

False Revival

#0592

Study given by W.D. Frazee—January 22, 1971

Before Jesus come everyone here will have the opportunity to stand for Jesus all alone. What does that take? It takes love. That's all.

Suppose here is a young man who is working for his father on the farm. He milks the cows. He plows with the tractor. He is helping his father.

A neighbor observes this boy from time to time and notices that he is a good, hard worker. One day the neighbor beacons him over to the fence and says, Look here John, I need a hand, and I can pay you more than your father is paying you. Come with me.

Will the boy come? That depends on how much he loves his father.

Suppose the neighbor says, John, I will not only give you a better salary, I will give you a better place to live. I will give you a house with more conveniences than you have.

It is a wonderful thing when that young man can look his neighbor in the eye and say, Thank you for your offer, but I am not interested. My father loves me better than you do.

The neighbor says, Does he? Well, why doesn't he pay you more. Why doesn't he give you the conveniences that I would give you?

The young man says, That's not the point. I know that my father loves me better than you do, so I am going to stay with him. But that is only half of it. I love my father better than I love you. I love him and I want to please him. I love him and can't disappoint him.

It is a wonderful thing to have a relationship like that with our Heavenly Father. Hear the call of God and be devoted to Him.

Gideon's thirty-two thousand were encamped, ready to attack the enemy. God said, they are not ready. They haven't been tested. Gideon, in obedience to God's command, blew the trumpet and said, All who are afraid go home. Twenty-two thousand went home when he said that. Over two thirds said, This is a risky cause, if not a lost cause. We are glad for the chance to clear out. We are going home.

But still the ten thousand that were left looked like too many to God. As Gideon brought them down to the water and they went through the brook, God said,

Put to one side the men who don't get down and take a long time to drink. Put to one side those men who pick up a little water in their hand as they go through.

There were only three hundred who did that. They were more interested in getting the job done than in getting a drink of water.

Someone says, "But we have to drink."

Indeed. They got a drink. But they did it in a way that showed that they were more interested in getting a job done for God than in satisfying their own creature comforts. In such little ways character is revealed. How will it be revealed in your life, my friends?

What do you need? Love. That's all.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous" 1 John 5:3.

Grievous means heavy, hard to bear. Does the law of God look hard to you. Do you wish it were not that way? Do you wish the conditions were not so difficult and exacting? What do we need? Just love, for this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. Love is revealed in obedience. Love is manifested in seeking to please God.

In this world we seek to please those whom we love. And the more we love someone the more we want to please them. So it is written:

"If ye love Me, keep My commandments" John 14:15.

Love is the root, obedience is the fruit. And there is no fruit without the root. But without the fruit what good is the root? The purpose of the fruit is to produce the fruit. "If you love Me, keep My commandments." "This is the love of God that we keep His commandments."

Last week we looked at the appeal in the ministry magazine of November, 1970 in which attention was called to the fact that we must repent before there can be a true revival and reformation, and that we will never repent until we see something to repent about. Attention was called to four areas—dress reform, health reform, educational reform, and medical work. I think I am greatly privileged to be connected with the work in which all these four reforms are prominent. But without love none of them mean a thing.

Someone was telling me about a little boy who came downstairs on Christmas morning and saw all the wonderful things on the Christmas tree. He saw the toys and beautiful ornaments. Someone had put oranges on the tree. Dancing up and down in glee he said, Oh mama, let's get daddy to plant the back yard full of trees like this.

But we folks understand that the things that were on that tree was tied onto it. Too many Christians are Christmas tree Christians. And that which is good in their lives has been tied on. It did not grow from the inside.

There are two great blessings that I trust we shall have tonight. One is the blessing of seeing that we ourselves can never attain the goals that are set before us in the call to repentance, revival, and reformation today unless we have the root of love. Then the fruit of blessing will be seen. The second blessing is that we shall clearly see that we have no commission from God to go around getting people to tie things on their trees or tie them ourselves. There are enough actors in the world without our adding any.

What do we want? The love of God; love for Jesus so that when the world seeks to entice and draw us we say, No. The answer is clear and decided. Why? I love my Father more than I love anyone else or anything else. And He loves me. I know He loves me, therefore I know He will do for me what is best for me.

A few days ago there fell into my hands the story of an experience related by Booth, who for a number of years was the leading officer in the Salvation Army. I would like to read this story, and when I have finished you will understand why I am reading it:

“One morning I stood outside the large, iron gates of a local police court and temporary prison. There were people waiting there, some out of curiosity and some because they had a relative inside. I waited expectantly for the opening of the gate. I heard the shuffling of the heavy feet. They came close. Then I heard sounds of loud voices, and one especially that got louder and more shrill. It was the voice of a woman. “The gates opened wide, and I witnessed to sight which, if eternity could wash away from my mind, time never can. It was a woman. Two policemen walked in front and two behind. One stalwart man held the right arm and the other the left. Her hair was uncombed and matted. Her right temple was blackened with bruises. Clots of dry blood stood upon her left temple. Her clothes were torn and bloodstained. She tried to wrench her arms from the grasp of the policemen. The very atmosphere of the morning was laden with her curses and her oaths. She tossed her head wildly as the six policemen dragged her down the passageway.

