

Where I Am

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 15,

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also” John 14:1-3.

I want to study three texts with you that breathe this longing desire of the Savior’s heart that we may be with Him. This is one of them. This was spoken, you remember, at the close of the last supper as they were still seated at the table. Just a few days before He had expressed a similar thought as recorded in John the twelfth chapter, and the twenty-six verse.

“If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be” John 12:26.

Where I am, there shall also My servant be. If we follow Him here, we shall follow Him there. If we share with Him here, we shall share with Him in glory.

“where I am, there shall also My servant be” John 12:26.

And again, turning to the seventeenth chapter of John, the twenty-fourth verse. As He knelt there on the threshold of Gethsemane, and there, in earnest tones, interceded with His Father for His church. The great longing of His heart was poured out in these words.

“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am” John 17:24.

Now in commenting on this we have these beautiful words from the Spirit of Prophecy as found now in volume five of the commentary, page 1148.

“O, how the divine Head longed to have His church with Him! They had fellowship with Him in His suffering and humiliation, and it is His highest joy to have them with Him to be partakers of His glory. Christ claims the privilege of having His church with Him. “I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am.” To have them with Him is according to covenant promise

and agreement with His Father” *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, Vol 5, page 1148.

You see, this is something that has been on His heart a long time. We were chosen before the foundation of the world. It was our Lord’s plan to repopulate heaven with the members of the human family, to fill the vacancies that Lucifer and those that had revolted with him had left. If Adam after and his descendants had been on trial and proven faithful, they could fill those vacancies. It would make the Father’s heart, and the Son’s heart eternally happy.

That was the plan. It is still the plan. It will be carried out. Thank God, friends. “Where I am,” Jesus says, there My church will be. It is the one object on earth dear to His heart. And He has set His heart on the fulfillment of that eternal purpose. You and I share in that this morning.

You know, it is nice to think that somebody loves you that much, isn’t it? Let’s just revel in it, friends, for it is true. And God means for us to enjoy it, not just when He comes, but right now. You remember in the communion service that He had just given to the disciples, He gave them something to link that service as they should repeat it from time to time with the coming reunion. As He passed the cup, He said, Verily I say unto you, I will not drink of this until I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom. See Matthew 26:29.

You know how it is at home. Just now the holiday season all over the land preparations are being made in many homes for homecoming. Somebody that has been away is coming home for the holiday. Well, what does mother do as she prepares? Why, she thinks of something special and nice that Harry likes, or that Alice likes, and she fixes that and she puts it in a special place and says, “Now, don’t anybody touch this. We are saving this until Harry comes home. We are saving this until Alice is here.” Isn’t that right? Yes.

Love loves to please. And love loves to be together with those it seeks to please. And so Jesus, there in heaven, is longing that we shall be with Him. And every time we eat the bread and drink the wine here in the service of communion, as the Savior looks down in tender love upon the scene, His heart reaches out with earnest longing for that day of reunion.

“I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am” John 17:24.

Over here in the Song of Solomon, there is a beautiful picture of expectation, and while, of course, this Song of Solomon is a picture of human love, under the influence of the Holy Spirit the Inspired penman here has also given us a picture of the divine love of Christ for His church.

Speaking of how Christ looks at the church, the tenth verse is often quoted:

“Who *is* she *that* looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, *and* terrible as *an army* with banners?” Song of Solomon 6:10

Now note:

“I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, *and* to see whether the vine flourished, *and* the pomegranates budded”

Looking over the garden, seeing the fruits, but ah, what is the thought? The twelfth verse.

“Or ever I was aware, my soul made me *like* the chariots of Amminadib” Song of Solomon 6:10-12.

His heart just went to racing in expectation. You notice what the margin says, “My soul set me on the chariots of my willing people.” Yes, his heart leaps forward with expectation. And as He goes in the garden there, and He sees some beautiful pomegranate, some luscious fruit from the tree of life, some beautiful bunches of grapes hanging there, He thinks, Oh, how John would like that. Oh, how Mary will delight when she sees that.

It is real, friends. Nothing imaginary about it. It is real. He is thinking of us. He is thinking of you. He is thinking of me.

“I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am” John 17:24.

Yes, He is planning for us. He is getting things ready.

Now back to the beautiful verses that were sung for us a few moments ago. Notice how this is the central thought of that great promise.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions:...”
John 14:1, 2.

Many rooms as another translation gives it, many abiding places, many habitations.

“...if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also” John 14:2-3

That is it. He wants us with Him. But you note that He is so intent on our having the fulness of joy, His mind is so filled with the thought of having everything just as we would like it, that He says, Before you come, I am going ahead to prepare a place for you.

