

Measure of God's Love

Sermon #1029
1967

Study Given by W.D. Frazee—July 29,

Seventeen years ago today, my mother died. The one that killed her, is still my worst enemy. He has been murdering others, of my dear ones, through the years. Just ten days ago, he took the life of a little nephew, just three years old, out west. He is a great killer, and he is at large, and he is striking here and there, and everywhere. Has he touched your home? Dear Elder Folkenburg, that just shared with us, these experiences from Colombia. His dear father, one of my best friends, is sitting by the bedside of his wife, (and unless God should intervene) about to say, "goodbye." We have been remembering her in prayer.

I wonder, if there is anything we can do, about all of this? Or must the great murderer, continue to strike, one after the other? Yes, friends, there is something we can do about it. For it is written in Matthew twenty-four fourteen. Here is the remedy, and it is the only one.

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" Matthew 24:14.

You know, there are people that get frightened, when they hear about the end of the world. But the most frightening thing, I can think of, is for that end, to be postponed. That end to be delayed. For the end of this world, as it is this morning, is the end of suffering, and sorrow, and sin. The end of death, the end of mourning, the end of all these riots, and there is no other end, no other answer, to all of these human problems. The coming of Jesus, is the answer, and the more our loved ones, (Stanley), are touched, and hit, and struck. The more our hearts long, for the coming of the One, Whose coming, brings an end, a real end, an utter end, as the Bible says.

"...affliction shall not rise up the second time" Nahum 1:9.

Why doesn't He come today? Why didn't He come seventeen years ago, so my mother, wouldn't have to go into the grave? Why didn't He come a generation ago, and satisfy the heart longings of the pioneers, before they lay down their burdens? Ah, my dear friends, this end which the coming of Jesus will bring, is a very expensive thing. It has been costing heaven an infinite price, and it is still costing. And that is what I want you and I, to think about, for a little while, this morning. What it is costing heaven, to bring the end. And what you and I can do, to hasten it. For it is written, in this book, that we are not only to look for, but to hasten, the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The price is revealed in the sanctuary service. [Transcriber's note: I can hear Elder Frazee, opening the curtain, to the sanctuary model, at Wildwood chapel]. We remember, that this sanctuary, that Moses built, at Mount Sinai, was copied, after the one, in heaven. And the purpose of it all, was to make clear, to human minds, how God brings an end to sin. And in bringing an end to sin, brings an end to death. But the paradox of it is, that the message of the sanctuary, in every phase of its service, is the message of death. How could death, solve the death problem? I say, that is the divine paradox. For it is written,

“...that through death he (Jesus) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” Hebrews 2:14.

And so the way through the sanctuary, is from start to finish, from beginning to end, a blood sprinkled way. The bullock, the lamb, must be slain, out here in the court, that's death. That blood must be sprinkled, upon the horns of the altar, that's death. The sacrifice is consumed, upon that altar, and the smoke ascends. The ashes are carried out, that is death. Blood is sprinkled on the horns of this golden altar, and again the message is, could Someone's life have been sacrificed, to solve the problem? And in that closing service, which prefigures the work, that is now going on, in the heavenly courts, the blood is sprinkled on the mercy seat, in the final service, of atonement. Again, the message is, Someone must die, that this great problem, may be solved. And why is this necessary? Because, my dear friends, there are two things that must be forever settled in our minds and hearts, if we are to live secure, from sin and death, through eternity. One is, how good God is, and the other is, how bad Satan is. The universe got that settled at Calvary, nearly two thousand years ago. The world today, needs the revelation, that it needed then, in order that each part, may settle forever, to which of these two opposing powers, it's allegiance shall be given.

And what happened on Calvary? Why is the cross, the answer to this world problem? My friends, on Calvary, Satan revealed himself as the great murderer. The one who murdered my mother, a few years ago, murdered our Lord, there at the cross. And in it, he revealed what he would do, not only to Jesus, but to everybody that he could get his hands on. He showed that the real nature of sin, is selfishness, to the point of cruel torture and death. And so this morning, if you and I look at Calvary, we will see Satan, unmasked, revealed in all his hideous cruelty. And we shall want nothing more to do with him. But that is only half the story, and the smaller half. For great as is the sin of Satan, and terrible as his cruelty is, more wonderful is the infinite love of God, revealed at the cross. For there, Jesus showed that He would rather die, and never live again, than for you and me to miss eternal life.

But my friends, the sanctuary tells the story, if we will look at it closely, that goes above and beyond this. Because, if all we see is the cross, (mark the point) that as a historic act, is all done, it is all gone. But when we look at the sanctuary, we see that the shedding of the blood of the sacrifice, here in the court, is not the end of the matter, it is rather the beginning, of the solution, to the problem.

