

# Arise, Shine

#0618

Study given by W.D. Frazee—October 4, 1969

Let us turn to Isaiah 60. Isaiah is called the Gospel prophet. The Lord gave him the view of not only the first advent of Christ, but His second advent, and those glorious experiences which immediately precede the second coming of Christ.

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” Isaiah 60:1-3.

This glory that is to be seen upon God’s people in the closing hour is the glory of self-sacrificing love (*The Desire of Ages*, page 20). The character of God is His glory, and His character is love.

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

As the light of the glory of God is His loving character, so the darkness spoken of here that covers the earth is the darkness of selfishness, misunderstanding of God’s character. And those who do not understand God do not understand their fellow men. They do not even understand themselves. So we have all over the world discontent, fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. We have discord, strife, riots, crimes, and wars. In this darkness God calls upon His people to arise and shine. How are they to do it? He says, Thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

The last hour of earth’s history is to see the greatest revelation of the love of God in human lives that has ever been witnessed. I believe we are entering into it even now. What do you think? We can rejoice for every evidence of God’s love revealed.

This morning we would like to be very practical about this. Love is not merely an exchange of words. It isn’t just something to write poems and songs about, although I love to read good poems about God’s love. I love to hear about the love of God. Don’t you? But if the Gentiles are to see this love, and come to the light, it will be something more than some words they hear.

In His sermon on the mount Jesus said to His disciples:

“Ye are the light of the world” Matthew 5:14.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” Matthew 5:15.

Yes, love is revealed in good works. When Jesus came down to this world, He spent much of His time in what is called medical missionary work. In preparing for that He spent a good many years in the carpenter shop at Nazareth learning the lessons of obedience and humble, faithful service. All of these things are big with lessons for us this morning. Notice what is going to happen when the whole church is filled with loving service, when every member is busy doing things for others, and when the spirit of selfishness is gone and love rules:

“The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces (wealth) of the Gentiles shall come unto thee” Isaiah 60:3, 5.

There is a lot of wealth that is going to flow into the treasury of the Lord in these closing hours. But if our reason for doing medical missionary work is to get that money it will not bring a blessing to us. The fulfillment of this text is waiting for an experience among the people of God in which money ceases to have any magnetic pull whatsoever.

Shortly before the Day of Pentecost Christ sent His disciples to the upper room to pray and enter into this experience of love. And when the Spirit was poured out It found them of one accord in one place. So utterly were they disenchanted with money that those who had been leading out in the church united into a fellowship in which money was no barrier, and was used only to meet needs.

“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own” Acts 4:32.

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” Acts 2:44-45.

A crisis had come. A message had been given which the acceptance ostracized the hearers. Children were disinherited and driven from home. The rage of Satan blazed out in anger against this church in which the love of God was being revealed. And these people who were being thrown out of their homes found a loving home in the Christian church.

So it will be today. The greatest opportunity you and I have in the work which draws us together this morning is the privilege of revealing in our homes, our churches, our institutions, and our communities this love that filled the apostolic church. This is the glory that Isaiah is talking about in this closing hour.

I want to give an illustration of how completely the early church was emptied of this natural human trait of selfishness. It is true there were exceptions like Ananias and Sapphira, and those people who murmured because they were not getting as much to eat as some others. But in general the church was filled with the spirit of love. The proof for it lies in the fact that when Peter and John went to the temple to pray and saw that cripple lying there who asked for a gift, Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none."

Suppose somebody had been standing by and said, Peter, what are you talking about. Wasn't it just a few days ago the people came and laid down hundreds and thousands of dollars at your feet? Why are you saying you don't have any money?

It is true that Peter and John had a lot of money placed into their hands, but none of it lined their pockets or feathered their nests. I wonder if we, as individuals, as families, or institutions are at that place yet. One of the great perils in this work is that we will suppose increasing prosperity ought to be reflected in increasing conveniences, comforts, and even luxuries and extravagances. I lift my voice in warning this morning. This is the way of the world. It is not the way of the cross.

The remnant people of God will be as peculiar today as Enoch was in his day. Read the story of Enoch. There was plenty of gold to be gathered up then. They didn't have to go down in mines and dig it out. It was scattered around over the surface of the earth. The wise men of that day were gathering that gold and doing all kinds of things with it to beautify their homes and make themselves rich.

But they mocked the folly of Enoch who did not spend his time gathering that gold. What was Enoch doing? He was doing three things. He was rearing his family out in the hills away from the Sodom's and Gomorrah's of that time. He was going down into those cities preaching the Gospel, warning of impending judgment, and gathering out those who would listen. He was taking those people back to his home in the hills, and letting them share the life of sacrifice, simplicity, and religious experience.

