

Time Alone with God

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—November 19,

“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” Romans 15:4.

Jesus said concerning the Old Testament Scriptures, They testify of Me.

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself” Luke 24:27.

I suppose all of you have heard the story of the long day when the sun stood still. The Bible says there wasn't a day like it before or since.

That story has a sequel that I thought was interesting. When Joshua led the children of Israel across the River Jordan and camped at Gilgal, conquered Jericho and Ai, they finally had a battle with five kings all at one. All of these kings considered together to fight with Israel, but God gave Israel the victory. That was the day the sun stood still. But those five kings fled and hid in a cave.

“Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings unto me out of the cave. And they did so, and brought forth those five kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight” Joshua 10:22-25.

Imagine not one king but five. The captains of the army of Israel put their feet on the necks of those kings. They had to take it, because God gave Joshua the victory over all those five kings. What was the lesson? Joshua said, God is going to do that with all your enemies. Every one of them. So don't be afraid of them.

Sounding down through the isles of time that message comes to us, Don't be afraid of your enemies. Put your feet on their necks. The God of peace shall bruise

Satan under your feet. I think God wants us to have full courage concerning meeting every temptation and test. God wants us to be victorious. The life of the trusting disciple is like that of his Master, a series of uninterrupted victories. Oh, it is wonderful to be a Christian.

I want to see the secret of this. Before they ever started any of these military campaigns we see Joshua out by himself meditating and praying and seeking the Lord for guidance. He had been a man of war for 40 years. He was the general who led the army of Israel, but he is not depending upon his military training or experience. He is not depending upon any past. He is out alone with God seeking the Lord for wisdom.

“And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with His sword drawn in His hand: and Joshua went unto Him, and said unto Him, Art Thou for us, or for our adversaries? And He said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto Him, What saith my lord unto His servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so” Joshua 5:13-15.

We hear Christ giving Joshua explicit directions concerning the military campaign he was entering into. It is a wonderful thing to be in touch with God in all undertaking. We can receive this whether we are little children or older people. But we can receive those directions only as we take time like Joshua did in being alone with God.

Where God has put you is the place. But the thing that makes the place of importance to the Christian is the program that is being carried on. I wouldn't want to live in the nicest place in the world if it were a gambling dive, would you? The program that is being carried on lends significance to the place. But, back of the program, are the principles. And back of the principles is the person, Jesus Christ.

This is what Joshua recognized. He wasn't satisfied to map his own program. He went directly to the Captain of the Lord's host. The margin for the captain is prince. This is the Prince that Daniel speaks of. This is Christ, Michael, the one who is like God. So alone with Christ Joshua got his directions. Alone with Jesus you and I can get them. If we will, everything else falls into place. The only way we will know the place we belong is to have a personal experience with Jesus. It is the only way we will fit into the place where we are. The only way we will know the place we belong is to have a personal experience with Jesus. The only way we will fit into God's program is to be getting our orders alone with Jesus. The only way we will understand the principles, and know how to apply them, is to be alone with Jesus.

I suppose there was never a time in human history when so many people were never alone as at the present time. There is always something happening with people. The radio and TV is blaring at them continually. There is a time for contact

with others. God never intended any of us to be hermits, retiring from contact with society. But He did intend that every one of us should have opportunity to be alone with Him.

How much time have you been alone with Jesus? Family worship is a wonderful time. I hope you all are getting a blessing. Father and mother getting together with the children morning and evening. That is important. It is vital for the life of the home. But that is not alone with Jesus. Alone with Jesus is when you and Jesus are the only ones around.

Christ Himself set us the example when He was here. The early morning often found Him in some secluded place searching the Scriptures or in prayer. Long before He entered His public work day by day He was alone with His Father. He, the Son of God, living in our human flesh, was successful only as He took time to be alone with His Father.

There are some things communicated to us when we are alone with God that we can get no other way. We find in the Bible great principles and applications. But there are literally a hundred questions that come up every day. God wants to teach us through His word great principles. That is what the Bible is about. But the applications of those principles is to be by the Holy Spirit talking to our hearts in the secret place of prayer. And if we will just play fair with God and open our hearts alone with Him, He will help us to know how to apply the principles to the daily details of our program with Him.

Over at the sanitarium I see nurses going around with various things on trays. Sometimes it is medication. Sometimes it may be a glass of water. What would you think of a nurse hurrying down the hall with a couple of glasses empty?

You would say, What are you going to do?

She would answer, I have to take water to the patients. But I was so busy that I didn't have time to stop to get the water, for I have to get to the patient's room.

You would say that is absurd, and it is. It doesn't happen at the Wildwood Sanitarium. But I am talking about something more important than any water out of a faucet. I am talking about the water of life. And God wants you and me to be carrying to the people in our homes and community and business relations the water of life. But we have to take the time to fill up.

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak a word in season to him
that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He
wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

That is beautiful. It would be wonderful to always say the right thing at the right time. That is wisdom. No amount of study or education can give you that. If you would memorize the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation that wouldn't be enough. The important thing is not how many keys you have in your pocket, but whether you have the right key to open the door you need to open.

No amount of training in anatomy or physiology or pharmacology or hydrotherapy or all the rest can take the place of a moment by moment contact with the Great Physician. Thank God our doctors and nurses know that. The man who is in touch with the Great Physician of soul and body has the resources of heaven and earth at his command, and he can work with a wisdom and precision that a godless man cannot possess. And I pray that in all our experiences, whether we are carpenters or cooks, housewives, bookkeepers, Bible teachers, nurses, or whatever we are doing, we shall have this precious experience of being able to take the knowledge we have gained from study and apply it under the direction of the Holy Spirit to the needs of the particular problem we are facing. Where do we get it? It is a gift. "The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary."

