

Something Better

#0534

Study by W.D. Frazee—February 11, 1972

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled” Matthew 5:6.

I am so glad for that promise. I am sure that in every human heart that can feel what is deep inside there is a longing for something better. God has made us that way. He didn't make us like the serpent to travel along in the dust. He didn't make us like the oyster to inhabit the slime. He didn't make us like the pig to be a scavenger. He put within our souls a hunger for the very highest and best things in life. God Himself has planted that longing, and every longing He has implanted He provides to satisfy. “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

Do you have a longing in your heart? Would you like to have something better than you have ever known? No matter how good God has been to us, He wants to do more. He is well pleased when we urge past blessings as the reason why we should receive greater blessings. So let us listen to His invitation:

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness” Isaiah 55:1-2.

In the days of the depression we used to have nickel lunches, or a penny a dish lunches for the unemployed. We found a way to feed folks who came in without even a nickel or penny. Jesus is calling to everybody. He says, I have something to feed your hungry heart, and you can get it without money.

There is an idea that religion is a kill-joy. People who get that religion miss some of the best things of life. That is a lie. The One who made us is longing to share with us the richest and best and highest and most wonderful things. He feels sorry to see us spending money and time and effort and strength to get things which do not satisfy and leave us with restless longings. He longs to fill our hearts and mind with that which abundantly satisfies. The more I get the more I want, but of the same thing. I am like a boy who has just had a nice, big piece of rich, red watermelon, and I want another piece. And we can have more and more. Nothing less than the best is God's desire for His children.

“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” 3 John 2.

God desires us to have the best. This is His plan for those who will listen to Him.

“But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way” 1 Corinthians 12:31.

Sometimes we think it is wrong to covet. The Ten Commandments shows it is wrong to covet that which doesn't belong to you. The reason is that it wouldn't satisfy you. But here we have not merely the permission to covet, but we have the Savior's urgent invitation to covet earnestly the best gifts. When He has invited us into His great treasure house and told us that He wants us to fulfill our highest expectations, why should we be satisfied with anything less than the best?

“‘Something better’ is the watchword of education, the law of all true living. Whatever Christ asks us to renounce, He offers in its stead something better. Often the youth cherish objects, pursuits, and pleasures that may not appear to be evil, but that fall short of the highest good. They divert the life from its noblest aim. Arbitrary measures or direct denunciation may not avail in leading these youth to relinquish that which they hold dear. Let them be directed to something better than display, ambition, or self-indulgence. Bring them in contact with truer beauty, with loftier principles, and with nobler lives. Lead them to behold the One ‘altogether lovely.’ When once the gaze is fixed upon Him, the life finds its center. The enthusiasm, the generous devotion, the passionate ardor, of the youth find here their true object. Duty becomes a delight and sacrifice a pleasure. To honor Christ, to become like Him, to work for Him, is the life's highest ambition and its greatest joy. ‘The love of Christ constraineth’” *Education*, pages 296-297.

Here is something better. It is God's call, God's invitation to young people, and to all of us.

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” Philippians 4:8.

Isn't that a nice menu to choose from? But I think we will recognize that the only way to get the best is to miss not only the bad, but a lot of ordinary good things.

There are a lot of good books. There are so many good books printed today that it is hard to find space in the library for them. It is hard to find time during the day or night to read them. Do you manage to keep up? A friend of mine was telling that to just keep up with the latest scientific discovery a man would have to read 3,000 printed pages every day. Did you get a little behind last week?

The wisest man in the world entered into more research perhaps than anyone in the ancient world. He put it down this way at the end of his life. He summed up some thoughts based on his research:

“And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh” Ecclesiastes 12:12.

In the day these lines were written, all the books available had been copied by hand. There were no printing presses or any other means of duplication. One book meant that a scribe had written out every letter by hand. If there were two copies it had to be copied out twice by hand. Yet in those days the wise man said there were already so many books that it wore him out trying to keep up with them.

So you see the force of the Savior’s invitation to covet the best. Whenever the question comes into your mind whether a book is bad and wicked enough to throw away and cross off your reading list, you are missing something. Turn your eyes in another direction. Don’t be looking for the worst so you can throw it away. Look for the very best so you can give it time and thought. These ten billion brain cells are too precious to be wasted on anything less than the best.

This would solve many a question that people ask, Why shouldn’t I read this book? You can, but why not enjoy the best. Something better is the watchword of education, the law of all true living. And do you see that if we are always taking from the top of the list we will never even get dangerously near the bad or impure. We will never have that problem. We will pass by not only a lot of simple things, but a lot of trivial. We will miss not only the poison but the sawdust. Something better is the watch word.

It is not so only with reading. It is so with music. I hear every now and then little whispers that remind me that we are in an interesting time on the business of music. I am so glad that I don’t have to spend my time telling you what is wrong with the worst music. You and I don’t have time for all the good music. There are not that many hours in the day or night. Why not enjoy the best?

