

# Whispered Secrets

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 8,

God showed Ezekiel a river. The prophet was led deeper and deeper into that river that was flowing from the sanctuary, the river of healing. At first he was only in up to his ankles. The angel kept beckoning him. He went out to where the water was up to his knees. The angel called him still, and the waters were to the loins. And as the angel kept beckoning him he said the waters were a river that could not be passed over.

I believe many a person is having a sweet and precious experience with God. The Master may beckon you deeper in, closer with the Master in the loving sacrificial life that He came from heaven to earth to demonstrate.

The enemy is seeking to cheat us out of our birthright. He is seeking to cause us to live beneath our privileges. To many, religion is a method of avoiding troubles and problems, especially avoiding death that sin brings. In other words, religion is the way to eternal life. But I wonder if we are fully conscious that unless we learn to live with Jesus His life of sacrificial love here, we would not be truly happy in heaven. The question is, do we recognize God's providence, or do we fight it?

Jacob was praying by the brook, facing some tremendous problems. God heard his prayer. He came Himself to answer Jacob's prayer. But Jacob mistook Him for an enemy, and wrestled with him hour after hour. I am glad that he finally came to know who it was. He came to recognize the providence of God and received a blessing.

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death” Philipians 3:7-10.

There is a great deal in these verses. First Paul suffered for Jesus' sake the loss of all things. He had more to lose than most of us. He was at the top in education, politics, and religious leadership. He had wealth, influence, position, and prestige. But he lost it all in the service of Jesus. Here in these verses he is not weeping about any of it. He is so glad to have something worth more than all he

lost. And remember that Paul was not yet on the throne in heaven when he wrote these words. He was sitting in prison in Rome. They didn't furnish him hot and cold showers every day. They were not careful about the convenience of those who stayed there. Probably no one here has suffered all that Paul suffered. We may know more about it before we get through. But my point is that Paul had learned that those experiences through which he had been led were a part of becoming acquainted with Jesus Christ. He wanted to know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.

One of our missionaries in Africa told me that the native people said that fellowship was two fellows in one ship. Well, I think he got the idea. And that was what Paul wanted. He wanted fellowship with Jesus. He wanted to be that other fellow in the ship with Christ. And the ship that Jesus is in may sail through troubled waters. The sea may be stormy, but there is peace in the heart of the Savior, and peace in the heart of the one who is in fellowship with Him.

Fellowship with Jesus is not a guarantee that we won't have trouble. Fellowship with Jesus will certainly bring us into many trials and difficulties. If Jesus is going through trials, and I want to be with Him, what will I go through?

Jesus had trials when He was here on earth. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. It did not crush out His peace. It did not take away the light of joy from His countenance. He invited Peter and John and Matthew and Thomas to join Him in His work. They accompanied Him on His travels. They walked.

I long that the spirit of Jesus to take the poverty and hardships and difficulties of life and illuminate them with love and joy will fill our hearts. Would you like to have some? Well, there is a laboratory, and a laboratory has some problems. In the home in which you live, in the institution some of you are a part of, and in daily contact with fellow human beings God has a laboratory in which He is offering you the opportunity of knowing Jesus and having fellowship with Him.

When Jesus came to this earth to die for us He spent over thirty years living for us, showing us how to live. He is the only one who was ever born into this world who had the opportunity of choosing His location before He was born. He chose a poor, peasant's home. Many of us would call it a hovel. We are getting so used to modern conveniences that we have little idea of the hardships that Jesus put up with. Along with it He had the opposition of those who should have respected Him and helped Him. His stepbrothers and sister made life difficult for Him. And because He was so willing and uncomplaining, they saw to it that many times His work was made severe.

You can read about it in *The Desire of Ages* in the beautiful chapters on the life of Jesus when He was a child and youth. I love those chapters. They have been guiding my life for 65 years. But I find that I still have a great deal of selfishness in my disposition. Do any of you have that problem? How does Jesus work with us in that? He brings us to opportunities to take an extra load, to walk the extra mile, to do more than is expected in the way of sacrifice. This is the path He walked, and He found it a joyful path. Why? Because the greatest joy in the universe is the joy of love.

Someone says, Oh, yes, I wish someone would love me so I could be happy.

Ah friend, you missed it. The person who looks to being loved as the key to happiness doesn't understand love. Love is something that unless it flows through you to others, you never really enjoy it the way it was meant to be.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love"  
1 John 4:8.

Our human disposition is that when some unexpected problem comes we find someone to blame. Quite often someone is to blame. If everyone did everything they were supposed to do, then some of us wouldn't need to do so much. It is the failures and mistakes of others that gives room for the greatest opportunity for the manifestation of love. Love that bears the burdens and carries the load is fellowship with Jesus in His sufferings.

In the closing moments as Jesus hung upon the cross He saw someone standing looking up into His face. It was John, the youngest of His disciples. There was someone else there. His mother, his mother's sister, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus thought, I have to die and go away. Who will take care of My mother? Seeing John standing there He gave His mother to John as a legacy. Was John glad? Oh, yes.

