

A Place for You

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—November 12,

There is a place for you. I would hate to not have anyplace. Many people don't know their place, but there is a place for everyone. Some of you know where your place is. Aren't you happy? How much money would it take to buy you out of it? How much scare would it take you make you fearful and to run from it? A man who knows where God has put him is in a happy place.

Places are important because of the program God has given us. If it is your home, God has put a program there. What makes the program? The principles. And principles are far more important than any program. Unless we keep the principles in mind we get so immersed in the program that we may get drowned in it. The principles are the great guiding lights. And back of the principles is Jesus.

I like the expression concerning Peter, James, and John when they were up on the mount of transfiguration. They lifted up their eyes and saw no man but Jesus. Jesus is the great guiding light. The principles are His principles. The program is His program. The place is the place of His appointment.

There was a man who thoroughly mastered these great principles. He understood the relations between the place and the program, the program and the person. His name is Moses.

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible” Hebrews 11:24-27.

Seeing Him who is invisible made it possible for Moses to endure. It is God. It was through Christ that the Father revealed Himself in Old Testament times as well as New Testament times. Moses' anchor that held him, the guiding light that illumined his pathway was Christ. He endured as seeing Him who is invisible. For forty years he endured the difficulties and trials, persecutions and dangers. I think it is wonderful that the revelation of the love of Jesus can keep a man. Notice one of the great things Moses had to endure:

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And

when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian: For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not” Acts 7:22-25.

Moses left the throne of Egypt. He gave up that ambitious worldly career and cast his lot with a race of slaves. He thought they would understand and rally to his standards. He thought they would be so glad to have a man like Moses join them that they would welcome him. But they understood not. They did not understand that first opportunity that Moses gave to welcome him as leader. And in all those forty years there was little understanding. During those forty years in the desert and those forty years leading Israel Moses had to walk by faith a path that was spiritually largely alone.

How did he do it? How was he enabled when the whole congregation were ready to stone him? It wasn't a place or program. It was the person of Christ. Moses endured as seeing Him who was invisible.

If you and I are going to help sing the song of Moses, might God give us an experience in being kept by the faith of Jesus instead of the support of our fellow workers? I suggest that God will help everyone of us to have an experience that we will be anchored with Jesus within the veil regardless of what people around us do.

In both the world and the church today there is a great shaking and sifting going on. God is letting every soul find out what he really wants. If they want pork there is plenty of it around. If they insist on quail that is around. If they want manna, thank God it is around too.

What do you want? If everybody else wants pork or quail, I still want the manna. What do you say? That's my choice, and I know it is yours. But there are some other things instead of diet that may come the opportunities for you and me to demonstrate where our anchor is and what our choice is. Whether it is to walk with Jesus the lonely road, or whether we will allow problems among our fellow workers in the church, the institution, or the home to shake us, it is only the things that can't be shaken that will remain.

Paul wrote to Timothy from the dungeon. Notice his words of courage:

“At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen” 2 Timothy 4:16-18.

That is a wonderful testimony. When Paul had to answer for his faith before Nero there wasn't a single man to stand there with him. He stood there with chains on, and stood all alone. Did he give up? Did he get discouraged? Oh, no. He prayed for those who could have been there but were not there. He went ahead and said the Lord would take care of him. He took the opportunity to witness for Christ all alone. As Moses had to learn to stand all alone, so Paul had to learn to stand all alone.

There is something wonderful about Moses in the Old Testament and Paul in the New Testament. Both of them had the honors and applause of the world. Both of them were highly educated. They were men of great talent. They were wealthy. But both of them esteemed the reproach of Christ as greater riches than anything in this world. Thank God for Moses and Paul. They are an inspiration.

Now let's go the supreme example, Jesus.

“Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave Me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me” John 16:32.

These words were spoken just before Gethsemane. The disciples had come from the upper room with Christ, and gone down across the brook, and were ready to go into the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus paused for this wonderful prayer in John 17. But before He did it He reminded them again of what was about to happen. The hour is coming. Yes, it is already here when you will be scattered. Every one of you will leave Me alone. But I will not be alone, because the Father is with Me.

Do you have that anchor in Jesus? No matter what other people do or don't do, no matter how people fail to understand, are you and God close together?

“And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him”
John 8:29.

So to be alone as far as human beings are concerned does not necessarily mean to be alone. We can be locked in with Jesus.

I was much impressed with what the Lord brought to my attention just this week. Brother Arthur White has been writing a series on the life and work of Ellen G. White. In this last volume, covering the years between 1905 to 1915, on page 122 I discovered something that is worth a million dollars to me, and it is gaining compound interest every day. I will share a few sentences with you. I don't know when I have seen anything in which the inner thinking of the prophet has been brought to view so vividly. I don't know that Ellen White ever knew that these words would find this wide a proclamation. She was simply writing down on an early Friday morning the feelings and struggles of her own heart. Listen:

“I am carrying a weight of great responsibility, and I scarcely venture to speak of the weight that oppresses my soul, for there is not one of those connected with me that can possibly understand the anguish of my heart. I feel that I am alone. Alone as far as any souls being able to understand is concerned. But why do I wish that they could understand? I have my friend in Jesus, and He can help me and me alone. He has been to me a very present help in times of greatest necessity. And now I can only trust and hang my helpless soul on Jesus Christ.

“I am instructed that the less I have to draw upon human helpers engaged in the work in helping me, even in my own house, the better. It is wise not to trust in any mortal. I must move forward not expecting that they will understand. I must work alone.”