“What could I do? On more moment and the golden opportunity to be of help would be gone. Could I offer a prayer? No, there was not time. Could I sing? It would be absurd. Could I give her money? She could not take it. Could I quote a verse of Scripture? She would not heed it. Whether it was a divine suggestion or not I did not stop to think, but the impulse of a burning desire which filled my heart as she passed made me step forward and kiss her on the cheek. Whether the police were taken off their guard by

my extraordinary action and relaxed their grasp I do not know, but with one wrench she freed her arms and clasped her hands as the winds spread her matted hair, and she looked toward the gray skies and said, 'My God.' She looked around wildly for a moment and then said, 'My God, who kissed me? Nobody has kissed me since my mother died.' Lifting her tattered apron she buried her face in her hands, and like a little lamb she was led to the vehicle which took her to prison.

"Later I went to the prison in the hope of seeing her, and at the door stood the warden. When I approached the warden she said, 'We think her mind is gone. She does nothing but pace up and down her cell asking me every time I go in if I know who kissed her.'

"'Would you let me go in and speak to her?' I asked. 'I am her only and best friend.' The door was opened and I slipped in. Her face was clean. Her eyes were large and beautiful, and she said, 'Do you know who kissed me?' Then she told me her story. 'When I was a girl seventeen years old my widowed mother died. She died very poor, although she was of gentle birth. She died in a back basement in the dark. When she was dying she called me to her, took my little face in her hands and kissed it, and said to me, 'My poor little girl, my defenseless girl. Oh, God have pity on my little girl, and when I am gone protect her and take care of her.' From that day to this nobody ever put a kiss upon my face until recently.' Then again she asked, 'Do you know who kissed me?'

"'Yes, I did.' Then I told her of Him whose life was so much more tender than mine could ever be, and how He went to the cross and bore our sins upon Himself, and was wounded for our transgressions that He might put the kiss of pardon upon our brow. In Him she found life and joy and comfort and salvation and healing and love. Before she was released from prison the warden testified not only to the change in her life, but to its beauty. She was made through Christ the means to numbers of others who were down as low as she had been, and who were bound as heavy fetters as those with which she herself had been bound."

Do you know what some people in some places would get out of this? Let's project an image of TLC. Let's train folks to do this or say that or offer prayer at the bedside. What we need is love. This is what this woman got. But we can't make it on the assembly line. We cannot train workers in techniques that produce this sort of a thing.

Here was a woman who was bound for an insane asylum. What did it take to cure her? Love. That's all it took, but it took all of that. And all the talking about love will never make it. Love is a plant of heavenly origin. The unconsecrated heart cannot originate or produce it. It is found only in the heart where Jesus reigns.

Some of you would like to learn more about soul winning. Dear friends, it cannot be caught, it must be taught. As people catch infectious diseases through contact with someone who has the disease, so you and I can receive love only in contact with the living, loving Christ. And He wants to give it to us. He wants to share it with us. And all the classes in the world can never teach us.

What we need is not more refined techniques; not more skillful knowledge. We need more of those, but we need not so much of those as we need sweet, simple, true, sincere love.

It is not by accident that the book of Revelation closes the canon of Scripture. The book of Revelation is the fitting climax to the great succession that begins with the great beginning in Genesis 1. And in the book of Revelation we have not only a wonderful description of the heaven which Jesus is preparing for us. We have in this book the message to go to all the world to get a people ready to meet Jesus (Revelation 14:6-12).

We also have the message that is to prepare the remnant church to give that three-fold message with mighty power—the power that will reach every soul in this world. Yes, we have the message to the Laodiceans. And that which brings the loud cry is the latter rain. And that which prepares the church for the latter rain is the shaking. And that which produces the shaking is the reception of the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This is the place where heaven waits while we linger.

For over a century the True Witness has been waiting for His people in this world to seriously and fully accept His counsel in the message. The True Witness tells us:

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot” Revelation 3:15.

Jesus would rather see us cold in the world than lacking the warm, vibrant love which will produce something worthwhile in His church. If we were out in the world we might sense our need and come in where it is warm. But if the church is lukewarm, there is a certain temperature when human beings are so comfortable they just go to sleep. This is Laodicea.

What does Jesus say is the remedy?

“I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" Revelation 3:18-19.

There are three articles Jesus offers. Gold, white raiment, and eyesalve. This gold represents faith and love. And of the two we are told love is the more important. Paul makes that clear in the text we have already read.

