

How to Help Others

Sermon #0943

Study by W. D. Frazee—August 23, 1963

How much we have to share with others. Such a Savior! Haven't we?

Here is a story that I love very much with a lesson that we want to study a little tonight.

"When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

"Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? And Jesus said, Make the men sit down.

"Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

"When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten" John 6:5-13.

I want to ask you something friends. If you should go to an excursion that was to last all day, would you expect to eat anything while you were there? Would you? Would you bring any dishes? Would you bring anything in the dishes?

I rather think there is three classes of people. There is some that don't even bring any dishes. There is some bringing empty dishes hoping to get something put in them, you understand, hoping there will be somebody, expecting there will be somebody that brought something. And of course, third, fortunately there is somebody that brings dishes with something in them. On this occasion there was only one, and he was just a little boy. But Jesus used that, didn't he? Thank the Lord.

I just wonder which class you are in? There is a hungry world around us my friend, and they are needing help. All around us are people that are hungry. They have problems, physical, mental, and spiritual. Some of them are crying out for help, and some of them don't even know enough to cry. Some of them bring some dishes, some empty dishes, hoping that somewhere, sometime, somebody will put something in the dish looking wistfully toward heaven.

Isn't it a wonderful thing, friends, that we can bring them something?

Now, I want to know something. When you come to meeting, whether it is here on Friday night, or out to the branches tomorrow, or down to meeting tomorrow night, or Sunday night, or Tuesday, what do you bring? Do you bring anything? Do you even bring a dish to carry anything home? Or do you just enjoy watching the other people eat? Do you bring an empty dish hoping there will be somebody there that will be passing out samples?

I am talking about something other than granola and whole wheat bread. I am talking about answers to questions, solutions to problems. Help for needy souls. Now, if you come expecting to get help, bring a dish. But somebody, friends, had better bring a dish with something in it, or else people will go away disappointed.

Wouldn't it be a strange thing to attend an excursion, and after a season of interesting activity, somebody should say, "Well, it is time for lunch now. Let's all gather around the table." And people should start unpacking their baskets, and putting the dishes on the table, and the silverware. Finally we look around the table, and the blessing is about to be pronounced, and somebody says, "Where is the food?"

Well indeed, where is the food? Well somebody says, "Well I brought the dishes. I thought there would be somebody bring some food."

"Well that was what I thought. I thought somebody would certainly bring the food. Isn't there any food?"

"Not a bit. But there is a little boy here that has brought along a little bit."

Think of it. Five thousand people, and only one lunch in the whole crowd. But before you wonder about their lack of foresight, friends, what are you doing? When you go to meetings, when you come to meetings, or when you meet people out in their home, or when they come to your home, do you have dishes with food in the dishes? Do you have supplies of grace all ready? Do you have answers to peoples questions, solutions to their problems? That is your privilege. Yes, your duty. Your responsibility. God has called you to this place, to this work for such a time as this for such an experience as what I am talking about.

Now you can look at all the good food that can be put in plates, and baskets, and bowls, and pans, and glasses, appetizing isn't it? Remember there is a hungry world around. It must have been an interesting thing to that boy to find out that he

was the one that brought the supplies that fed five thousand people. Don't you think it was?

Wouldn't you be surprised if you found out that you had the answer to the problems of five thousand people? Some of you are going to find that out friends. Joseph did. Many times five thousand people were fed because one young man had some answers. Daniel did. He saved the lives of the wise men of Babylon. Esther did. Praise God, she found the answers that saved the lives of a nation. And many a lad, and lass of today will do in this generation what the heroes of faith did back there, but they are going to learn it, friends, in very simple ways doing very simple things.

I want to study with you tonight some very simple things about how to help people. How to feed them in other words. How to help them. And the reason that I want to study it with you a little while is because so many people need help. You suppose any of them are here tonight?

I suppose that somebody came tonight with an empty dish hoping that you would get something. Well friends, you will, unless you pull the dish away before it is filled. You will get something. But I want to tell you something very interesting. When that little boy brought that lunch to the disciples, and the disciples brought it to Jesus, Jesus did not encourage them to sit down there and start eating. Did He? He encouraged them to get busy and start sharing. And I correct?