There is something about mothers when they get old that takes several hours a day. At the other end of the life it takes more than regular hours to look after babies. A baby has no problem about starting in at 1:00 AM. And mother can't say to it, You are supposed to come in at 8:00 AM.

Someone says, Brother Frazee, what are you talking about?

I am talking about a glorious opportunity that comes to many people, and they don't know it. It is the opportunity of fellowship with Jesus in meeting the practical problems of sacrifice for those He loves. If you love someone enough, you want to be where their need is. Of course, it takes plenty of love in some cases. The greater the problem the greater the pain, the greater the sacrifice the more love it takes, but that is all it takes.

The only way we know Jesus is in fellowship with His love. The only way we can enter into those experiences is to go through some of the problems He met, the problems of practical service in everyday life. Looking after the babies. Looking after the sick. Looking after the old folks, and every age and condition who need help physical, mental, and spiritual. That is why God has called us to be medical missionaries. It isn't to earn a living. It is to earn a life. It isn't to solve your problems of finance or career. It is to give you an opportunity to develop a character that is developed by choosing for love's sake to minister beyond the expected, to give of one's self willingly, joyously for Jesus' sake. This is the glorious opportunity.

There is many a person who labors efficiently and helpfully in helping the sick in order that they may get the time and money to do what they really want to do.

And the people of this world have the right to that, as long as they are honest about it. But Jesus has called you and me to something infinitely beyond that. Jesus didn't leave a bad place when He came to this world to get a better place. Jesus didn't give up a lot of bad things so He could be saved. He gave up all the good things so others could be saved. This is the spirit of Jesus. And it is a wonderful thing when a man has so much to live for in loving service that he looks upon recreation as a time to get his battery recharged so he can be back at the thing he is living for.

This is the spirit that drove David Livingstone into the heart of Africa. This is the spirit that brought W. H. Anderson over those same trails years later. This is the spirit that caused F. A. Stahl to pioneer the work among the Inca Indians in South America. This is the spirit that is inspiring many a young man and woman who is now out on the firing line, working for Jesus in a sacrificial way. I pray that every one of us shall know that the real meaning of life is to give our life in sacrifice.

The man of this world may work hard. What is he working for? He is working so he can do what he wants to do. But the man who is entering into fellowship with Jesus has that thing turned clear about. The Christian who sees this vision looks upon relaxation and ease, and recreation of any other kind as the means to the end. The end is to give the life in service to the needy and lost.

That helps to keep things in proper balance. Unless I have this spirit I will measure it by how many hours I spend in work. I will measure success by having more and more time, which I really want to do. But if I am a Christian and have this spirit, then I will rejoice to take time to sleep and being in nature to get built up so my life can be spent more successfully in service for others.

Christ is on the Mount of Olives. He has given His disciples the signs of His coming. He has described the glories of His return. Oh, the thrill of that moment when the angels gather His elect. Then He gives three wonderful parables dealing with the preparation for His coming. We will look at the last one.

"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats: And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: Naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee?" Matthew 25:31-39.

Jesus, we never knew You were sick or hungry or thirsty, or needed any kind of care.

“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me”  
Matthew 25:40.

Can it be that when I minister to one of Christ's suffering ones I minister to Him? Is that really true? Oh, if it is, I will never complain. I will look upon every opportunity as a privilege.

Someone says, I would be taken advantage of.

Yes, Jesus was. And don't forget the fundamental thing that makes all the difference in the world. Whether I am safeguarding my health so I can do more ministry, or whether I am safeguarding my health so I can get out of it as much as possible. It makes all the difference in the world. The difference it makes is whether I end up on the right hand with the sheep or on the left hand with the goats.

If I could really feel that every time I do something for someone I am doing it for Jesus, what a joy it would be. How it would ease the load. It doesn't mean we are to work ourselves to death, although a few people have had that privilege with God at times. Ordinarily God wants me to get some sleep so I can do better work tomorrow. Ordinarily God wants me to take time to eat a good, nutritious diet. Not so I can fill my stomach to get a sensation. No so I can stimulate my taste buds with what I like. The purpose of eating is to get some strength so I can go on with whatever it is that God has given me to do. And the interesting thing is that eating on that basis is far more joy than all the people who run from restaurant to restaurant hunting some new taste.

God has made you and me in such a way that we can never have true happiness by hunting it. We can never have true satisfaction by hunting satisfaction. He has made us that way. I am so glad He did it.

All nature tells this story. All nature teaches this lesson. We are told that there is nothing in this universe save the selfish heart of man that lives to itself. But the trees absorb the water and breath in the air, and they give out that life-giving oxygen that man and animals are dependent on. The streams are ever flowing, teaching this lesson of life-giving love.

“Give, said the little stream,  
As it hurried on its way;  
I am small I know,  
But wherever I go,  
The fields grow greener still.”

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