good citizen, pay your taxes, come to church, pay your tithe, give offerings, have a decent home, help your neighbors.

Well you say, isn't that it? Yes, that is it, friends. But what we are studying tonight is all that *plus*. The disciples were good citizens and faithful supporters of the Jewish church. But Jesus said to them, Men, I have a special job for you. I want you to leave your nets and follow Me.

Now I want you to see how this bore on the question of wages, salary, remuneration. Call it what you will.

“When Christ called His disciples to follow Him, He offered them no flattering prospects in this life. He gave them no promise of gain or worldly honor, nor did they make any stipulation as to what they should receive” *Ministry of Healing*, page 479.

What does stipulation mean? Stipulation means, “Yes, I will do it provided you pay me thirty dollars a week.”

“To Matthew as he sat at the receipt of custom, the Saviour said, ‘Follow Me. And he left all, rose up, and followed Him.’ Luke 5:27, 28. Matthew did not, before rendering service, wait to demand a certain salary...” *Ibid.*

Didn't he know what he was going to get? No. He didn't know. He didn't:

“...wait to demand a certain salary equal to the amount received in his former occupation. Without question or hesitation he followed Jesus. It was enough for him that he was to be with the Saviour, that he might hear His words and unite with Him in His work” *Ibid*, page 480.

Did Matthew want to help Jesus? Why yes. And finally he wrote that Gospel that begins the New Testament. Thank God, Matthew heard the call and followed it. I don't know whether Matthew ever got to the place where he got a certain salary or not. Maybe he did or maybe he didn't. But he didn't at least during the first three years with Jesus, did he? No.

Now watch.

“So it was with the disciples previously called. When Jesus bade Peter and his companions follow Him, immediately they left their boats and nets. Some of these disciples had friends dependent on them for support” *Ibid.*

Some of them had what? Friends dependent upon them for support. Wives, children, other relatives, and these people were what? Dependent on them for support. What does dependent mean? It means that Peter and John, they had to think not only of themselves but what, of others. But now watch:

“But when they received the Saviour's invitation they did not hesitate and inquire, ‘How shall I live and sustain my family?’” *Ibid.*

Do you know that is the very first question with thousands of people today? Well you say, “Why, of course. Of course.” I say, “No. Not of course.” Of course, it all depends upon what a man’s call is. But these folks got a calling that day by the lake. Jesus said, Peter, John, Andrew, I want you to leave your boats and nets and what? Follow Me.

“When they received the Saviour's invitation they did not hesitate and inquire, ‘How shall I live and sustain my family?’ They were obedient to the call; and when afterward Jesus asked them, ‘When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye anything?’ they could answer, ‘Nothing.’” *Ibid.*

Do you know what the next word is? Today.

“Today the Saviour calls us...” *Ibid.*

Do you know what the next word is? As.

“Today the Saviour calls us, as He called Matthew and John and Peter, to His work” *Ibid.*

Tell me, friends, in the light of that, is it old-fashioned and out of date to study what we are studying tonight. Well, it is old-fashioned, but it isn’t out of date.

“Today the Saviour calls us, as He called Matthew and John and Peter, to His work” *Ibid.*

Say, folks, let’s get on to the dying. What do you say? Let us not be turned aside even once by the thought of what can be done in those islands if we can only get some of those stocks out of the ships and set up and go to what? Business. And if I were the Devil, I would tell those people in the ships how much good they can do with the money after they made it.

But tell me this, friends, what good is the money going to do if we ever get to the country where the people are starving? What good is that money going to do if all we find is carcasses strewn all over that country and we look upon the bodies of men, women, and children who could have been saved if we had gotten there on time? It is too late. The One who knows tells us that while some people are getting ready to do a great work, the opportunity to do a good work passes away. It will be a wonderful thing to have such fellowship with Jesus that we can see today’s opportunity. Won’t it? Yes.

Why you know when Jesus came down here to do this work, this work He has asked us to do, He spent thirty years getting ready but all the while He was doing what were are studying about. He was ministering. He was helping. He was blessing. And as we have seen when He was only twelve, He said, My business is to be about My Father's business. He never lost sight of that once.

When He started out in His work, He had no great equipment, no army, no vast organization, He got a few people together and He said, Come and help Me in this work. See what I am doing, help Me do it, and pretty soon I am going to send you out to do it.

Did it work? Yes. Will it work today? Yes it will. Let's do it! What do you say?

I read you a statement from Volume eight a few moments ago that not one in a hundred of us is doing anything except worldly enterprises.

“We have no time now to give our energies and talents to worldly enterprises. ... Let every talent be employed in the work of God” *Testimonies for the church*, Vol 9, page 104.