And something wonderful happened as those disciples started to sharing. Do you know what happened? What happened to the food? It multiplied. Elder W. C. White told us once that somebody asked Sister White whether the food multiplied in Jesus' hands alone, or in the hands of the disciples. She said, "Both."

Ah friends, our God is wonderful, and if we will get busy solving the problems of others, some of our own problems will get solved. So tonight there is some simple things that I want to talk to you about helping other people on the place, and off the place, out in the homes, at meetings, any where you meet people, in your home or their home, people are needing help, longing for help. What can you do?

Well, my dear friend, if you can't do anything else, you can pray with people. Not as a form, not as a ceremony, but because that is the way to get help. Here is a promise that I have used dozens and dozens of times. It will work just as well for you as it does for me.

May I tell you honestly friends?, many times when people come to me to counsel with me, sometimes coming from long distances this is all I can do, open my Bible and read them this verse, and say, we will get down and pray together. Now if you can do more than that go right ahead, but if you can't do anymore, do that. That is the thing I am getting at.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"
Jeremiah 33:3.

Listen, if you were passing a neighbor's home, and the neighbor should holler out, "Oh, I just found my kitchen on fire." If you knew the number of the fire department, would you tell them? Would you? Would you say, "why call, call such and such a number right there on the telephone"?

"Oh I am so glad you told me. I didn't know how to get a hold of the fire department."

There is a lot of people who don't know how to get a hold of God, friends. You don't have to be the most expert problem solver in the world to help people. Get them in touch with headquarters. Nine tenths of their problems you can't solve any way. You can be sure of it. If they have a problem of the other ten percent that you can help them with, get in and do it.

If the mother is lying sick, and the baby needs to be cleaned up, you don't need to pray about that, just get in and help clean up the house. But I tell you that nine tenths of the problems people have, you can't solve. But God can. Your business is not to be wise enough to solve all their problems. You are to be like Andrew and get the bread in Jesus' hands so it can start reaching the needs of thousands.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"
Jeremiah 33:3.

I wish that twenty people right now would decide that in the next week you would share that verse with somebody that needs help. You can be one of those twenty. The more helpless you feel when you hear their problem, the better you can claim this text. How do I know it? Because that is what the last clause says. The things that God is going to show you and show those people that you are praying with and for are things which what? "Thou knowest not."

Not how to change a tire. You know that. If you don't you can call on somebody that can. My friends, our problems are bigger than flat tires, aren't they? Oh, how many problems are beyond the reach of any human help! Human wisdom is too little. Human strength doesn't avail.

Just the other night, a thousand miles from here, a dear man said to me, "Will you come and pray?", for a sick man that was there. Another minister and I we came in and we prayed. That was all that we could do. Incidentally, that particular case, that was all that any human being could do, just pray for that man.

We took him into the presence of God. We left him there in the arms of the Great Physician. I know God heard it. He is going to raise him up, either from the bed of sickness, or raise him up at the last day as Jesus says.

Friends, everyone of you can pray with people and for people, can't you? That is if you know God. If you have something in you dish. If you don't, why not do what that man did in Luke eleven?

He found himself in an emergency, maybe some of you have been in that situation?

“And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?” Luke 11:5-6.

When did he find this problem? At midnight. At midnight.

Apparently here was some people that had been traveling all day and hadn't had anything to eat. It wasn't a midnight snack. They were really hungry and they needed help. This man didn't have anything so what did he do? He went to somebody that had it, and kept pleading until he got it.

And if you and I will go to Jesus as we come in contact with human needs and human problems and cry to God, God will give us something to set before them. Won't He? That is what He intends that we shall do.

May I tell you friends, there is a great danger in a situation such as you and I are in right here. Do you know what it is? The danger of feeling that there is somebody else that has the food in the basket. Somebody that is older, wiser, more experienced, something. God wants you to have the joy of feeding people. He wants you to have the joy of helping people.

Besides that friends, the people that are older, wiser, and more experienced than you are, they have their hands full anyway if they are doing what they ought to. And there is somebody that you can help while they are helping the fifty or the hundred, there is somebody down there that if you will get even one bit of food in your basket, you can find somebody that needs that help. Why not do it? What do you say friends? Share with others the love that Jesus has shared with you. Pray with people.