Can you think of anything better that we can do today? We will never do it trying to carry on institutions that compete with the world. The plans they are following did not originate in Heaven. The work they are doing does not lead to Heaven. And the more successful institutions are in receiving the recognition of the world in these lines the less capable they are of carrying out what Isaiah is talking about. God is not dependent upon big institutions or large numbers.

"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one  
a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time"  
Isaiah 60:22.

You may be a little one. I am. Each of us is. But if we will arise and shine with the glory shining from the sanctuary above, if we will have done with the gold gathering of this world, and go into soul gathering that all Heaven is interested in, God says He is going to cause the wealth of the Gentiles to flow unto us. It won't have to be milked. Certainly it will not have to be gotten by schemes. Not a bit of it.

God has plenty of money. Just as He has reserved in the bowels of the earth the weapons with which He dealt with the sin of the antediluvian world, so God has reserved all the resources necessary to finish this work. What He is looking for is fully unselfish hearts.

“The experience of Apostolic days will come to us if men will be worked by the Holy Spirit. The Lord will withdraw His blessing where selfish interests are indulged, but He will put His people in possession of good all through the world if they will use this for the uplifting of humanity” *Medical Ministry*, page 132.

This will work anywhere. But there is an if. If they will use this for the uplifting of humanity. That is what Peter and John did. That’s why God could trust them. And God is holding back vast reserves. The gates have not yet been opened. God knows it would ruin us.

God lets a little trickle through to keep us alive, to keep us encouraged, and to keep us moving toward the goal. But He may help us to see what wonderful things are ahead, if we will get self out of the way. The big thing ahead is not the flowing of money. That is very incidental. The big thing ahead is the great river of love. It is going to sweep over this world, and all whose hearts can respond to live will join with us in getting ready for the coming of the King.

“If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 9, page 189.

I want to see that experience. Don’t you?

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound” Isaiah 61:1.

Jesus read these words in the synagogue at Nazareth and applied them to His own mission. They apply also to the mission of the remnant church who, in the name of Jesus, walk in His footsteps, carry on the medical missionary work, preaching good tidings to the meek, binding up the broken hearted, proclaiming liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. In that setting notice:

“For I the LORD love judgment, I hate robbery for burnt offering” Isaiah 16:8.

I wonder why He puts that in? Well, I will give you a latter-day inspired comment on it:

“Some follow worldly policy in order to accumulate means, as they say, for God’s service, but God does not accept such offerings. He says, ‘I hate offerings for burnt offering.’” *Medical Ministry*, page 125.

We are not to follow the business practices of this age in order to accumulate money for God’s service. This is the straight truth. It comes straight from the sanctuary. God doesn’t need that money. He hates it. He says so. So in our individual work and in our institutional work we want to bring in the unselfishness of Jesus.

“As these things were presented before me, my teacher said, ‘The institutions that depend on God and receive His co-operation must ever work according to the principles of His law’” *Ibid.*

It is quite a test to handle money and not let it rule us. The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And it is true. I challenge you to examine in the secret place of prayer your practice as an individual, or one who perhaps has a part in an institution. Let not the thought that we are working for God in any way cover selfishness. The truth of the matter is that the more we work for God the more unselfish we ought to be.

When sin started in Heaven it did not start over greed for gold. It wasn’t selfishness in grasping for material things. It was a selfishness that was manifested in seeking position.

The disciples that Jesus called forsook all and followed Him. They were willing to give up material things. They were willing to be self-supporting medical missionary workers, and ever to be hungry at times in order to be with Jesus. But there were one thing that every one of those twelve men insisted on. It was that he should be first.

There is a closer test than the test of selfishness as it applies to money and material things. Do you see that? It was so in the beginning and in that earthly manifestation. So it has been in all ages.

I think of Julius Caesar’s expression, “I would rather be first in a village than the second in Rome.” Well, he got to be first in Rome, and he got the dagger that followed. Those who take the sword will perish by the sword. But the great reason for getting rid of all that strife for position, all that love for attention, is simply that it eclipses the glory of Immanuel. The light from the Son of Righteousness can never shine in its fullness reflected from us as long as we are interested in our being given due recognition.

Jesus had everything. He not only had material wealth, He sat on the throne of the universe. But He counted it not something to be held on to be equal with God. He humbled Himself. Down He came. He was born in Bethlehem in the stable. He grew up in that little despised village of Nazareth, living the life of the poorest. He devoted His life to medical ministry without the equipment and financial resources

that many today think are vital. And finally, crowning His life of service with sacrifice, He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

The world has its maxims. Look out for number one. Look out for yourself or nobody will look after you. And those ambitions are not sanctified when they become what moves us in the work of God. Not a bit of it, my friends. Oh, that in all our hearts this morning there might come a new appreciation of what simple, sacrificial, unselfish love means. I have seen just enough of it to want more and more. Can we have it? Oh, yes, we can have it.

