

How to Get Help

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Study given by W. D. Frazee—September 16, 1961

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" Luke 21:25-27.

If we had been down on the Texas coast just a few days ago we would have said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in our ears." I will read some of the headlines.

"A hundred and twenty-five mile per hour gusts. Two hundred mile sector feeling the fury. Water surging in streets. Hurricane center over the gulf is due to smash inland about dawn."

"Winds hitting a hundred twenty-five miles an hour, and tides nearly ten feet above normal battered the Texas and Louisiana coast late Sunday night as hurricane Carla described as big and dangerous swirled toward the mainland."

"Hurricane force winds blowing in gusts over a hundred miles an hour lashed Port O'Conner, Texas as tides almost ten feet above normal surged through streets and industrial plants of scores of cities and towns along the two hundred mile sector of the gulf coast."

Think of a ten foot tide surging through the streets of towns and cities. It caused the exodus of over a quarter of a million people, one of the greatest evacuations history has ever recorded.

Jesus said, "The sea and the waves roaring." Then He said that men's hearts would fail them for fear. But He told us what to do:

"When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh" verse 28.

Are those great winds, those angry tides rolling in down there more signs of the coming of Jesus? Yes they are. He said these are the things that would happen just before He comes. It is wonderful as we look at the headlines to turn back to God's book and say we are right on schedule, and we know what to do. The thing to do is not spend very much time looking around us at how angry the waves are, but look up to where Jesus is.

There is another storm coming:

"Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth" Jeremiah 25:32.

That's a cyclone, a tornado of worldwide proportions. Nobody is going to be left when that deadly whirlwind gets through its work except the people of God that are sealed with the seal in their foreheads. Oh, it means so much to be ready, doesn't it?

God would have us spend time studying how to be ready; how to be in touch with Jesus. That is why I brought along another text in this sack. It is an apple. It is a big one isn't it? Yes. Do you know what that apple is made out of? It is made out of water. It is made out of air. It is made out of soil.

Suppose the soil up there in the orchard could think. It can't of course. But suppose it could. It looks up at the apple on the tree and says, I wish I could be up there. Can the soil be up there? Are there some elements like iron and lime and phosphorus in the apple now that used to be in the soil? Yes.

Suppose those elements could think. Suppose the ones in the apple could think. Suppose the ones down there in the ground could think.

Let's take iron for example. There is a tiny little bit of iron in the soil. Suppose that iron down in the ground looks up at the apple tree and sees that big apple and says, Oh, I wish I didn't have to stay down here in the ground. I wish I could be a part of the apple.

If the iron in the apple could think and talk it would say to the iron in the ground, There is a way that you can do it, but only one way. You cannot climb up the tree and hitch on. The apple tree must stretch out its roots to you and lay hold of you and suck you up through the roots, and on up through the trunk of the tree and out through the branches, and finally out to this apple.

And that's the way a little piece of iron down in the ground can be a part of the apple.

Is there any other way? No, my dear friends, there is no other way. That is the only way. The iron down in the ground is dead. This apple is living. How did dead iron get to be living iron? The living tree reached out its living roots and laid

hold of that lifeless iron and sucked it up, and it became part of a living tree. Is that right? Oh yes. And my dear friends, there is Someone who is alive who wants to take hold of you and me and make us a part of Himself.

The Bible says we are naturally dead in trespasses and sins. We have no power to lift ourselves up any more than that iron down there in the ground has. We can't do it. But if we are willing for Jesus, the living tree, the tree of life, to lay hold of us, and if we are willing to be sucked up by Him and become a part of His life, then He says, "Because I live, ye shall live also."

Would you like to be a part of Jesus? Ah, you say, I don't look very much like Him. I don't act very much like Him. Well, if you take a magnet and run it through the ground you would pick up some little iron filings. As you looked at them, you wouldn't see very much that looks like an apple. If you put a few on your tongue and tasted them, you would say they don't taste much like an apple. But can those little iron filings become part of an apple and look like an apple and taste like an apple? Yes.

You may not look very much like Jesus this morning. You may not act very much like Him. But if you are willing, give Jesus your life and let Him lay hold of you. Say to Him, Dear Jesus, I don't want to stay down here in the dead life of this world. I want to be absorbed in You. I want to become a part of You. He will draw you to Himself, and you will rise to be like Him forever. Let's do it. What do you say?

I have another lesson. I am not in the ground, and I am not an apple. I am a man. Suppose I go out in the orchard and see this apple up there on the tree. Suppose that apple could think and talk. Suppose the iron in the apple should look over at me, and suppose that iron could think and talk, and it could know. Would it see any iron running around in my body? Yes. Where is it? It is in the blood. It is racing around in there. Every little drop of blood has many tiny particles of iron.

Suppose the iron in the apple would say, Oh, I wish I could be a human being instead of just an apple. Can it? Is there a way for that iron that is in the apple to become a part of the iron that is in my bloodstream? Yes.

Can the apple do anything about it? Can the iron in the apple say, Goodbye apple, I am going to be a part of a man? That is so much greater than being an apple. One man is greater and more important than all the apples in the world. Isn't that so? So why doesn't the iron jump out of the apple and run up to the man and becomes a part of him?

That is not the way it is done. There is one way and only one way that the iron in the apple can become the iron in my bloodstream. I reach out my hand and take that apple off the tree and eat it. I chew it up, and it gets digested. Then that iron gets into my bloodstream, and it is built up into the blood cells. It is not apple any longer. It is man. It may go up to my brain and help me think. It may go out to my arm and help me move things. It may go down to my feet and help me run. The iron that was in the apple is now iron in the man. But remember, it was by something from above reaching down that the iron was lifted up from the vegetable kingdom into the kingdom of the human being.