Take the matter of diet. People say, Why can’t I eat such and such an article? What’s wrong with it? Well, we could show some pictures. We could examine some of it under the microscope and get a photograph of some of the millions of germs with which the carcass is teeming. But there is something better than that way to approach it. When I see the delicious apples and pears and grapes and figs and strawberries and pecans and walnuts and beans and potatoes and carrots and whole wheat bread, I am so glad that we can have a menu presented to us of the very best foods. And why should it be thought bondage to have the best? This is no prisoner’s fare. Of every tree in the garden thou mayest freely eat. Oh friends, the King’s children have a wonderful table.

I have a friend who spent several years in an internment camp half-way around the world. Believe me, before he got through that period he was glad to eat just anything he could find. But he was always eating the best he could get his hands on. And what he was eating some days you wouldn’t think was the best on

your table. You would probably use it for dog food. But if we are always getting the best, then we are always getting the best. Isn't it wonderful to form the habit of always picking out the best in reading or music or diet, or anything else? I don't mean in a selfish way. Our heavenly Father wants us to have the best. He made it for us. He is disappointed when we look all around and find something which is mediocre and say, Well, I guess I will take that. All the while God is offering us the cream of the crop, the top of the list. Covet earnestly the best gifts.

I found the other day this statement:

"If we will, we may turn away from all that is cheap and inferior, and rise to a high standard" *Ministry of Healing*, page 491.

Thank God, it is possible. Let us live by the very highest standards.

In our dress there are all sorts of ideas. What will we do? If we get this vision there will be a lot of things we will eliminate, not because we can prove they are bad, but prove that they are not the best. That's all. It is that simple. And if the way you dress represents your view of what Heaven thinks is best, then you are blessed in the best. You don't need to take someone else's conscience to guide you. As Elder Luther Warren used to say, "Play fair with God."

If you are troubled with some article of dress or fashion, get down on your knees and say, Dear Savior, I am dressing to please You? What pleases you the best I want. And the more you study the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy the better educated your conscience will be. Therefore the Holy Spirit will be better able to help you to see what Heaven wants you to do. But keep in mind that this whole question, whether in diet or dress or music or reading, or anything else is not to avoid the bad.

Someone told me that in the German language there is a proverb which translated says, The good is the enemy of the best. The person who is satisfied merely with avoiding the bad may miss the highest and best things of life.

But can't I have things that are cheap?

Yes, you can have all of that. But you don't have to. The good news is that if we will we may turn away from all that is cheap and inferior, and rise to the highest standard. Let's do it.

When we go to heaven it is going to be that way. The diet is going to be the very best. The music is going to be the very best. And every enjoyment of life will be ours to the fullest. Jesus has died to make it possible. What a price. Jesus took the guilt so we could have the pardon. He took the sorrows so we could have the joy. He took our sins that we might have His righteousness. He died our death that we might live His life. He invites us to bring to Him our weakness that He may give us His strength. Yes, these best gifts are the purchase of His broken body, His spilled blood.

Every person here has a battle of some kind. He has temptations. He has something that is a real struggle. I give you the key to deal with that problem:

“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”
Romans 12:21.

Think of the temptation that is hardest for you to meet, and then take this verse. Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. You will not meet the enemy successfully. If you are trying all the time to show that everything he offers you is bad and wicked and terrible, he is skillful in arranging his temptations so that they include many good things. Was not the tree from which he gave his first radio broadcast the tree of knowledge of good and evil? There was something better than that in the garden. It was the tree of life. What a shame Adam and Eve missed the tree of life in order to partake of that tree of knowledge of good and evil.

No, we will not meet the enemy successfully by standing and arguing with him about what is bad or good on that tree. Never. But we can conquer by turning away from the mixtures and accepting the best, the tree of life planted for us by our Lord, and purchased for us by His precious blood. We can meet evil successfully by overcoming with good that which is pure, unmixed with evil. Here is a statement that will bring cheer to some heart:

“There are thoughts and feelings suggested and aroused by Satan that annoy even the best of men. But if they are not cherished, if they are repulsed as hateful, the soul is not contaminated with guilt, and no other is defiled by their influence” *That I May Know Him*, page 140.

Do even the best men have feeling they know are suggested by Satan? Yes. So when the enemy darts these suggestions into the minds that we know is not the best, let's not stop to argue. Let's turn to the very highest things. Repeat the Scriptures. Fill the mind with the Word of God. And in that Word we shall find the lovely things, the pure thing, the true things which satisfy the soul.

Perhaps a song will come to our mind. We may sing that song, and music will drive away the evil angels. Perhaps we dart a prayer to Heaven and say, Dear Lord, turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity. Fill my vision with Thee and Thy love. I do not want to be contaminated with sin, and I do not want to satisfy my mind with the trivial that isn't so bad. I want the best. You have paid such a price. You have given everything that I might have the finest. Help me to make You happy by taking what you paid such a price for.

Let's send Him the word tonight that we appreciate His paying such a price to give us the best.

Copyright 2019. All rights reserved.

W.D. Frazee Sermons
P.O. Box 129, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org