

# Luke 15:3–7

#0039

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 17, 1979

Aren't you glad you're that important that God has chosen you to reach somebody with His message? That somebody is waiting for you. You see, people are not just like dominos, like parts of an automobile. You can go down to the parts store and get a rear axle for a Chevrolet, and it doesn't make any difference whether it's one that came in yesterday or one that came in a year ago. It'll fit. It was *made* to fit.

But people are not like that. People are different. *Everyone* is different, and there is somebody that you can reach that nobody else can reach. There is somebody that you can be a blessing to more than anybody else in this world.

Ah, somebody says, "That's too much." Well, it's the truth. God made you, and He made you to be different so that you can help other people who are different. Just as your key fits your automobile because of those peculiar little ins and outs on the keyhole, you're peculiar—nobody else like you. God has intended that you shall integrate, fit, meet the needs of somebody. Somebody is waiting for you.

Just as that car sits there quiet and doesn't move, can't move until somebody comes along with a key—*the* key. Not just a key, but *the* key, puts it in, turns it, and the motor starts up and away it goes. Oh friends, *you* have been chosen by God to be a soul-winner, every one of you!

Somebody says, "Well, Brother Frazee, I haven't even given my own heart to God yet." That's the first step—give your own heart to God. Naturally. You need to be using the product that you're advertising. Certainly. Jesus wants to use *you*. But you remember that when He called Peter, He said, "Peter, you have been catching fish all your life. From now on, you're going to..." Do what? Catch men.

Did he do it? Yes. That day that Jesus called him, he caught a great boatload of fish, but a little bit later, he stood up at Pentecost and gave the sermon, and 3,000 human fish came in the net. Wasn't that wonderful? Amen.

Oh friends, there is somebody here like Peter, somebody that has been catching fish for yourself or the world. There is something that you can be—a soul-winner, a worker for Jesus, winning men and women to Christ. Dedicate your life to that.

That doesn't mean that all of us are to spend all our time doing nothing but preaching and giving Bible studies. Even preachers need to do something besides preach. Paul did. Paul made tents. Didn't he? Yes. Jesus was a carpenter. There is a Gospel that is to be worked out in a practical way in human life every day.

Parents can win their children. Brothers and sisters can work for one another. Students, look around you, is there somebody that doesn't know Jesus? Work for that one. Pray for them. Put them on your prayer list. People out in the community, your neighbor, does he know Christ? Does he know this message? Does he know this wonderful truth? Start praying for him. Let God put on your heart the burden to work and pray for souls.

Somebody says, "Well, I don't know much about it."

Listen. You know Jesus; if you don't, get acquainted with Him. It's pretty hard to introduce somebody to somebody you've never met. Isn't it? So if you are not acquainted with Jesus, get acquainted with Him through His Word. Start reading the Letter from Him. Get acquainted with this wonderful person, Jesus Christ, and ask Him to make Himself real to you. He will.

Ask Him to give you a love for Him and He will. Ask Him to give you a work for Him and He will. There's no question about it. He is looking for recruits. As an army sergeant in war-time is out looking for recruits to join the army and help win the war, so Christ is in the business of looking for recruits for *His* army. Have you enlisted? Will you? Will you give yourself to Jesus?

You dear young people, my! what a wonderful privilege it is to be young at this time. I am glad the Lord called me in my youth, friends. While I have made a lot of mistakes, thank God, I didn't make *this* mistake of leaving Him and going out to make a million dollars. I didn't make that mistake. Thank God. It's all His goodness. I found something worth more than all the gold or the greenbacks in this world. It's winning souls. Winning souls.

Just this week, I had a wonderful privilege. I had the privilege of seeing some people give their hearts to God this very week, and oh, it thrilled my soul, friends. It thrilled my soul. I want somebody tonight to make that full surrender. I want somebody tonight to make Jesus happy. Would you like to know how happy you can make Jesus? Turn to the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke and see. It's plain here. Jesus told the story to help us to understand it.

"And He spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance" Luke 15:3-7.