Following the shedding of that blood, that blood must be ministered in the Holy Place, and finally it must be ministered, in the Most Holy. Then, and only then,

can it be truly said, that an end has been made. And what does that teach you and me? Ah, my friends, when we look in the fifth chapter of Revelation, we see the infinite One, seated upon His throne, and the universe gazing, wondering. Who is going to open that book, that is in His right hand. An angel gives the challenge, "who is able to open that book"? And among all the seraphim and cherubs, among the elders, and the sons of God, and among all the universe, there is not one. The prophet weeps, but one of the elders comes to his side and says, "John, don't weep, there is One who has prevailed to open the book, the Lion of the tribe of Judah." And looking into that sanctuary, on that wonderful throne, and seeing all those angels, and the other mighty ones gathered. John looks now, to find the one, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who will open that book, and settle the problem, of heaven and earth. And turning and looking, where the white robed elder points, what does he see? Ah, he says in the sixth verse.

"And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain..." Revelation 5:6.

Here, long years after, the act of the cross, we see Jesus, in heaven, sent forth as the lamb, a dying lamb. A lamb, as it has been slain. What does it all mean? Oh, my friends, those bright red spots of blood, in the ancient sanctuary, sprinkled on the horns of the golden altar, and sprinkled on the mercy seat, they tell the story of a sacrifice, that began, when sin began, and can never cease, until sin ceases. This opens to us the heart of God, that in all our afflictions, He is afflicted, and that each sin, crucifies Him afresh. Every failure, breaks His heart. If sinners can be led to see that, they will appreciate the love of God. For my dear friends, the only thing that makes His heart break, is the fact that He loves us, that's all.

Some of you have heard me tell of a mother, who in a meeting I held some years ago, came up and waited to see me, at the close. The tears, just running down her face. When the way opened, for her to sob out her request, she said, "Pray for my boy." And what was the matter with the boy? Was he sick, about to die? Was he in the hospital, from an accident? No, he was in the penitentiary. And did I say to her, "well mother, cheer up, you are not in the penitentiary"? Did I? Oh, no! I wonder who was suffering most, the boy in the penitentiary, or the mother, perfectly free to go anywhere, not in bondage at all? You know who was suffering most, don't you? And my dear friends, I saw her years later, in another meeting I was holding, in another state, she was visiting there. And she came up to see me again, and you know what she said? "Pray for my boy." Her heart was still breaking. Why didn't she stop? May I say it friends, why didn't she take a tranquilizer?

Ah, my friends, love suffers, doesn't it? And the One who made mothers, and made love, created this wonderful, wonderful love, that we know a little of, in human experience. That One, my dear friends, Whose love is infinite, big as the universe, His heart is breaking, because some He loves, are suffering, and know it. And some He loves, are suffering, and don't know it. But He suffers for, and with them, all.

You know, I have thought about what could stop the tears of that mother, that I was telling you about. If you could take the love out of her heart, the suffering would end, am I correct? Oh yes, no more tears flowing down those cheeks. And

there are ways it could be done. There are operations that can be performed, here in the brain, that would leave her free, to do many things. She wouldn't cry for that boy anymore. And as we have suggested, there are tranquilizers and other chemical agents, she could feel quite relieved, and released. Would you suggest that, that be done so she could be happy?

We are dealing, my dear friends, with a real problem. The heart of Jesus, is sad this morning, and He cannot be at rest, until those He loves, are rescued from the land of the enemy. Until the great murderer is defeated, and his cruel work, is stopped. And the measure of His suffering is, the measure of His love. The more He loves you and me, the more He suffers, as we suffer. Is there anything you and I can do about it? Oh, yes. He has put it in our power, through cooperation with Him, to bring this scene of misery, to an end. And our text gives the solution.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations; then shall the end come”
Matthew 24:14.

I mentioned earlier, that forty years ago, Elder Folkenburg's father and I, were holding meetings in Watsonville. That was the year that Lindbergh flew, from New York to Paris. The headlines flashed his name around the world, but there was a sequel to that, a few years later, a sad sequel. When Lindbergh's little boy, was kidnaped, in that New Jersey home. And for days and weeks, that anxious father, used the skills of an airplane pilot, to fly here, and to fly there, and fly yonder, what for? Looking for that boy, looking for that boy. What was there to live for, those days, except to find that boy? Suppose someone had offered him a good job, at \$10,000.00 dollars a month, if he would only come. You know, what his answer would have been. “Can't do it, I have got something more important.” But indeed, “does it pay a better, greater salary, than \$10,000.00 dollars? No, “I am hunting for my boy.” Love is like that, it does so many unreasonable things. Things that don't add up financially, or politically, or socially, or economically, or any other way, except love, thinks they are important.

