

Every Step with Jesus

#0058

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 16, 1971

Isn't it wonderful that we have in God someone who is infinite, who is able to give full attention to every part of the universe and to every individual?

"The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth..." *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

Isn't that wonderful? And that brings me to what I want to study with you about tonight for a little while. It's a red light that's come to me since I saw you. It's precious and I wouldn't miss it for anything. It is this: God intends that every step you and I take in becoming more like Him, every step in the Christian pathway, is to be a personal experience of fellowship with Him. He intends that the decision we arrive at as to what step we ought to take shall be the result of a close, personal counsel with Him. He intends that the decision we make to *do* the thing that we see shall be the result of a personal fellowship with Him.

It is easy for us to miss that if we're not careful. It's easy for us to be influenced by other people.

You say, "Shouldn't we be influenced by other people? Isn't everybody influenced by others?"

Yes, and it has its place. But the First Commandment of the Decalogue says what? Will you say it with me: "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." One of the greatest experiences in worshiping God is coming to Him to learn our duty, to know what to do. One of the greatest evidences of confidence we can give in God is to kneel down before Him and say, "Lord, teach me what I ought to do." And to miss that is to miss something beautiful and precious in life.

But if we're going to let other people decide for us what we do, then we'll miss what I'm talking about. You know someone who you think knows God better than you do, don't you? But nobody knows God enough to be God to you. The experience that other people may have in knowing God for themselves should give you the confidence to have an experience with God for yourself. So it is written:

"Everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God" *The Desire of Ages*, page 363.

I feel so sorry for the people of this world who don't know God. They have to settle something, and of course, there are many decisions coming up all the time. They have to settle one way or the other what they're going to do. Do you know

what most of the people of this world do? Well, they talk it over with this one and that one and this one and that one. And then finally they have to make a decision, and they're influenced by these other people.

Well, you say, "Shouldn't we listen when other people advise us?"

My point is that all the light and wisdom we can get from other people is like a little candle compared with the shining sun when we think of all the light and wisdom God has for us. Let's go to James 1:5. Here's a very simple but wonderful and deep promise. It says something, and if it were only so it would be wonderful. Well, I think it's so because it's in the Bible, and I believe the Bible. Do you believe the Bible? Well, thank the Lord.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" James 1:5.

Isn't that wonderful? Will God do that for you? Yes, He says He will. Of course, He says in the next verse:

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" James 1:6.

We are to have confidence. But the particular point I want to emphasize is not that you can go to God and get wisdom. The thing that has impressed my heart is that God's great desire to have us come to Him to get wisdom is that He may have a season of fellowship with us, and that we may have a closer fellowship with Him. And if we manage to get that decision made without that being accomplished, our Lord is disappointed, even if we make the right decision. Don't miss it: even if we make the right decision.

Let me illustrate it. How many of you at one time did not keep the true Sabbath? How in the world did you come to the point of doing it? It's happening all the time, friends. People are making that decision. My message tonight is this: It is too bad if that decision to keep the true Sabbath is a decision that's made on any other basis than a personal meeting with the Lord in which you and Jesus found out together that it's God's purpose for *you* to keep His true Sabbath.

If the thing that causes you to keep the true Sabbath is the preponderance of evidence, the force of argument, the piling up of texts (and all that has its place), but if that's the reason you started to keep the Sabbath, I suggest to you that you might have missed a most wonderful privilege, a most precious opportunity. And if you're studying the Bible with someone, my suggestion is to make what you are studying with them a matter of personal prayer between them and Jesus. Encourage them to do that.

And then when it comes to the decision to do it, here is one way to approach it and bring out what I mean in this illustration: Suppose that I'm studying with you and you've not yet started to keep the Sabbath. But you've been studying it, and here we

are now this evening in your home; I'm studying the Bible with you, and you've been examining it from week to week. And so this evening I say, "Well, friend, do you have any questions?"

You say, "No, I don't think so."

I say, "Is everything plain that we've studied so far?"

You say, "Yes."

And so I ask you, "Do you see that according to the Bible, the seventh day is the Sabbath? Do you see that? Have you talked that over with Jesus? Has He brought you to the place where you see that this is the day that He made at creation, and that this is the day Jesus rested on when He was here? Do you see that? Has He made it plain to you?"

You say, "Yes."

Then I say, "My dear friend, what do you think that Jesus would like to have you do about it?"

Well, suppose you say, "I don't know. I hadn't thought of that."

Oh, I must not cheat you out of the privilege of having a personal experience with God. So I might say, "Friend, would you like to have us kneel down here and pray together that God will help you know what He wants you to do about it?"

What would you say? Why, I think anyone who knows the Lord at all would say, "Yes, that's just what I'd like." What do you say? Would you, friend? It isn't a matter of crowding someone. Now, I've used this as an illustration. Let me go a little further with the illustration.

Let's suppose that you would say to me, "Yes, I've been thinking about it, and I do believe that Jesus wants me to keep the Sabbath. But I have some problems.

Do people sometimes have problems with keeping the Sabbath? Maybe there's a job that's standing in the way; maybe there are friends or relatives that are opposing it. And suppose that you were to say to me then, "Yes, I believe Jesus wants me to keep the Sabbath. I see it's there in the Bible. Jesus said it, and He did it. But oh, I have these problems."

Then what do I say? Well, I might say, "Well, brother, sister, do you believe that Jesus made the world?"

"Yes."

"Do you believe that He came down here and lived this life to show us how to do it? Do you believe He died for you and that He rose again? Do you believe He's up there in Heaven now?"

“Yes.”