You know, folks, I imagine we would be quite satisfied with things as they were before He prepared them. Don't you think so? Things in heaven are quite good all the while, aren't they? But love is like that. No matter how nice things are in

general a special guest calls for special preparation. Isn't that true? Yes. You and I are special guests in the Father's house. Special people in the Father's heart.

You know there is an expression in the world today—VIP. Have you heard it? Some people in some places get the VIP treatment. What does that stand for? Very Important Person. Yes. They roll out the red carpet. Twenty-one gun salute, perhaps, dinner at the White House.

Well, friends, all of that is but a tiny illustration of the stupendous reception that is awaiting you and me. Why, friends, in imagination I can see the angels lining the way, and the inhabitants of the other worlds gathered as the redeemed of this world march in through the gates to the city of God. It is going to be a glorious day. And all heaven, all the universe is waiting for it. Because all of them, their hearts beat in unison with our Savior's heart. And His heart is set on this thing, the reunion of His church here in this world with Him.

“I go to prepare a place for you” John 14:2.

Yes, it must be special.

I have thought about the personality, the individuality of it. Not some ordinary room, but something special prepared for me. Do you think you would like a room, perhaps, a house, a home, different from somebody else? Yes, I know you would. Why, we would settle for anything for a place in heaven, but God is not satisfied with merely giving us a place. It must be a prepared place, and prepared for YOU. That is it.

Adam will have his place. He is going to have the place that God prepared for him in the beginning, but even that is going to have some extra fixing up. You read about that, didn't you? That is right. Wonderful. But you know, I have going to have something there for me nicer than what Adam has. There won't be any envy, and jealousy because each one of us will have something that for him is the nicest thing in the world. And we all will be glad that all the others have something that is the nicest thing for them. There won't be any of that selfish, cruel feeling that gets added satisfaction in enjoying something if somebody else is left out. No. Nothing like that. That is awful, friends! Terrible. The world is full of it.

No, each one of us will take added joy in the fact that every other of the redeemed ones is enjoying something specially prepared for him. And so it will be. And as we visit with one another, as we meet from Sabbath to Sabbath under the tree of life, there before the throne and fellowship with one another, how we will share the joys which we are discovering in our estates, because, believe me, friends, there aren't going to be any twenty-five foot lots that we are going to have to be cramped up on.

You will say, “Brother, you must come over to my place. I just discovered something wonderful that the Lord had prepared for me there.”

“Oh,” he says, “What is it?” And we tell him. “Alright. I will be right over. I must see that.”

But when he comes he will say, "Now let's go over to my place. I want to show you something."

And how we will clap our hands as we open our eyes in wonder and amazement, not yet in this world have eyes seen or ears heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the thing that God hath prepared for them that love Him. See 1 Corinthians 2:9. Yes, prepared for you.

But of all the joys, the greatest will be to be with Him.

There are glories untold in that city of gold on the banks of the beautiful river.

Its wonderful light will burst on my sight, but what will it be to see Jesus?

That's it. I suppose we have all had the experience of meeting somebody that we loved, and something in their manner, something in their attitude disclosed to us that they were far gladder to see us, thought more of us than we had imagined. Did you ever have that experience? And what does it awaken in our hearts? Joy. Gratitude. Glory.

And so it will be, friends, no matter how much we have entered into the Savior's love here, no matter how much we have experienced the fellowship of His Spirit, there will burst upon our sight and upon our minds such a revelation of His love as we meet Him. It will be far beyond anything that the human mind in this world ever could conceive, or could contain. Beyond our present capacities.

And as we see how glad He is to see us, I am sure that we will say again and again, "Wouldn't it have been a shame to disappoint Him?" Oh friends, it would be a shame to disappoint such love. Wouldn't it? What a shame to disappoint a love like that, that has gotten everything ready for us and planned for us through eternal ages. Oh, what love.

"I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also" John 14:3.

This is the blessed hope of the second coming of Christ. This is the blessed hope that the world is dying for today. The Lord Himself, no ambassador, no angel messenger, the Lord Himself is coming for you. He will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Not even death can rob us of that glorious reunion. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with Him in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. See 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Forever with the Lord! Amen! So let it be!
Life for the dead is in that word, 'tis immortality.

Here in this body penned, absent from Him, I roam,

and nightly pitch my moving tent a day's march nearer home.

Nearer that hour of reunion, nearer that place where we shall be forever with the Lord.

You know that prayer that Jesus prayed there in John seventeen, "I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am" (John 17:24 AV), He prayed it not only that night in Gethsemane, He has been praying it ever since. He has been praying it ever since. I will read that to you.

"This chapter..."

John 17.