Now along with suggesting these one or two things that you can do to help people, may I suggest one or two things you can do to keep from hindering them? This is very important. When people start talking about their problems, what do you do? Let me tell you two or three things not to do. If their problems concern what other people have done against them, and that often happens, don't take sides. Don't start in with a tale of woe about how you have been wronged, and abused, and mistreated either. Just leave all that.

But now I come to the most important part of my study. Do not lament, and grieve, and complain with them about their problems. Don't do that. Because if you do, you murmur against God, and teach them to murmur against God.

Do you believe in providence? What is providence? Why providence is God looking ahead and planning for every one of us. Is that right? Suppose you should happen in at school that is just half way through and there is a child struggling away with a lesson, and you say, what is the matter?

“Oh I have such a hard lesson. The teacher gave us a whole page of arithmetic problems here and they are just terrible.”

Now if you join with that student in complaining about the terrible teacher that gave the terrible problems, is that going to help in getting the solution? Is it? No. Who is our teacher? God is our teacher. Are the problems of life the lesson book in which He is teaching us precious lessons? Is it true? Do you believe that?

Do you believe that your problems are your lesson book? Do you believe that your neighbor's problems are his lesson book? Or would you, if you could, take that lesson book away from him and give him something easy like “I see a tree.” He could read that probably. Or two and three equal five. He could probably solve that problem. Would you do that if you were the teacher if you had the chance? Some people talk as if they would.

What is your attitude, oh, get this point friends, what is your attitude toward the problems that people are having? Do you believe that it is unfortunate that they have those problems? That it isn't fair? That it is unjust, unreasonable for them to have those problems? If you feel that way, you can't help them friends.

Ah, but you say, “It isn't fair.”

Well then you can't help them. You can't help them.

I was reading about a man that had stomach trouble. The doctor in delving, in digging in the man's thinking, he found that he was having problems at home. Of course, when he got a divorce, why he didn't have any more stomach problems. Is that the cure?

Thank God, friends, we have something better than joining with people in complaining about their problems. We can take them to God and we can say to them, “God is going to help you to find in this problem the help that you need.” We can teach them to pray, of course we will have to have some confidence ourselves. If we are complaining because somebody burned the toast, we won't be able to help them with a problem involving some great big divorce possible situation.

If we are fuming and fussing over little problems, we certainly will never be able to encourage them with big problems. Will we? Never in all this world.

Do you remember that is the problem Jesus had with Israel for forty years in the desert? Over and over again He brought them around to a place where something happened that they weren't planning for and didn't like, and then again and again, what did they do? They murmured and complained.

Now we mustn't do like Moses did on one occasion and condemn people, and shout at them, and call the rebels. The Lord didn't appreciate that on Moses' part. But on the other hand friends, we must never, never, never sympathize with people in their complaining against God, against circumstances, and against other people. That is no way to help. It is just time lost. It is worse than lost.

I want to read something wonderful here in volume seven.

“My brethren and sisters, in your ministry come close to the people. Uplift those who are cast down. Treat of calamities as disguised blessings, ...” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol 7, page 272.

What a disguise calamities have sometimes. But nevertheless they are what? Blessings. Blessings in what? Disguise. But is the blessing then in what? The calamity. What is the disguise? The calamity exactly. But, oh, hidden in the disguise is a what? A blessing. A blessing.

“...come close to the people. ... Treat of calamities as disguised blessings, of woes as mercies” *Ibid*.

Now I will tell you those dear people that I was just reading a little letter from down there in a clinic in Mexico, unless they have this lesson learned, how are they going to go out into communities where there is sick, and sad, and miserable in every home? How are they going to do it friends? If they message they have to say to them is, “Oh this isn’t fair. The government ought to do something about this. God ought to do something about this. You shouldn’t be in any such situation.” If that is the message, will it be helpful? No.

It is a wonderful thing to be able to go into any situation and say, “Brother, Sister, Neighbor, friend, I know that God understands your problem. I will do anything I can, but the problem I can see is bigger than I can solve, bigger than you can solve, bigger than any body can solve. But God knows. He understands. Let’s kneel down here and ask Him to help and see if He will impress our minds with anything we can do. If we can we will help, and if we can’t, God is going to have through one of His thousand ways some other method.” Isn’t that the message of courage that we need to bring? Oh let’s do it friends. In any situation. In every situation.

Suppose you go out in here, you travel now, you go home, you visit some place. Here you are visiting some church, and here comes somebody with a tale of woe about what the church elder did, or didn’t do, or what the church school teacher did, or didn’t do.