Now think of it dear friends, if there are 99 people here tonight that know Jesus and one that doesn't, the one that doesn't know Jesus can make Heaven's

arches ring with joy tonight just by surrendering to Christ. And of course, the 99 are all happy too and praying for and with the one that comes.

Do you have a prayer list, my friends? Do you have a little card or a piece of paper, or is it in your mind a definite list of people that you're praying for day by day. People that you are asking God to give you as souls saved in the kingdom of God. People that need to know Jesus.

Oh, I hope you do. If you don't, won't you start tonight? Make up your mind tonight that you will have a little prayer list praying for souls. Remember, there's joy in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth more than over 99 *just* persons that need no repentance.

[Audience responds] Amen!

So thank God for the wonderful love of Jesus, and the wonderful joy that fills all Heaven as people come to Christ.

I was thinking of the decisions that are involved in giving the heart to Jesus. All other decisions are wrapped up in this one decision. But *that* decision of giving the heart to Jesus includes taking steps with Him. Suppose, for example, here is a man that has given his heart to Jesus. He's trying to please the Lord the best he can. He believes God has forgiven His sins. But he comes in his study of the Bible to find that the seventh day is the Sabbath. Is that what the Bible says? Yes. That is what it says. That's what the Fourth Commandment says. Let's repeat that Fourth Commandment together:

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it" Exodus 20:8–11.

Tell me, suppose a year ago or ten years ago I gave my heart to Jesus. And this week, I find out that the seventh day is the Sabbath. What do I do? Do I say, "Well, I gave my heart to Jesus, and that takes care of everything. I don't need to keep His Sabbath"?

Ah dear ones, "If ye love Me," Jesus says, do what? "Keep My commandments." John 14:15. Isn't that simple? Why sure. You children, if you love your parents, you want to please them. The way to please them is to do what they ask you to. Our heavenly Father, if we love Him, we want to please Him. The way to please Him is to do what He asks us to.

"In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" Matthew 15:9.

Men have tried to change that day. They never really changed it because it's written on the law, the Ten Commandments. The original Ten Commandments are in the Ark up in the temple of Heaven. Proof? Revelation 11:19. God gave Moses a copy. A copy that He Himself wrote with His own finger on the tables of stone. My point is—the law of God is eternal. It's written on stone by the finger of God. And God said that that Sabbath day is His sign, His seal, His mark, His signature that He wants to put into the foreheads of all His children. Let's cooperate with Him and let Him do it. Shall we?

Now, my point is this. Here I am. I gave my heart to God a year ago, or ten years ago, and now I find out that the seventh day is the Sabbath. What am I going to do about it? What will I do about it if I've really given my heart to Jesus? I'll say, "Dear Lord, I've settled that a year ago, or ten years, whenever it was I gave my heart to You. And now that I *know* that the seventh day is the Sabbath, from now on, that's what I'm going to do to please you." Is that clear?

And the same with every other step that Jesus wants me to take. You know friends, God intended that this day by day walk with Him should be very practical. It's interesting, most of us, I suppose all of us, would agree that we need to be changed somewhat. Anybody here tonight that thinks you're already just exactly right in every way? I doubt if you'd stand up and say so.

I think we all would admit that we need changing. But how are we going to be changed? Why we're going to be changed by beholding the character of God revealed in His law, in His Word, in the life of Jesus. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 3:18, that as we behold, we're changed into the same image. What that means, in plain English and in practical life, that day by day, I am to find out in the Word of God things that God wants me to do that I didn't know before. I'm to find out some changes that He wants to make in my life.

They may be of a very practical nature. They may be in my disposition. I wonder if there's anybody here that would be improved if your disposition was changed a bit? Maybe I ought to ask the people that live with you? They might testify. [Audience laughter]

Well, dear ones, we smile at it, but really, the good news is that we *can* be changed. The selfish man can become unselfish. A person that has been losing his temper and making things unpleasant about him can become meek and lowly of heart. And thank God, dear friends, you and I, whatever our needs, whatever our disposition that's unlike Jesus, we can become like Him. As we see a way in which we need to change, we can get down on our knees and say, "Dear Lord, help me to be like Jesus and make these changes."