"...contains the intercessory prayer offered by Christ to His Father just before His trial and crucifixion. This prayer is a lesson regarding the intercession that the Saviour would carry on within the veil, when His great sacrifice in behalf of men, the offering of Himself, should have been completed. Our Mediator gave His disciples this illustration of His ministration in the heavenly sanctuary in behalf of all who will come to Him in meekness and humility, emptied of all selfishness, and believing in His power to save" *S.D.A. Bible Commentary*, Vol 5, page 1145.

What is this prayer in John 17? It is an illustration of His intercession within the veil. Why, my dear friends, this thought, that His church might be with Him where He is, has been on His mind and heart continually. It was with that thought that He plowed through those dark and angry waters in Gethsemane, and met the foe on Calvary. It was with that thought that He died! It was with that thought that He rose again. It was with that thought that He ascended to heaven and refused the homage of the angels until He was assured by the Father that His sacrifice was complete and was accepted, and that His church might be with Him to share every honor that He would receive.

And there enthroned as Priest and King in the heavenly sanctuary, He has never ceased to pray this prayer. This is what He asks for every day.

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am" John 17:24.

He is there, not to be away from us, but to prepare the way for us. He is the forerunner. We follow after. He is the way-shower. We are to enter in within that veil now by faith, soon in fact and share with Him through eternal ages. Oh I say, what a shame it would be to disappoint a love like that, my friends.

Well, why does He wait? If He wants it so much, why doesn't He come? For ages the church has prayed, Come Lord Jesus, and Come quickly. How long, O Lord our Savior, wilt thou remain away? Ah, but there is something that must be

settled before He can come. The thing that made the separation must be removed before the reunion can take place and never be jeopardized. And what is that thing? Sin. That is all. Sin.

And so the sin problem must be settled before His glorious hope of having His church with Him forever can be realized. That is what He came to this world for, to settle that sin problem. That is why He died. That is why He rose again. That is why He went to heaven. That is why He is up there instead of down here. There in the sanctuary through the offering of His precious blood sprinkled there for us, it is His hope, His plan to eradicate sin, to put away sin, to do away with sin, to make an end of sins forever and forever.

Friends, the only way that plan, that service, that offering, that intercession can avail for us is for you and me to enter in with Him by faith. Let's read it in Hebrews the tenth chapter. Before our feet ever walk those streets, by mind and thought, by heart and purpose we must enter in by faith where He is.

“Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And *having* an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” Hebrews 10:19-22.

Let's do it! What do you say, friends? Let's go in. Let's go in. The way of the rent veil, the way of the broken heart, the blood sprinkled way. That means, dear friends, in a very practical way that as we see what sin has cost and is costing Jesus, that we turn lose of it and say, “Dear Lord, not only forgive it, but blot it out. Not only take away the penalty, the execution of the penalty, the second death, which I deserve, but take away the root of selfishness which is responsible for all these sins. Take those things out of my life.” And as we receive the blood of Jesus, which is His life, and His life is love, that blood will cleanse from every sin.

To put it in another way, friends, when we see that loving heart broken for us, when we see how much he longs for us to be with Him, and we see that the only thing that can hinder that is our sin, we say, “O Lord, take it away! Take it out of the way!” And that desire which He Himself plants in our hearts, He is sure to satisfy. That prayer which He inspires, He is certain to grant, my friends. He is certain to answer.

And to every such seeking one He says, “Son, be of good cheer. Thy sins be forgiven thee.” Daughter, be of good comfort, Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace. Thank God, friends, sin can be taken out of the way. That is all that hinders the reunion. That is all.

So this morning, as He is preparing a place for us, let's let Him prepare us for the place. What do you say?

“I will that they be with Me where I am,”
thus prayed our Lord before Gethsemane,

'Tis still the one great longing of His heart,
'Tis still the burden of His earnest plea.

Oh, let us feel the yearning love that seeks reunion with the ones He counts most dear,

No longer loiter on the lighted way, diverted by sin's favor, or its fear.

The pain our sins have brought to His great heart, the separation which those sins have made, all shall be ended as His precious blood blots out all sin in those for whom He prayed.

And shall His prayer be answered? Yea, Amen, that we may be with Him, He comes again.

Oh, Jesus, Thou hast promised to all that follow Thee, that where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be.

And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end, Oh give me grace to follow My Savior and My friend.

Shall we bow our heads?

Precious Lord, we thank Thee this morning as we get a clearer view of Thy great love for us, Thy tender thought, Thy earnest desire that we shall be with Thee to share Thy love, Thy glory, Thy fellowship through never-ending ages.

And as we see this morning that there is only one thing which can hinder it, our sins, our selves, we choose to put away all sin, we choose to crucify self, and we thank Thee that as we do this even now by faith we enter in with Thee, even now by faith we are with Thee in the mansions of love.

So keep us looking where Thou art, living with Thee, sharing Thy love, that someday soon Thou canst come and take us home. Oh, help us to take others with us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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