Nothing in this world can take the place of love. Without love all the rest is valueless. Isn't it that way with you? How much would you give for a present that wasn't motivated by love? How much would you give for service that wasn't given through love? How much joy would you get from anything that someone might do for you or give to you unless they loved you?

God is that way. He wants your love. And if He has that He is perfectly satisfied. Without this love you are poor. Without this love you are cold or lukewarm. But with this love you will have a rich, vibrant experience. Let's seek for it. What do you say?

I pray that in this hour of revival and reformation we shall not decent to the low level of criticism and church tinkering. I pray that we shall be kept from all such.

"There are many who try to correct the life of others by attacking what they consider are wrong habits. They go to those whom they think are in error, and point out their defects. They say, 'You don't dress as you should.' They try to pick off the ornaments, or whatever seems offensive, but they do not seek to fasten the mind to the truth. Those who seek to correct others should present the attractions of Jesus. They should talk of His love and compassion, present His example and sacrifice, reveal His Spirit, and they need not touch the subject of dress at all. There is no need to make the dress question the main point of your religion. There is something richer to speak of. Talk of Christ, and when the heart is converted, everything that is out of harmony with the Word of God will drop off. It is only labor in vain to pick leaves off a living tree. The leaves will reappear. The axe must be laid at the root of the tree, then the leaves will fall off, never to return" *Evangelism*, page 272.

Did you ever do that? Did you ever labor under the impulse that you ought to do it?

We were talking about a root called love, and fruit growing on that tree is the fruit of obedience. Disobedience grows on a tree, the root of which is selfishness. If we seek to labor with human hearts by merely picking off leaves or fruit from the tree of selfishness, we will never get through. As fast as we pick off a few leaves the sap from within will cause more to grow. There is a better way. The axe must be laid at the root of the tree, and the root of this tree is selfishness. The problem is not the leaves. The problem is the root.

How shall it be done? There is only one thing that will cut through selfishness. It is love. There is only one axe that is sharp enough to sever the tree of selfishness. It is love. Let's seek for love to get rid of selfishness in our lives and in the lives of others. What do you say?

“Of all people in the world, reformers should be the most unselfish, the most kind, the most courteous. ... As the dew and the still showers fall upon the withering plants, so let words fall gently when seeking to win men from error. God's plan is first to reach the heart. We are to speak the truth in love, trusting in Him to give it power for the reforming of the life” *Ministry of Healing*, page 157.

Did you know that heaven rates workers for God? It isn't how many texts we can repeat. It isn't how successful we can be in argument. It isn't how much work we do. Listen:

“Christian workers who succeed in their efforts must know Christ; and in order to know Him, they must know His love. In heaven their fitness as workers is measured by their ability to love as Christ loved and to work as He worked” *The Acts of The Apostles*, page 551.

You can't rate yourself, but heaven is rating you. It isn't how much you know or do. It is how much you love.

Can a child love? Oh, yes. And a blind person can love. An aged person can love. A crippled person can love. Anybody can love, provided he will get that love from heaven. Is there plenty there for us? Can we have more and more? What took Jesus from heaven and brought Him to this world? Love. Does He still love us? Does He love us tonight? Do you suppose that if we want more of this love we can have it?

The loud cry is going to be a burst of glory, and the glory is the glory of love. Don't think this means weakening any truth. It does not mean any compromise with evil. It does not mean any lowering of the standards. Love will lead us not to pull down the standards. It will lead us to want to go all the way.

How simple it is. If you and I will every day seek the Lord and give Him our heart's choice, and ask Him for more of this love, then we will do the thing we think will please Him.

Someone says, “That's the point. So many people tell me so many different things.”

Sure, they will. They have been doing that for six thousand years. If you wait until they all agree as to what you should do you will be hopeless perplexed. This is why God has given us His Word, and you can study it for yourself. This is why He has given us the privilege of prayer, and you can get down on your knees.

You say, "But I study and pray, and I am not sure."

Well, let me make it simple. Just do what you think will please Him. Can you get it any simpler than that? Did you ever stand in a big department store trying to buy a present for someone? You think, I wish knew what would please him. No matter if you get something they think is way out, if you did it for them because you love them, they will be highly pleased.

What are we trying to do in these matters? Earn our way to heaven? Not a bit of it. We are seeking to love the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. And if we will just do the thing in every line that we think will please Him, we will succeed. We will please Him.

Do it in diet, dress, and reading. Do it in music and education. Do it in our life's choice, friendship, and association. Do it in the spending of money. Do it in exercise and rest, in work and play. Do it in study and prayer. Please Jesus because we love Him.

We can do that now, can't we? Yes. Next week or next month we may know better what He would choose. But we can please Him tonight doing the thing that we think will please Him.

Precious Lord, seal to our hearts the message of Thy love. Rightly interpret to our minds Thy Holy Word, and give us the love for Thee and the love for others that will make us successful in the great work of gathering souls for Thy kingdom, for Jesus' sake, Amen.

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