If we want to have a spiritual life, we must remember that salvation is not something we do for God. It is something He does for us. He came where we were not. He reached down to touch us.

There is something you and I can do that the iron in the earth can never do, and the iron in the apple can never do. We can decide whether to respond to that touch. We can decide whether to be lifted from one kingdom into the other. The tree doesn't ask the iron in the earth whether it wants to change from earth to apple. I don't ask the iron in the apple whether it wants to be changed from vegetable to human. The tree doesn't ask because it doesn't know how to ask, and because the earth wouldn't know how to answer. I don't ask the apple because it couldn't answer. But before Jesus makes you and me a part of Himself, before He lifts us from where we are to where He is, He asks our consent.

Isn't that wonderful friends? You would think that everything in us would at once cry out, Oh, is it true? Can I really become a part of the divine kingdom instead of just being in the earthly kingdom? Can I rise from where I am to where He is? You would think everyone would at once say, Oh yes, dear Lord. I am so glad you chose me for this invitation. Of course I want it. I want it with all my heart.

"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing" John 15:4,5.

Jesus is not talking here about an apple tree, but about a vine. It is the same thing, the same lesson.

The apple tree would have to say to the iron, Without me you can do nothing to become alive. That is the truth.

That is what the man would have say to the apple, if that apple should want to become a part of a human being. The man would have to say to the apple, and the iron in it, Without me you can do nothing. But if you are willing to be eaten, if you are willing to be absorbed, if you are willing to lose your identity and become a part of me, then you can be a man instead of an apple. You can be a part of the human family instead of the vegetable kingdom. But you cannot do it without me.

Jesus comes to everyone of us this morning and says, Would you like to be like me? Would you like to be spiritual, not just physical? Would you like to rise to a higher level? Without me ye can do nothing. Friends, do you believe that? It is the truth. How foolish for a man to say, I am going to try and see. All your trying will only demonstrate the truth of it.

When I was in San Francisco a number of years ago, a young man was learning this message. One Sunday night, as Elder Tindall was preaching, a card

came in with other marked cards saying this man wanted to see Elder Tindall. We learned afterwards it was the man's wife who checked the card.

After our work at the office was done the next morning I said to Elder Tindall, "Suppose we go by and see that man this evening."

He said, "All right."

We went out to this man's home and began to talk to him about giving his heart to the Lord and accepting this message.

That man had several problems on his hands. He began to tell us what some of them were. He had quite a battle with liquor. Every once in a while he would get on a drunken spree. He had a terrible cigarette habit. He smoked one package after the other. Beside that he had a terrible temper. He would curse and swear. Children were afraid of him. He had a problem keeping the Sabbath. He worked on one of the newspapers in San Francisco. That newspaper came out on Saturday the same as it did on Monday and Wednesday. He was sure that if he kept the Sabbath he would lose his job. He had a number of obligations. He had a wife and several children. There he was.

As you look at the picture what would you say to him? Friend, try to do a little better. Try to cut down those cigarettes so you don't smoke as many as you used to. Begin to ease off these other things. See if you can't be a little nicer to the family. Go to your boss and see if he couldn't arrange to let you off sometimes so you can go to church.

Should we talk to him like that? Why no. Jesus says, "Without Me ye can do nothing."

Well, we talked with him for quite awhile. Finally he said, "I will try."

We said, "Dear friend, that won't do it. There is only one thing in this world that will do it. That is for Jesus to come into your heart."

We read John 1:12:

"As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12

We said to him, "Do you believe Jesus has power to deliver you from liquor? Do you believe He has power to deliver you from tobacco? Do you believe He has the power? Will you receive Him? Will you let that divine hand reach down and take hold of you? Will you open the door of your heart and let Jesus in?"

We got down and prayed together. Elder Tindall and I prayed, and I shall never forget what happened, although it happened many years ago.

As we were all kneeling there and Elder Tindall made a final appeal to that man, he literally clinched his fist and said, "I will."

He gave his heart fully to Jesus. He opened the door of his heart and the Lord came in. I had the joy of seeing that dear man and his wife baptized together.

Several years later I went back to that church. That man was serving as one of the deacons in that church. God did something for him that night. The root of the apple tree reached out and touched that little piece of soil and sucked it up into a living tree. The hand of God reached down and touched a man's soul, and he was lifted up from his past experience into an experience with God.

Ah, my dear friends, God has a thousand different ways of doing it for various people, but it all adds up to this very thing we are talking about. The living must touch the not living. Life can only come from life. There is no other way. You cannot by your dead works lift yourself up to be like God. But you can say like that poor leper did, Oh Lord, You can make me clean. And He will do it for you.

It matters not what the problem. It matters not what the habit. It matters not what the thing is that keeps you from God. Give yourself to Him. Say, Lord I know what this says is true. Without You I can do nothing. I know it Lord. But I know there is power in the Creator. There is power in the One who spoke this world into existence. There is power in Him. Lord I want to be like you. I don't want to stay where I am. I want to come up with you. Lord, I can't fly up there. I can't walk up there. But I can be willing, and I am willing this moment. Lord, reach down your dear hand. There is a scar where it was nailed to the cross for us. It shows how much He loves us, and how anxious He is to reach us.

Will He do it? Oh yes.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" Matthew 7:7,8.

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