There is a situation. Somebody has been abused. Somebody has been mistreated. What are you going to do about it? Are you going to say, “Oh poor fellow, they really do pick on him.”?

Somebody was telling me a tale of woe some weeks ago, and I don’t know, maybe I shouldn’t word it this way, but I was really trying to help them. I said, “You really have been abused, haven’t you?” Well, they decided to reword what they had said then.

My dear friends, people that are full of self-pity need help to recognize that God is on the throne, and God is running this universe after all. They need help to see that no matter what their problem is, it probably isn't as bad as a number of people that the Bible tells about. Take them to the story of Joseph. Take them to that experience where his own brothers bound him, and put him in the pit, and then, sold him to the Ishmaelites.

Then he got down to Egypt there, and you remember the story of how after years of faithful service, he was thrown into prison under false accusation, and then the chief butler forgot him, very little gratitude. If Joseph has spent those years feeling sorry for himself, would he have been ready to take on the problems of the nation of Egypt? Would he? Never friends. Never.

Oh for the spirit of courage to tackle any problem, your own, or anybody else's with simple faith. Now you may have to suffer sometimes. God may not work a miracle to pull you out of the dungeon the first night that you are put in there. How long did Joseph stay in jail? Three years. That's a long time friends. Especially if your feet are in the stocks part of that time. And remember that was on top of ten years of slavery. But God was with Joseph.

Watch him as he goes about there in the prison? What kind of a dish is he carrying around? Is he saying, "Oh isn't there somebody here that will help me?" No. He is carrying around a dish looking for people that need help. Praise the Lord! Does he find them? Why sure.

"... he that watereth shall be watered also himself"
Proverbs 11:25.

And let's add to that, he that feeds others will be fed himself. What do you say?

God wants you to be that kind of person, but remember, you will never get that way complaining with people, or complaining against them. Don't waste time judging them, or condemning them, or judging or condemning others. Down on your knees, folks, claim this promise:

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"
Jeremiah 33:3.

Now you take this problem of keeping the Sabbath. Here is a man, he has got a family to support, and he has got a job where he works on Saturday. He comes to the meetings, or he has Bible studies, or he hears the Voice of Prophecy, or he reads the literature. He becomes convinced that he ought to. But what can he do? I have been through it with hundreds of people friends.

Listen. Do you know all you can do in case after case after case, and you can do it just as well as I if you believe and go at it? You will just have to say to that man, "Well, now look here Brother. I don't know which one of God's thousand ways

He is going to use to help you out in this situation. But listen, tell me. Would you like help? Would like help to keep the Sabbath?"

"Yes I would."

"Well let's get down here and pray. God says ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. Shall we do that?"

And we say that to him, and he says, "Why I would be so glad."

"Well let's do it."

But maybe he doesn't know how to pray, and you pray, and say,

"Now wouldn't you like to tell the Lord?"

Oh he says, "I don't know how."

"Oh listen, what does this say?"

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee
great and mighty things, which thou knowest not"
Jeremiah 33:3.

"Now listen. Can't you just tell the Lord in your own words, dear Lord, help me?"

Friends, dozens of times I have had to put the words in their mouths the first time they ever called on God. You can do it. Do it. Down there on your knees. Get that person that is burdened and worried, and fearful, and anxious to just ask God to help them. And if you have to put the words in their mouth, do it.

Just say, "Would you like to?"

"Yes."

"Well now listen."

"Alright."

Say, "Dear Lord, I need help."

And they will say, "Dear Lord, I need help."

"You know I want to keep the Sabbath."

"You know I want to keep the Sabbath."

"Lord help me do it."

“Lord help me do it.”

See what I mean friends? Oh you say, “My. That way?” Yes that way. Now if you know a better way, do it the better way, but do it. Hungry people friends, carry food to them. But ah remember you must get it warm from glory and take it to the people. If you are so sensitive about your own problems, if you are so fearful that other people are going to be interfering with you all the while, how can you help people?

Oh friends, what a shame the paltry little things, the tiny little things that stand between us in ministry to the sick and the dying, the needy and the hungry, the discouraged and the sad, the sinful, the sorrowing. Let’s be on our way friends. Shall we do it for Jesus’ sake?

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