My point is: every one of those steps is to be a step taken *with* Jesus. It isn't something that we merely read in a book and decide, "Well, I guess I'd better do that." No. No. It's an experience with God. We're doing it because He has asked us to. We're doing it because we want to please Him. And we're doing it because we believe that there's power in His Word to do the thing that He's asked us to do.

Anything that Jesus says, there's power in His Word to do it if we'll take it. This is why Jesus healed the sick by His Word. Often when somebody came to Him, He *spoke* the word. He *spoke* to the blind man and the eyes were open. He *spoke* to the deaf ears and they heard. He *spoke* to the leper, and the leper was cleansed. And there's that same power in Christ's creative word to change our hearts from selfishness to love, from anger to meekness, from lust to purity, from foolishness to sobriety, from criticism to loving those about us. Ah dear ones, we have a wonderful Savior, a wonderful Friend. Let's thank Him. Aren't you glad? God is good. He's wonderful.

So tonight, I'd like to have us think of the different reasons for making those decisions, whether it's the original decision to accept Jesus, or whether it's the decision to keep His Sabbath if He's made that plain to us, or to keep some change in our disposition if He's convicted us of that, or any other change in our life that He's brought to us. The power, my dear friends, is in the Word of God.

But you know, nothing moves in this world without some motive power. A car moves by motor. People move by motive. The greatest motive that I know to help anybody to do the right thing is this—of how happy it makes the Lord. How happy it makes the Lord. This is a much greater motive than any other thing.

Let me illustrate what I mean. You remember that about ten years ago, the Surgeon General of the United States came out with a report that tobacco and lung cancer were linked together. Do you remember that? Yes. Did some people quit smoking? Yes. Did they all quit? No. There are millions and billions of cigarettes still being sold. You know why? Because it takes more than the fear of lung cancer to get people to quit. It takes more than that.

As one man said, "Well, I suppose that I'll have to die of something. It just as well be of that." Isn't that pitiful? Isn't that pitiful? You'd think that selfishness would get people to quit. It does get some people to quit. But the thing that'll really help a man to quit cigarettes is not what it's doing to him; it's what it is doing to *Jesus*. That's the point.

When a man sees what it does to Jesus when he pollutes his body, defiles his lungs and his brain with all those poisons, when he sees that and he realizes how valuable he is to Christ, then for Jesus' sake he wants to quit the thing that's hurting the Lord. Do you see? That's the way it is with every other decision. So instead of thinking of doing it just for our sakes, that's a good reason of course, to do right because it's better for you, but there's a reason that's worth a hundred times more. It's to please you, Lord, to make Jesus happy, to know that you're bringing joy to His heart.

Oh, will you do that? Will you give yourself to Jesus just because it makes Him happy? Will you turn over to Him that which He paid such a tremendous price for? And when you do it, believe that He accepts you. Don't doubt it. Don't have any hesitancy about it.

If He paid such a price, you know friends, any of us, if we'd go downtown, buy an automobile, pay we'll say \$5,000 for the automobile, the dealer would say, "I'll

bring it out to your house and deliver it to you tomorrow. We'll have it all washed up and shined up and ready for you tomorrow." Now remember, we've paid for it. It's all paid for and the dealer is going to bring it out. Listen, when he does, will we accept it? Would you? After you'd paid the \$5,000, when it's delivered, would you accept it? Why of course you would. How do I know you would? Because you paid the price for it. And so my dear ones, the fact that Jesus has paid the price for us is proof that He'll accept us when we make deliverance. When you give your heart to Jesus, there's no question about His accepting you. In fact, He says:

"Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out"  
John 6:37.

That is—"There is no possibility of My casting him out." Isn't that good news? The weaker you are, the more you need Him. The more sinful you are, the more you need Him, and the more ready He is to help you. He said:

"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" Luke 5:32.

Thank God friends, if you and I are sinners and know we are, we have the best claim upon His mercy and love. As our text tonight said, He left the ninety and nine good sheep that stayed in the fold, He left them there, and came to this dark world to seek the one lost sheep that had gone astray. I say let's let Him find what He's looking for. What do you say?