One of the great places we learn these lessons is in our homes. Dear husband, as the leader in your home what is your business? To give orders so that everything will go the way you think they ought to? What is leadership in the home for? It is to win and lead every member of the family to love God and love His way. So it is written:

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” Ephesians 5:25.

Children, if you love father and mother, it will be easy to obey. As Jesus said to His disciples, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments.” (See John 14:15.)

Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, we can have Heaven on earth if we just have love. It is true that there has to be authority in the home and in the church and in the institution. But God can never pour out His Spirit in its fullness as long as authority is used to get our own way.

When the spirit of love fills our hearts, we will understand that position is for one thing. It is to serve those we lead. And when we recognize this, then we will be perfectly willing for God to place other people in positions of authority and responsibility in the church, the conference, the institution. We will not covet position.

This was Lucifer’s problem. But when God and our brethren arrange responsibility, we will not look upon it as an opportunity to get our way. No. Down on our knees we will be seeking the Lord to exercise that authority in a way that wins as many as possible to walk the way of loving cooperation.

A word to you young men and women. Sometimes it takes a bit of patience when you see older people doing things in an awkward way and an inefficient way. You know that if you could just get hold of the wheel things would move. It takes a bit of patience. But it takes more than patience. It takes love. It takes love for God and for those God has associated you with.

I love to think of Elisha following the prophet Elijah for years. And when Elijah went to Heaven and the people were looking for somebody who might help them get a message from God, somebody said, Well, Elisha is here, and he used to pour water on Elijah’s hands. Maybe he can help us. Did he? Oh, yes. He apparently poured water on Elijah’s hands up to the day that Elijah went to Heaven.

Dear young people. If love is filling your heart you will be glad to do the humble thing, play second or third fiddle, and not worry about whether you are ever called to leadership or not.

But aren't we short on leaders? Pitifully short. Well then, why shouldn't I press forward? Press onward, friends, but let God arrange the upward part. In fact, there may be young men and women sitting here today that God would be glad to give greater responsibility to if they could first learn the lesson we are studying this morning.

So, to your knees, young people. But the message isn't just to you. If there is anything worse than a young man who covets position, it is an old man who covets position. That can make far more trouble in the church or in an institution.

Let's thank God for the privilege of letting the King of the universe run His church, all its departments, and all the institutions connected with it. What do you say?

Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not. Promotion doesn't come from the east or the west or the south. God is the judge. He sets up one and puts down another. In this closing hour there will be glory enough for everybody, but it will be the glory of love, the glory of self-sacrificing love, the glory of love that thinks not of gold nor of position. It thinks of just one thing—how can I help Jesus win some souls.

Several years ago on the coast of Wales the fisherman in a little village saw a storm coming. A vessel on the ocean was too near the shore for safety. Night was coming on. They knew that without a light that vessel might be dashed on the rocks.

There was no lighthouse there. The drift wood was all wet. One of the fishermen went to his hut and brought a table and a stool. He began to cut it up and made a fire.

Another fisherman went to his hut and brought some of the furniture they had made with their own hands.

As the night wore on, one man after another brought furniture to keep the fire burning. In the morning they had the satisfaction of seeing that ship had been kept from disaster.

They didn't know anyone on board that ship. As they went back to their homes, their household furnishings had gone to the fire, and were now ashes. Was it worth it?

I can tell you that if there was anybody you loved on board that ship, it was worth it. If your father, son, husband, brother was on that ship and his life was saved, it was worth it. Do you agree?

It is a wonderful thing to be so full of Heaven's unselfish love that everything can go provided we save someone for God's kingdom.

Is there anyone here this morning that God is talking to?

A week ago I had been asked to come and hold some meetings in a retreat with some physicians in training. As we faced the challenge, one of the first men on his feet was a physician, a graduate from Loma Linda, a man who was highly successful in his field. Thank God he recognized that he needed to make an entire change in his life and practice.

We had a long talk afterwards. He said, "What shall I do?"

I told him I didn't know all the way God would lead him, but he had put his feet in a path that if he would keep going in it his colleagues would call him a fool.

He said he knew it. He had hardly anyone to talk to. But he heard the trumpet call from the Word of God. He heard the quiet voice from the Spirit in his heart, and he was on his feet.

God has people like that. They are waiting to hear a challenge to do something more than drive fine cars and build great palaces. They are waiting to love souls more than money and position and recognition.

But you and I can never be the agents to give that message and receive that response unless we ourselves have drunk of the living waters, and know that this is all that counts.

The Man who presented to the rich young ruler the call to sell all that he had and give to the poor, and take the cross and follow, was the Man who said:

"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head"  
Matthew 8:20.

It is a wonderful thing when everything we have is on the altar.

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