There are so many weary ones around, aren't there? Oh, for the right word. God will give it.

How long will we be alone with God? I can tell you that a half a loaf is better than none. You would think so if you were hungry.

A moment in the morning ere the cares of day begin,
Ere the hearts wide open is open for the world to enter in;
Ah, then alone with Jesus in the silence of the morn,
In heavenly, sweet communion let your duty day be born.
A moment in the morning, a moment if no more,
It is better than an hour when the trying day is o'er.
Tis the gentle dew from heaven, the manna for the day;
If you fail to gather early, alas it melts away.
So in the brush of morning take the proffered hand of love,
And walk in heaven's pathway and the peacefulness thereof.

Let's do it, friends. What do you say?

I will let you in on a secret. Do you know why more people don't do it? It is because they are busy. But there is another reason. Very few people are willing for God to tell them anything and decide before hand that they will do it. There are things that God wants to give you that He will never give you unless He has your signature of commitment.

When a man is about to have a serious operation there is something the authorities are very careful about. He has to sign a release before he goes into surgery. He has to give his written consent to the doctor.

Are you willing to make that kind of a commitment to Jesus Christ? If you aren't, there is some surgery He will never do. God is not about to catch you and tie you down and make you give up this idol and that idol. Never. There are things that God wants to do in your life and mine that He can do only when we are alone with Him and have settled the question that He can have anything He wants. Test after test is to be met. Idol after idol is to be pointed out and given up. Happy is the man

who has learned that it is God's way of working, and who says as Joshua did, What saith my Lord unto His servant?

Are you willing to give it up? Don't start arguing with yourself, Oh, I don't think that is so bad. I don't think I need to give that up.

You will never know the sweetness of life with Jesus unless you are willing for God to do surgery on you. He won't take away anything you really need. Sometimes the best cure for cancer is for them to be cut out. Let God cut out the cancer. He is a good surgeon. He will get us ready for immortality at His second coming.

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Will we listen? Will we respond? When God puts His finger on something we will say, Yes Lord, if you want to take that out of my life it is ok. I have settled that already. That is what it means to come to the cross. Jesus said:

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and
take up his cross, and follow Me" Matthew 16:24.

Luke says every day. Paul said he dies daily. Every day Paul met with Jesus and every day Jesus talked to Paul about some sacrifices He wanted him to make. It isn't just at the beginning of the Christian life that the will is to be given up. Every day it is to be done. The needs are often in practical things. In diet, dress, music, reading, association and conversation. In the way a man treats his wife or a woman treats her husband. In the way a parent talks to their children or the children to their parents. In the attitude of the brothers and sisters in the home or in the church. All these things God wants to make changes in our lives. God knows we need some changes. How would you like to have eternal life be like your last ten years? Take the last ten years and multiply it by ten million and wouldn't you want something better? Those of us who have known the Lord the most are so glad that we can be continually changed and become more and more like the Savior. I am so glad that God has us in His workshop.

Take the matter of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a great test to many people. Jesus made it a test. He said it is a sign between us and Him. It is a sign that He can sanctify us. What does sanctify mean? To make holy. But it means more than that. It is to set apart for a holy use. When Aaron and his sons were set apart for the priesthood God used the word sanctify. So God took one day out of the seven and said, I have set apart that day which would have otherwise been just an ordinary day, and I have sanctified it. I have put My presence in it. I have made it holy. I have made it different from the other days.

Why did God sanctify the Sabbath? To teach you and me that He wants to do the same to us. He wants to set us apart. He wants us to have a vision of something beyond keeping up with the Joneses or satisfy our peers. We want to satisfy Jesus. We are members of the royal family. God doesn't want our diet or

dress, our music or reading, or our association and amusement like the common herd. God wants every one of the common herd to leave the common life and adapt the royal way of life.

Is that a bondage or a release from bondage? It is a release. You will learn it in the secret place of prayer. You will learn it alone with God. And whether it is accepting the Sabbath or health habits or changes in adornment or music or reading, or anything in life, never rest satisfied to do it just because you see someone else doing it. Don't rest satisfied because you read it in a book, even the Bible. Get the joy of going alone with God and letting God apply the principles of the Bible to your problems. Know the joy of doing what you are doing because you have had an experience alone with God. Then nobody can move you.

It is going to be something when the boycott comes and people can't buy or sell unless they have the mark of the beast. It is going to be wonderful to have people who have already settled in their hearts that they would rather starve loving God than eat and disobey Him. They would rather die knowing the love of Jesus than live on forever doubting that love. It is a wonderful thing. But you don't get that experience just in an instant. That experience grows. It develops. Become acquainted with Jesus. That takes time every day.

I don't know what your program is. Jesus has a way of life for you. If you have never know the blessing of being alone with Jesus and getting orders from Him, won't you begin tonight? If you have known it your only answer is, I want more of it. But no matter how much we have had we want more, and no matter how little we have had we can begin where we are alone with Jesus.

If you see that Jesus wants you to make some changes in your life, by His grace make them.

Our Father, we think it is wonderful that You have put us in a place and given us a program and taught us principles. We are so glad that Thou hast enabled us and given us the privilege of becoming acquainted with Thee. To know Thee as a loving Father, a kind Savior, a wise Guide, a Redeemer. We thank You that You have given Jesus to die for us, to live for us, and to live in us. As we make decisions under the leading of Thy Holy Spirit we pray that Thou wilt keep us close to Thyself. Our only hope is that Thou wilt keep us by Thy loving hand. That hand that is stretched out to save is scarred with the nails at Calvary. I know that Thou hast graven our names upon those hands, and will save us. Bless each one, and we thank Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

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