When I was a young man, the whole nation was thrilled by the flight of Colonel Lindburgh from New York to Paris. Some years later the whole world was shocked and saddened as his little boy was kidnaped. That dear man day after day would fly in that airplane hunting down this tip, that idea. He was taken advantage of, of course. It was a sad story. Some of you know about it. But, of course, he had various people helping him, trying to find that little boy.

Now suppose we go up to one of those men that has been commissioned by Colonel Lindburgh to help him find his boy. We see him working at a gas station. We say, “What are you doing here anyway?”

“Well, I am filling cars with gas as they come along.”

“Well, I thought I heard somebody say that Colonel Lindburgh had employed you to find his boy?”

“Yes, that is right. I work at it.”

“When do you do it?”

“Well, I put in a little time now and then as I can.”

“What in the world are you doing here?”

“Why, this is the way I make my living.”

“I thought you said that Colonel Lindburgh had employed you to find his boy?”

Now you can see, friends, there is something wrong somewhere, can't you? Either the fellow is double dealing, or else Colonel Lindburgh has run out of money. Is that right?

Now I want to know if our Heavenly Father has lost some children. Has He? And if He has called me as He called Peter and John to His work to go find those children, do you think He will have what it takes to keep me supplied with what I need? Right here is the fundamental question in this whole work. The question is whether we are going to do the work and trust God to supply the means, or whether our main concern is to take care of ourselves, and then if we have a little time or money that we can spare, use that to help God in His problems. There is the fundamental difference.

And lest I be misunderstood, let me repeat again what I said a while ago. Every man's call is not the same. There are at least three different kinds of calls in what we are studying about. There are some people that God has called to spend their time in what we call making a living and beginning good successful businessmen in what ever they are engaged in, and witnessing for Christ where they are from day to day, and using their extra time as they can to give Bible studies and let the light shine. Of course, they are to be witnesses for God twenty-four hours a day.

But there are some people that God has called to that. They are stewards of the time and the money that God puts in their hands. And if there is somebody here tonight that God has called in that direction, let nothing that I am saying worry you or disturb you. In fact, if God has called you, what I am saying won't disturb you.

But if you have called yourself to something what we are studying might disturb you. If you have gotten to one of those islands with a boat of provisions and you are using that on yourself and your family and to make gain, then you ought to be really stirred up over what we are studying tonight. Do you see? You need to know what God's call to you is.

Now there is another class of workers. There is some class of workers that God has called to be supported by the tithe and by the offerings of His church in home and foreign work. God has made that clear in the Bible and the Testimonies. Thank God we have thousands of missionaries at home and abroad that are devoting their time to giving the message in various ways. They know every month that they are going to get a paycheck. That is God's provision for them. That is fine.

But the difficulty is that those two classes are about the only classes that most people know anything about, or think anything about. And we suppose that if they are not in this second class, they must automatically be in the first class. In other words, if they have not been called by the organization to devote their full time to soul winning, then their first job is to spend their time in making a living, taking care of their families, and use what time and money they can spare to further the work.

But I say to you, my dear friends, there is third class. That is the way this work was started. James White, and Ellen White, and Joseph Bates, they had no organization that would guarantee them a salary. But neither did they settle down and

make a living, feather their nests first, build them a comfortable home, and secure the means of living decently, and then say, "When we get that done, then we are going to do this work."

Not so, friends. A fire burned in their bones. A spirit stirred their souls and they went out to give this message and they got this movement started. And God has called some people today to devote their lives to the finishing of this work along with those that are paid in the regular way by the organized work, working with them in cooperation, loyal, but devoting their lives on a self-supporting basis.

You say, "Well, how are they going to live?" Well, my dear friends, the business of a man that is called in the way we are studying tonight, his business is not to make a living. His business is to make a life, hundreds of lives. That is his business. It is God's business to see that he gets whatever it takes to keep going.

Somebody says, "That is all good. But you can't put it in the cash register." No, you can't. That is why some people don't see it. This is an experience of faith. I pray God that the comfortable homes around here and the measure of income we have, small though it might seem in comparison with some, I pray God that these comforts and conveniences and security we have shall not rob us of this wonderful experience God wants to give us of living by faith in His promises for soon, dear friends, this will all be swept away.

There will be no more buildings here, at least not in our hands. There will be no more money flowing in. The work of God in this world will be finished by ministers and laymen alike who are dependent alone on God for their food from day to day. And oh for hearts of faith that have learned by experience to depend upon Him.

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" Hebrews 12:1.

What do you say, friends? Amen. Do you know one of the heaviest things in this world? It is gold. Let's lay aside every weight. God will give us from day to day what we need, individually, and as a group.

Now I know there has to be sound business judgment. I could give a whole study on that. The references are right here. But that isn't what I am studying tonight. You can't study everything in one night anymore than you can have all the food in one meal, but oh, friends, I see a glorious opportunities opening before us.

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