This must not be taken in an extreme meaning. She didn't mean that she was going to do all the typing and a lot of other things herself. She didn't mean that she was cutting herself off in counsel to those who the Lord had appointed either in the church or in her home. She is talking about the question of depending. She is talking about leaning on Jesus. She is talking about facing the real problems of sensing that nobody understood the burden that rested on her heart.

Ellen White had one of the dearest sons that a mother ever bore, William C. White. In later years, twenty years after this was written, he was one of my dearest friends. I knew him from then until his death. He was gracious, kind, and helpful. God gave Ellen White this son to be her special counselor, to unite with her in the work of publishing and in other ways after her husband's death. So she leaned on him very heavily. Yet she is writing that nobody could possibly understand the anguish of her heart. Knowing W.C. White I thought, Couldn't she lean on him? Yes. But even the prophet of God had to have an experience all alone with Jesus. That's the thing.

She also had a woman companion, Sara McEnterfer. Not long after her husband's death the Lord gave her Sara. Sara traveled with her in Europe and in Australia, and in other places. She was a secretary, a nurse, and a companion. She looked after Sister White as a daughter would look after a mother. Sister White leaned heavenly on Sara, but this morning she is writing that not one of those connected with her could possibly understand the anguish of her heart.

She had other helpers in her home and elsewhere. But God leads His prophets over a lonely road. Why? That they may have fellowship with Him.

In the year 1864, Christmas day, James and Ellen White were in Rochester, New York. They had come there to engage in earnest prayer day after day for the health of James White. On Christmas day, the Lord answered their prayers in a wonderful way. He came near and gave Sister White a vision in which she was shown that Seventh-day Adventist should have a health institution of their own. That

is why we are here at the Wildwood sanitarium and hospital tonight. That is why there are a whole string of Seventh-day Adventist health institution that belt the globe because of that vision in 1865 in Rochester, New York.

But God showed Sister White other things that Christmas day. We find a very interesting example of this in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, pages 583-584. There were some things that concerned her personally in her work with her husband. They had been going through not only trials of health and sickness and poverty, but there were misunderstanding among their own brethren. Men and women who should have supported them were circulating unfavorable reports about their work, and they felt dejected and discouraged.

God gave her a vision. She was shown a cluster of trees in a circle. Growing up over these trees like an arbor was a vine. She saw a great wind that came and blew those trees back and forth, and the vine was shaken loose from those trees. The vine was lying on the ground with only a few tendrils attached to the lower branches. Someone came and cut those tendrils, and the vine lay prostrate on the earth. She felt sorrow for that vine lying there. She wondered what could be done. Presently she saw an angel come.

“He spread out his arms and placed them beneath the vine and raised it so that it stood upright, saying: ‘Stand toward heaven, and let thy tendrils entwine about God. Thou art shaken from human support. Thou canst stand, in the strength of God, and flourish without it. Lean upon God alone, and thou shalt never lean in vain, or be shaken therefrom.’”
Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, page 584.

Sister White wondered what this meant. She turned to the angel and asked him. He said:

“Thou art this vine. All this thou wilt experience, and then, when these things occur, thou shalt fully understand the figure of the vine. God will be to thee a present help in time of trouble.” *Ibid.*

So, again and again the messenger of God had these lessons to learn of being shaken from human support. *Ministry of Healing* so beautifully puts it that sometimes God allows those in whom we place confidence to fail us so we will learn the folly of trusting in man and making flesh our arm.

You and I are not in Moses' place. We are not in Paul's place. We are not in Ellen White's place. But every soul that sings the song of Moses and the Lamb will to some degree experience what we have studied tonight. And somehow as I was pouring over these statements of Ellen White my soul was blessed, and it opened my mind clearer than every before that there is no way in this world that I can expect everyone to understand me. I have come to the conclusion that while I want to do everything I can to avoid everything that will bring misunderstanding, there is no way that can make everyone understand me.

I don't even understand myself. And if I can't understand myself, how can I expect you to understand me? So I will do my best to please my Lord. I will listen to all the counsel I can get, but not lean on human beings and wait for them to understand my heart before I get peace in Christ. I am to anchor in Jesus. This is what it means to have my mind not on this place or this program, or even on the principles, but on the person of Jesus. If I can have fellowship with Jesus I will understand the principles. If I have fellowship with Jesus I will be a part of His program on the place of His choosing, and fit together with my brethren. But we need an army of men and women who, each one, are walking with Jesus. Then we will walk together all right.

If I stop my fellowship with Jesus and try to make you understand how I think and feel, I may miss my fellowship with Jesus and utterly fail in convincing you. Oh, that Jesus may teach us the simplicity of the Gospel.

There is no way you can have this inner fellowship with Jesus unless you experience what it means to be cut off from every other human being. Even with husband and wife, as close as they are, God never intended them to find in their mutual enjoyment that which fails to comprehend that Christ must be all to each one.

How our human hearts long to be understood. That's why Jesus says, Come to Me. He says, I will understand you. Pour out your heart to me.

Someone says, But I want some human help.

Yes, Jesus longed for that in Gethsemane. Did He get it? Peter and James and John went to sleep. They didn't understand. But Jesus went right ahead. God is going to have some people today who will follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Let's follow Him to Gethsemane.

“Lonely, no, not lonely,
While Jesus standeth by;
His presence always cheers me,
I know that He is nigh.”

The Gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life's problems. If we look around us we will be distressed. If we look within we will be depressed. But if we will look up to Jesus we will be blessed. Let's keep looking.

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