

For Us

First Sabbath in New Chapel

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Study by W. D. Frazee—February 11,

“If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be” John 12:26.

Some day we are going to follow Him from world to world and star to star all through the universe of God. It is going to be a wonderful space trip with no danger of accidents. Every thing secure. But dear friends, the only trip that can ever be of interest to you and me is one that starts where we are. And I am so glad that Jesus has arranged to come where we are so that we can come where He is. That is the great message of the sanctuary.

In the sanctuary we see God coming from heaven His dwelling place out where we are. You remember in this typical miniature model of the heavenly sanctuary that God had Moses make there in the wilderness that there was not only the sanctuary itself with the holy place and the most holy place, but there was also surrounding it this court. And of course surrounding the court was the camp of Israel stretching out in all directions. Some two million people were encamped there. The center of the camp was this sanctuary with the court.

Now only the priest could go in this holy place, and only the high priest could go in the most holy place. But the people could come here in the court. They could come bringing their offerings. And God said He would meet with them there. This, I say, is a picture of God stepping out from the throne of the universe and coming down to this world in Christ that He might meet with us.

Let us go back to Exodus the twenty-ninth chapter and read the verse which gives God's promise to meet with us out here in this court. We will read beginning with the thirty-eighth verse.

“Now this *is that* which thou shalt offer upon the altar” Exodus 29:38.

This is the brazen altar, not the golden altar. The golden altar is inside in the holy place. We will study that another time. But this morning we want to look at that brazen altar out there.

You will notice that it is the first object one meets as we enter the court from the hanging there at the entrance.

“This *is that* which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually. The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even: And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine *for* a drink offering. And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat

offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD" Exodus 29:39-41.

Now how many lambs were mentioned here? Two. When was the first one offered? Morning. And the second? At evening.

"This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee" Exodus 29:42.

Thank God, friends, He comes outside of the sanctuary to meet us. That is what Jesus did. He left heaven represented by the sanctuary. He came down to this world where we are to meet with us.

Now the offering here upon this altar is very significant. What was it? The lamb. And we know what John 1:29 says. Let's read it so that our eyes may get the message as well as our ears. This is a wonderful text gathering up all the imagery of the ancient types and focusing upon the real sacrifice.

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1:29.

Who is the real lamb? Jesus. I want to tell you something, friends, if He had stayed in heaven, He would not have needed to be the lamb. There is no death up there, is there? No. No pain as we know it here. No sin. But Jesus came deliberately of His own free choice from the sanctuary of heaven down into this world. What for? Oh He says, I want to meet you. I want to meet you. This is where we were. This is where we still are. He knew that we couldn't come to heaven, so He came to earth.

You know, if you want to see somebody bad enough, you will go anywhere to see them. And Jesus wanted to meet with you and me more than He wanted anything else in this universe. And His Father, with whom He shared the fellowship of eternity, wanted the same thing. And even though They knew that it meant a separation between those Two who had had this eternal fellowship, oh, so close, and so sweet, yet, amazing as it is, and impossible for us to fully comprehend, God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. The Father and the Son were united in the longing that we might share that fellowship.

It would be too bad to disappoint them, wouldn't it, friends? Wouldn't it? Oh, what a shame. But now, note this. When Jesus came out of heaven down to this world, He knew that the purpose of His mission was to die upon the cross which is represented by this altar. And note that this is the first fact which one encounters as he comes into this court. That is to teach you and me, dear friends, that the place we meet with God is at the cross. The place we meet with God is where the offering of the lamb is made for our sins. Because sin separates between me and God.

If God is to meet with me, and I am to meet with God, there must be some way to get out of the road that which is in the way. That is sin. You will find that statement in Isaiah 59:2.

“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear” Isaiah 59:2.

Now don't misunderstand me, and don't misunderstand God. It is not that God arbitrarily says, Well, you have sinned. Therefore you are separated. No. It is the other way around. When I sin, I have separated from God by that act. Adam and Eve did. Before God ever came into the garden that day, Adam and Eve had already separated from God. Who did the separating God? Oh no. They hid themselves, you remember, from the presence of the Lord. They were already separated.