Let's give Him what He's seeking. Let's say, "Dear Lord, if You love me this much then I'm going to let You have it," because He'll never force us. He'll never catch us like the cowboys do the steers, you know, get out with a horse and a rope and lasso them, and tie them up. No. No. He's not a cowboy.

He's a shepherd seeking His sheep, and He *calls* the sheep, but He doesn't lasso them. He doesn't tie them up. Aren't you glad? The only way that Jesus can have you is for you to give yourself to Him. He made you, so you're His by creation. He bought you; you're His by redemption. But until your heart says, "Lord, I'll give You what You made because it's Your property. I'll give You what You died to redeem because You paid such a ransom," until you say that friends, He waits. Patiently, courteously, politely waits whether it's a day, a year, or ten years, waiting, longing, anxious for that moment of surrender when the souls says, "All right, Lord."

You know, it doesn't make any difference what it is that is standing in the road; whether it's a package of tobacco, or breaking God's Sabbath, or some little thing that you might not think it made much difference. It might even be a good thing. You remember in Matthew 19 that story of Jesus and the rich young ruler? Now that young man was drawn to Jesus. He was attracted by His beautiful, loving character. He saw Him take the little children in His arms. And he thought, "Oh, I wish Jesus could bless me like He blesses those little children." So he came running after Jesus in the way. He knelt at His feet and he said:

"Good Master what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Matthew 19:16.

So Jesus says, "Why are you calling Me good? Do you recognize Me as God, or merely a man?" Well, the man said that he kept the commandments, but Jesus knew that he lacked something. So He said, "You lack just one thing. And if you're going to be perfect, go home and sell everything you have and give it to the poor and you'll have treasure up in Heaven, and come take up the cross and follow Me."

Now listen. I want to tell you something. Jesus didn't put that in the Bible to give people the idea that everybody that comes to Him has got to go sell all their property and turn it over to the poor. No. That is not the point at all. Why did Jesus tell that particular man that particular thing? Because that was the thing that was standing between him and a full surrender, that's why. That was the thing that he was making his idol. That was the thing that stood between him and God. And so dear ones, whatever it is that God puts His finger on in your life, say, "Lord, here it is. You take it."

There's that door. Suppose somebody is out there and they knock at the door. [Elder Frazee is knocking.] And I go to the door. What's standing between that person and me? The door. That's all. And if I open the door, what will they do? Come in.

Oh dear ones, can it be that some little thing in my life would stand between my Lord and me? Does some little thing stand between my Lord and me? Wouldn't that be too bad? Why not say, "Blessed Lord, come in. Come in. Take whatever it is."

Ellen White talks about an experience that she witnessed when she was a little girl. She was attending a Methodist camp meeting before the days of the Seventh-day Adventist church, and the preacher was talking about people giving everything to Jesus, just like I am tonight. And there was a little girl sitting near Ellen, and she had a little pink parasol in her hand. And she heard the preacher telling to give your heart to Jesus meant to give Him everything. Somehow her little heart got the idea that that meant the parasol. The preacher wasn't talking about the parasol.

Do you know the Holy Spirit will talk to you about things that the preacher doesn't mention at all? I've seen the Lord do that over and over again. The Holy Spirit will talk to you about things that the preacher doesn't even *know* to talk to you about. So let Him do it. Let Him have access to your heart.

At any rate, this little girl was sitting there, and Ellen Harmon heard her say, "I love Jesus, but I love my parasol." Pretty soon, she said, "I love Jesus, but I love my parasol." Well, the tears were beginning to come from her eyes and down her cheeks. "I love Jesus, but I love my parasol." Finally she burst out and said, "Oh Jesus, I give myself to you, parasol and all." [Audience laughter]

Wasn't that the thing to do? Yes. Well, her mother explained to her that since she had given to Jesus what he asked for, that Jesus was going to let her use the parasol. That's right.

There may be something in your life that needs to come out like a package of cigarettes. God has no use for that, and you don't either. But there may be something in your life that might be good in its place, by it has stood between you and a full surrender to God. Remember, friends, God loves you better than you love yourself. He'll take better care of you than you'll ever take care of yourself. Give yourself to Him, parasol and all. Will you do it?

