

Keep Looking To Jesus Only

#0710

Study by W.D. Frazee—July 3, 1964

For the past few vesper services we have been meditating on some of the messages of Jesus in this wonderful Gospel of John. Tonight we will notice first of all the first three verses of the seventeenth chapter. These are the opening words of the prayer of Jesus on the border of Gethsemane.

These words spoke Jesus and lifted up his eyes to heaven and said Father the hour is come glory thy son that they son also may glorify thee. As thou has given him power over all flesh that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

To know our Lord is what? Eternal life. What is life eternal? To know God and Jesus Christ. If you know Him then you have what? You have eternal life. Now notice He doesn't say "you will have it" He says, "You do have it." This is life eternal. Life eternal to know God. You know friends, just from the standpoint of getting acquainted with Him it is going to take eternity because it will take an eternity of time to explore an infinity of truth. God is so wonderful that there will always be something more to get acquainted with. But that heaven which we are to enter into in the future life, we begin here, right now. This is the record that God hath given to us eternal life. And this life is in His son, but eternal life consists in what? In knowing God, knowing God.

Now turn back to the fourteenth chapter of the same book and the sixth verse. Tell me, is there any other way? Is there? No. There is no other way. I am the way Jesus says the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me. If we come to God, who is the way? Jesus is the way. Any other way? No. That is what Peter said you will remember. Neither is there salvation in any other Acts 4:12. No other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. No other way just Jesus.

Let's go back to the Old Testament and find the same message there. Forty-fifth of Isaiah twenty-second verse. Isaiah 45:22. Do you have it? Will you read it with me?

Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth for I am God and there is none else.

What is the first word? Look. What do you look for? To see, alright. Where are you going to look. Unto Jesus. What will happen if we do? We will be saved. You mean just looking to Jesus will save people? That's right. Is there any other way? No, there is no other way.

Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth.

Now I want to tell you dear friends. There may be some other things along the way that we want to learn but if we haven't learned this we haven't even started, have we? No. In fact, if all the things we need to learn are wrapped up in this, all the things we need to learn we are going to learn by looking where? Unto Jesus. If you were the Devil what you do about it? Wouldn't you try to divert, to distract, to keep people from looking where? Looking to Jesus, Yes. Well, let's look, what do you say? Let's look to Him and look to Him alone. Those three disciples that went up with Christ on the mount of Transfiguration, you will remember at the close of the vision it says they lifted up their eyes and saw no man save Jesus only.

If there is one lesson the Bible teaches along with lesson of looking to Jesus it is the lesson of the danger of looking to men. You will remember that story of Gideon back there in the book of Judges? Now Gideon was a very humble man and a very consecrated man. He was so humble that when the angel came to him and told him that he was to deliver Israel. He said, "well how can I do that my father's family is poor and I am least of all of them." The angel said, "never mind, you are the one the Lord is going to use." And so finally after various experiences the Israelites were delivered by God using Gideon. You will remember the interesting story of the trumpets and the pitchers and the lights and all that and how three hundred men were used by God to put a multitude to flight. The Midianites were entirely defeated. Well, you read back there in the book of Judges when they came back the Israelites wanted to make Gideon king. He said, "No, the Lord is your king." He showed a good spirit all the way through. But they wanted to do something to show their gratitude. So now what? He said, "alright," He said, "Now bring me those golden earrings that came from the Midianites, let me have them" And so he fixed those up and he fixed up and he began a priestly work. Now if you read back you will find out where he got the idea. When the Lord first called him to deliver Israel He told him to tear down the altar of Baal and build an altar to God and offer sacrifices. It was alright to do that when God told him, but God never told him to get the golden earrings and start that.

I want you to turn to the book of Judges and see what the result was. Judges 8:27. Here was this good man that God had used in a mighty and a marvelous way to deliver Israel and he had such a clear view on some matters that he even turned down the offer of being king. But now, he enters into the priesthood which God did not appoint him to. The 27th verse:

And Gideon made an ephod thereof and put it in his city even in Ophra and all Israel went thither a whoring after it. Which thing became a snare unto Gideon and to his house.