Back there as you read in Genesis three, God came seeking man. He came out of heaven, out of the sanctuary, out, out, out, seeking man. It seems to me I can hear His voice calling through that garden. “Adam, Adam, where are you?” And before that day was over, there was a lamb slain. And Adam and Eve began to know something of the love of God as revealed, not merely as it had been in the past through giving them a beautiful garden home, but now in giving the life in sacrifice. That is why Jesus is called in Revelation 13:8 “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

You see, it was not alone on Calvary that Christ was given for our sins. From the beginning sin drove the nails in His hands, the spear through His heart. Jesus has been the lamb of God ever since sin began.

I am so glad He loves us that much. Aren't you?

But now I want you to notice something, friends, for this altar is very significant. It represents, not only something that Jesus did and does for us, it is there, as I have pointed out, at the very entrance, it is there to beckon us to share our Savior's love and sacrifice.

Turn please to Romans the twelfth chapter, and the first verse. Think of this altar in the court as you read this wonderful appeal.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which* is your reasonable service” Romans 12:1.

What sacrifice is presented here? Is it Jesus we see there on the altar in this text? No. It is you and me. Well now, which is it? Is it Jesus there on the altar, Jesus there on the cross, or is it you and me?

Turn to Galatians 2:20 and we will find the answer.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” Galatians 2:20.

Which is it? Is it Jesus on the altar, or is it me? Is it Jesus on the cross, or is it me? It is both. That is what this text shows clearly. “I am crucified...,” what are the next two words? With Christ. You see, He came from heaven out to this world to meet me, and the place where He can meet me is at the cross, at the altar of sacrifice where He gives everything in order to redeem me.

But ah, my dear friends, it is there that I meet Him. As surely as it is true that it is there that He meets me, so surely it is true that it is there I meet Him. And what does that

altar speak of? Sacrifice. That is all it is for. Every lamb that was led into that court, if it could know, if it could think, would know that ahead of it was one thing—sacrifice. Right? Yes. Jesus knew it. And you and I sensed something of it.

You know, dear friends, there is something in our poor human nature that shrinks from sacrifice. There is something that draws back from self-denial. But I will tell you a little secret, it is a big secret, the same thing that prompted Jesus to come to that altar from the glories of heaven will cause us to quicken our pace as we come to that altar. What was that? Love.

“God so loved the world, that he gave his ... Son” John 3:16.

Notice that last two lines of Galatians 2:20.

“...the Son of God, who...” Galatians 2:20.

What?

“...loved me, and...”

What?

“...gave himself for me”

As it was the love of Jesus that caused Him to give Himself for me, so it love, His love given to me, love that I return to Him, that is what prompts me to give myself to Him.

You know there is one argument against a full surrender to Jesus that, shall I say, there is no answer to, and that is—it takes a sacrifice. There is some people that would like to buy their religion in the bargain basement or at the dime store. They don't want to put out very much. But when we come to meet Jesus at Calvary, friends, how can we ask that we give a little when He has given all? How can we ask that we hold back something?

Ah but somebody says, “There is so much self-denial in living the Christian life.” I would like to look at that with you, friends. It is true that there is pain and self-denial at that altar. I wonder if you will all watch very carefully this next point? Do you know why there is pain and sorrow at that altar? God didn't make it. That is the natural consequence of sin. The only pain that lamb experienced was the pain that the sinner had already deserved. Is that right? Yes.

Let's take it a step further. Suppose the sinner hangs on to his sins. What will eventually come to him? Pain. Suffering. Death. How much? All that the lamb experienced. Let me say to you, friends, and oh I wish everyone here this morning could get this if you forget everything else in our study, if we will look at Calvary, we will see the end of the sin road. And if we keep on in that road, we will come to that end. And we will receive what Jesus experienced on Calvary, in pain, in agony, in anguish, in the darkness of separation. And remember, that is not an arbitrary act of God, that is the inevitable consequence of our own choice.

And the proof of that is this—He took my cup and drank it. He took my place. He took my death and suffering. If I accept His sacrifice and allow Him to take away my sins, I need not experience all that pain and suffering.