And the love of God has gone out into a lost world, and is hunting souls. God has asked you and me, to get involved with Him in this, my dear friends. To give our lives, to the thing that He gave His life for. Shall we do it? Shall we send Him the word this morning, that we are heart to heart with Him? If you want something that will thrill your soul, not like a movie thriller, or one of these books that tells lies, but if you want something that will thrill your soul to its depths, in the right way, sometime during these Sabbath hours, get your book Education, and open it, to page 262.

To my mind, this chapter reaches the greatest heights, (inspired literature) of anything, that the messenger of God, ever wrote. Page 262. I want you to read and study it, this Sabbath, and note the invitation of Jesus. Enter in with Him, into a way of life, a dedication of life, to the one thing, that will solve the whole problem. Thank God, friends, all over this world, men and women and children are hearing the call, they are finding out what life is all about, that the One who made life, has given His life, so that Satan can be unmasked, and God's love revealed. And if that is done, through human lives today, others are being drawn into the circle of dedication and

devotion. How much will you give, He gave everything? How much will you sacrifice? He sacrificed everything. Let's turn to number 276 and sing our response.

“My Jesus, I love Thee,
I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, My Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.”
“My Jesus I Love Thee” Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal #321

And as we sing these words, I want to give an invitation, friends. For God has sent someone into this chapel this morning, to make a decision. Doubtless, we need to be stirred with the things we have heard and seen this morning. But oh, I trust, that everyone of us is a step nearer, to the bleeding side of Jesus, in fellowship with His heart breaking love. But oh, there is somebody here this morning, that needs to make a decision, not merely to take a step nearer, but to turn clear around, from the direction in which you have been going, and start walking toward Jesus, and with Him, the way of the cross.

There is somebody here this morning, you might be a church member, or you might not. I am not speaking about church membership. I ask you this one question. Have you been living for Jesus, or living for self? If you have been living for Jesus, let's all press closer in that experience. Shall we friends? But oh, if you have been living for self, won't you come this morning, and kneel down here, and let us pray for you, and pray with you, that Jesus will accept your life, to go with His, into the furrow of the worlds need. Let us stand.

[Organ begins playing, My Jesus I love Thee]

If you would like our prayers, right where you are standing, that Jesus will help you with your problems, would you like to raise your hands? We are going to have a little after meeting, for those of you, who have come to the altar, this morning. Any of you, who would like to stay, you are very welcome. After we have prayer, the audience will be dismissed, and without waiting for the deacons to dismiss us, this morning, you may quietly make your way out, as soon as the benediction is pronounced. But if any of you, who would like to tarry with us, in this after meeting, you are very welcome. May I say friends, and I speak even to non church members and to the church, either one. If you have been living for self, that isn't any thing to be big about. You are not big enough for that. Are you friends? But turn from self, and live for Jesus, change becomes so valuable, that all heaven would be empty, to make you a success. Oh, friends, how valuable you and I are, when we let Jesus take our lives!

And so, I am not speaking of church membership this morning, important, though that is, I am saying to you church members and non members. “If you have been living for self, if you have a plan for self, put them aside.” Somebody, Somebody needs all that you have. Jesus needs it, He needs your love, He needs your fellowship. He needs your cooperation, He needs you to put an end to all these riots, all these wars, in Vietnam, and elsewhere. All the sin and trouble in this world, you can put an end to it, but it will take all you have, it has taken all He has. Would

you do it? Oh, God, friends! Come here, standing here this morning, look, let God have all you have, to finish this. Put up your hands, if you mean this? Oh, thank God, thank God. Alright. Now if any of you who would like, especially anybody who is under conviction and needs help, tarry here, and anybody else who, is ready to stay here this morning.

Now dear Father, we give Thee praise and glory that once again Thou hast manifested Thy presence. Once again Thou hast spoken to our hearts, once again Thou hast brought decision. We thank Thee for a view of the cross. Not only the cross on Golgotha but the cross. We see that Lamb this morning, in the sanctuary, as it has been slain, still with His heart breaking, over the wounds and sorrows, of this sin filled world. We thank Thee, that it will soon end forever, the end of sin. This morning, bless those who have come forward, and as we tarry in the after meeting, come in. Bless this audience, dismiss with Thy sweet presence, and let those tarry, who should. And may everyone this Sabbath day, know the joy, that comes from making God happy. We ask it in Jesus name. Amen.

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