Now I come back to this matter of soul-winning. Oh friends, when I think of the thousand and one things that the enemy has invented to keep people busy while the greatest opportunity of the ages is going by, I feel sad. I feel sad. Someone was telling me that out in some of the western states, there's great activity now to mine because of the inflation and the way prices are, and the fuel shortage and all, they're going after coal, and they're also going after some of the minerals.

There are people out there on those hills and mountains hunting for gold, hunting for silver, hunting for these other things. Wouldn't it be too bad if that was what you were after? To just gather up rocks? Wouldn't it? Even if they were pretty rocks. If what you wanted was to be rich, wouldn't it be too bad to just gather up rocks and all the while there the gold is if you'll just go get it?

I said that to say this friends: the real gold is soul-winning. The real thing is going to endure. All the riches of this world are soon going to be burnt up. All the things that people are running after are soon going to come to an end. But the one thing that you and I are going to take to Heaven with us is the souls that we have won to Christ. And a million years from now, you will still be enjoying the thrill that comes when somebody comes up and says to you, for the hundredth time, the thousandth time, the millionth time, "Oh, I am so glad you won my soul to Christ! I am so glad you prayed for me and worked with me, and gave your time and energy to helping me understand the Scriptures and give myself to Jesus." You can do it my friends, and remember as I said in the beginning, there is somebody you can help that nobody else can.

Your key fits a certain slot. Will you do it? Oh, will you do it? If you've never given yourself to Jesus, won't you do it tonight and join His army? If you have given yourself to Jesus in the past, but you've gotten busy with other things, won't you tonight make up your mind that your business is to win souls? That won't make you careless about your housework or about your business friends. It will mean that your housework and business will be the means of soul-winning.

While you're washing dishes, you'll be praying about it. While you're working at the store and the factory, you'll be thinking, "How can I help this man that works next to me or this woman who clerks across the aisle from where I am?" You'll be thinking, praying, watching for souls. Thank God, friends. Thank God.

You who have already entered into soul-winning, isn't there a longing in your heart tonight to have more power in it? Aren't there souls that you're burdened for and that you're longing that Jesus will give you? Oh, let's thank God for the great privilege of seeking Him.



Now I would like to ask this question, friends. Is there somebody tonight that's making a decision, whether it's the decision to give your heart to Jesus for the very first time? Wouldn't that be wonderful if tonight was your decision night to give yourself to Jesus? Maybe it's somebody that's deciding yes, "Tonight's my night to begin keeping God's Sabbath." It's going to be here with us in a few minutes, friends, as the sun goes down. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this could be the first Sabbath in somebody's life that you keep, the first Sabbath that you are fully surrendered to Jesus? Wouldn't you like to do that for Jesus' sake?

Maybe there's somebody else that has a decision to make to give up tobacco, or to give up alcohol, to give up some other habit that you know Jesus wants to take out of your life? Somebody else here tonight has a decision to make to give up that evil disposition that's been hurting your family. Somebody else has a decision to make to go into soul-winning, to not let that pink parasol keep you, to not let the riches that held back the rich young man keep you, that nothing's going to keep you from being a soul winner for Jesus. Whatever the decision, if God has spoken to your heart, and you will respond, I want you to stand right where you are.

Just remain standing a moment and bow your head. Talk to Jesus. Forget about this congregation. Think about the One to whom you are dealing with. Oh friends, it's a wonderful thing to respond to the Spirit of God, to let Jesus talk to your heart.

[Elder Frazee sings "I Will Follow Thee" and the congregation joins him in song.]

Will the entire congregation stand as we seek the Lord in prayer?

Precious Lord, we thank Thee for the call of Jesus, we thank Thee that the Good Shepherd is hunting His sheep and lambs. We are so glad to be dealing with precious men and women, and boys and girls that are worth an infinite price, an eternal ransom. Oh Lord, I thank Thee that we're worth so much to Thee. You have seen these dear ones that have stood with various decisions that Thy Spirit has called them to make. Lord, seal each one with the blood of the cross. And then Lord, others that Thou art still calling, take us all very close to Thy side right now. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

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