Did he do the right thing or the wrong thing? (Audience says "wrong"). Well how could such a good man do such a bad thing? I wonder why God wrote it down? To teach us a lesson, my friends. Not to look to man nor trust in man. Now I want to ask you something. Was it alright for Israel to follow Gideon when he was doing what God had told in fighting the Midianites and delivering Israel, was he? Yes. Was it alright for them to follow him when he put up this apparatus and started in this worship where God didn't tell him to, was it? No, that wasn't alright. That was the

time to part company with him, wasn't it? So Israel failed because they did what? They looked to man. Now this story we have studied is a story of the people following the leader looking to the leader instead of God but now let's turn the thing around. Go over to First Samuel 15 and here we have an interesting example of the leader following the people. And it didn't work any better. Who was this leader? Saul. Israel's first king. Gideon had such a clear view he knew that Israel shouldn't have a king, God was the king. But in the days of Samuel Israel just kept at it and kept at it, they wanted a king. You remember what they wanted a king for? Be like the other nations, like some people today, they want to be like other people.

And so it led Israel into many many problems. But here is the king, and God told him through the prophet to go destroy Amalek this wicked heathen nation that had been so abominable. And when they got over there why instead of utterly destroying them they took a lot of the sheep and oxen and spoil and took the king instead of killing him like God said, they brought him home. To let everybody see what a wonderful king Saul was that had conquered that big king of Amalek and so forth. Well you will remember that Samuel came and rebuked it and reminded him what the Lord had said. But he defended himself and excused himself. And finally when Saul (transcriber's note "he said "Saul" here when he probably meant Samuel) told him that it was rebellion I want you to notice how Saul laid bare the whole problem. Twenty fourth verse.

And Saul said unto Samuel I have sinned for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and thy word because (what?) I bid the people and obeyed their voice.

What a king! What a king! What a leader! Instead of playing follow the leader he was playing follow the people. Blaming the people, he that was supposed to give leadership was following and blaming it on the people. I don't doubt there was blame alright but if Saul had been a man after God's own heart, no matter what the people said he would have said, "Look here, God told us to do this and this is what we are going to do", right? But he was like Aaron on that point. There is another example of a man that should have been a leader. He was influenced by the people and he led a whole nation into apostasy while Moses was on the mount. My point is friends, men are not safe, whether they are leaders or whether they great men. If people can't look to the leaders the leader can't look to the people. What is our text? Look unto me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth.

Anyone that builds on them will be... You know there is a church today that claims its built on Peter. But what a flimsy foundation to build anything on. You know the name Peter means a rolling stone, just a little stone, but the rock that Jesus built His church on was the rock of Ages, Christ Himself the great mighty rock. These poor people, anybody that built on Peter I wonder what they would have been thinking that morning when they heard him curse and swear in the courtyard? Not a very good one to depend upon was it? But somebody says but the preacher that I depend upon isn't like Peter, he isn't like Gideon and he isn't like Saul. No, No. He may have some other weakness but I want to tell you something friends. If there is anybody that you depend upon and look to them, one of two things will happen just as certainly as can be. Either they will actually make some mistake so God can

teach you a lesson or else they will do something you think is ok and that will teach them to fail you.

Never build on man, any man, anyone, that is the whole story of the Bible from Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden right down to the remnant. But come down to the remnant now and let's go to Matthew 24. Jesus is discussing the signs of His coming and of the ends of the world. The disciples had asked Him you will remember. What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world. The sixth verse He told them about wars and rumors of wars; seventh verse about famines and great epidemics and earthquakes. They have been happening with increasing intensity haven't they friends? All these are the beginning of sorrows. The ninth verse

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and to kill you and ye shall be hated of all men for my name sake (how long?) (And then shall many do what?) shall send themselves to betray one another and shall hate one another.

Oh, listen, if somebody you have been depending on

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