But oh, my dear friends, if I choose to cling to iniquity, if I choose to walk on with the world in transgression then there is but one end. The wages of sin is? Death. The wages of sin is death.

Oh how much Jesus longs to save us. And so, as we think of the sacrifice of the cross, as we think of the self-denial represented in that altar, as we think of the things that we must give up in following Jesus, let us remember two things—all the pain and sorrow that He went through for us awaits us unless we turn from the sin road. What He suffered was the penalty of sin. What He took was the consequence of transgression. And we, if we continue in iniquity, in lawbreaking, in disobedience, we are headed for that road.

Let me illustrate. Millions of people now are well aware of the fact that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer. The United States government is telling people that all the time now. Doctor Oxner, a celebrated surgeon of New Orleans, says this, "Every man that smoke cigarettes will die of lung cancer unless he dies of something first."

Think of it, friends! And remember this, for every man that dies of lung cancer, cigarettes are killing ten others with coronary heart attacks. And yet, do you know that until medical research brought out the relation of tobacco to coronary attacks and the relation of tobacco to lung cancer, until those facts were brought out there were millions of people that thought that any idea of giving smoking was a great sacrifice. And if they came in contact with the message of God for this hour that called them to give up that tobacco, many thought, "Oh how can I do it? How can I make that sacrifice?" Some, I am afraid, even thought they were doing God a favor when they gave it up.

Do you see what I mean, friends? But now, how different it all looks. Today there are millions of people who would like to quit cigarettes, not as doing God a favor, but as doing themselves a favor. Am I correct? Yes. Well can they? Oh yes, if they will come to the altar. If they will come to the cross. The dear Savior has suffered all the pain and agony that is the consequence of sin, and if we will share with Him in turning from the sin, we shall know the joy of union with Him, and can enter the sanctuary of heaven and join in the fellowship of eternity.

And let me tell you, friends, although not everything is as clear today as the relationship between tobacco and cancer and tobacco and heart attacks, let me tell you, it is none the less sure, every sin brings sorrow and pain and suffering. There are no exceptions. It is true, there may be a temporary life, tobacco seems to give that to some people, but oh how subtly, deceptive, how cunningly, diabolically deceptive all that so called life is. It is but the bait immeshed in which is the hook of the serpent, the sting of the serpent. So let's not be deceived by that.

Oh, I thank God this morning that as we look upon the sanctuary, as we look upon this court, as we think of this altar where the lamb is slain every morning and every evening in that ancient service, we can see by faith the dear Lord who gave everything for us, and oh, I trust, that by choice we see ourselves there as one joining with Him in sacrifice. Not the sacrifice of good things, friends, but the sacrifice of everything out of harmony with His will that we may be purged and cleansed, and that we may share with His in service.

May I ask a question as we come to the close of this service? Is there somebody here this morning that Jesus speaks to your heart, and you see that Jesus loves you, and you see that Jesus has given everything for you, and you would like our prayers this morning that Jesus will help you with whatever problem you may have in giving everything to Him? If so, would you like to raise your hand? I know, friends, that Jesus will hear. I know that He will bless.

Shall we kneel together as we look to Him?

Heavenly Father, by faith we come to Thy altar and we see the Lamb sacrificed for us. And oh we thank Thee that we can share in giving all as He has given all. We pray that Thou wilt bless each one, especially these who have just now expressed the longing desire in their heart. Oh Lord, You have a wonderful blessing for each one. We pray that Thou wilt share it with each one just now.

Here in this closing moment, let the benediction of heaven fill our heart, let the love of Jesus inspire our souls. Help us to be glad to give up the things that cause pain and suffering here on earth, and reaching to Thy dear heart. Help us to be glad to break with everything that would hold us away from Thee. Help us to come running like the prodigal son came home to meet that waiting father.

And now, Father, as we arise from our knees, we pray that Thou wilt send us forth to share with others the good news that God is love, that God is in the business of taking sin away, and may our heart rejoice as we help others to know Thee as a loving Friend. For Jesus's sake, Amen.

God bless you, and may the peace of God abide with each heart.

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