“Would you like to have us kneel down and pray together that Jesus will help you to find in Him the answer to this problem you’re having?”

Now mark you, this isn't just some nice way to get people to get their problems solved. That isn't what I'm *talking* about tonight. This is a precious opportunity for that person to have a closer fellowship with Jesus than he ever knew before. That's what it's all about. Do you see?

Now I've said that to say this: There are a thousand other things besides deciding to keep the Sabbath that enter into the Christian life. Am I right? A *thousand* other things. And it's all right to get any advice that might be helpful to us. I'm not suggesting that we dismiss all counselors, and throw all the wisdom of the people around us in the wastebasket.

If I'm going to buy a car, it won't be enough for me to pray, “Lord, help me to find the right car,” and then go down there and ask the Lord to impress me which one to pick out. I'd better get some mechanic that knows something about cars, for I don't know much about it. Do you see what I mean?

And part of God answering our prayer is to give us good sense, and part of having good sense is getting good advice from people who can give us good advice. But what I'm talking about, my dear friends, is the making of moral decisions, decisions that involve our Christian duty.

Here's an area that'll be easy to illustrate it. It's the question of dress. Did you ever wonder about how you ought to dress? A few years ago, if someone said something about that, we'd usually be thinking about women, but today men have about as many problems about dress as women do. As I go out on these trips, as I go to the airports, I see about everything. So here's a Christian and he's wondering what he ought to do. Shall he follow this style or that style? How shall he wear his hair? And so with a woman. What should she do about this or that?

May I suggest that the first person a Christian ought to counsel with about those matters is Jesus. Would you think that would be a good thing? And I may say to you frankly, I think if every Christian did that, the result would be a wonderful blessing. But when I say that the first thing a Christian should do in all those matters of dress and personal appearance, is to ask Jesus what He would like to have them do, I think if I let someone else step in *between* God and me on a matter like that, I'm missing the blessing that's wrapped up in that First Commandment. Will you say it with me again:

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me” Exodus 20:3

Do you know why the dear Lord in Heaven is my God? He made me. I'm His by creation. This body is His handiwork, and He made me in His image. If He went to the trouble of making me in His image, exalting matter to the highest point that matter can be exalted—a facsimile of its creator—do you think it makes any difference to Him how I take care of this body?

God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to dress it and to... improve it, change it, pervert it, twist it? No. He put him in there to dress it and to what? Keep it. Let me tell you something, friends: You and I have been made the custodians of something infinitely more precious to God than the Garden of Eden. It's our bodies. What we put into it by way of eating and drinking, and the way we dress it from our hair to our shoes, and everything in between. It is all of great interest and concern to Him. And if any of you lack wisdom, let him do what? Ask of God.

Someone says, "Brother Frazee, if the Lord is willing to teach people, how come there are so many different ideas?"

Well, there are several reasons. One reason is a lot of people are listening to anything and everybody but God. That's one of the reasons. But that isn't all. God wants to give you a personal experience with Him in matters of dress and diet, as well as Sabbath-keeping. He wants you to have a personal experience. Why? So that you can have a fellowship with Him *over* the matter.

Some people get ulcers trying to please all their relatives and friends, and they never quite succeed, because the relatives and friends don't all agree. Some people think that getting counsel is running around to this one and that one and the other one. Someone was talking with me not long ago that they went to this one and that one in counsel and some said one thing, and some said the other, and he wasn't any wiser than when he started.

Good counsel is not finding out what everybody thinks you ought to do. Good counsel is from people who can help you to find out how to get close to God, and get God's answer to your problem. Human wisdom in the things that we're talking about may lead you astray. The help I need in many matters is not to have brother A or [Woman from the audience] tell me what they think I ought to do. The help I need is people who can help me find in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy God's answer to my questions, God's solution to my problems.

But even when I've gone and counseled with people who can help me find the book, that must not rob me of going alone with God and laying the whole thing out before Him in prayer and saying, "My Master and my King, the One who made me; the one who redeemed me. Oh my Lord, what do you want me to do about these things?"

There's the matter of education. Some of you have problems with that from time to time. How long shall I be in training? What subjects shall I take? Where should I go for affiliation? Now in some of these matters, the institution you are connected with will have something to say about it, but *you* have decisions to make. How are you going to make those decisions? Let every one of those problems be to you one more precious chance to press into the presence of Jesus and get an experience with God over those matters.

Someone says, "Brother Frazee, that's dangerous." People are liable to go to extremes."

Yes, they are. You know it's dangerous to eat every day. People are dying from overeating. Is the answer not to eat?

Let us not be so fearful that people will go to extremes in getting light and counsel from God, that we feel the only way to keep them from going to extremes is to tell them what to do about every one of these matters.

In the early years of Christianity, most of the Christians were Jews. They had kept the ceremonial law all their lives. With many of them, it was as much a national thing as it was a religious thing. So when the Passover time came, they put all the leavened bread out of their houses, and they kept the Passover. It was not only a day that pointed forward to the coming of the Messiah, it was the day that was a memorial that pointed back to their deliverance as a nation from Egypt. Jews still keep it.

Later many of the Gentiles accepted the Gospel, and some of the Jews thought that all the Gentiles ought to keep the Passover too.

But Paul knew that the Gentiles didn't have to keep the Passover, for all those ceremonial sabbaths had all been nailed to the cross. Paul could have taken the position that if all the Gentiles were not going to keep the Passover, then none of the Jewish Christians should keep it either, they ought to all do the same thing, so no Passover. Or he could have said to the Gentiles, "If these Jewish Christians are going to keep the Passover, you'd better keep it too so we can all be united, all think the same thing and do the same thing." But what did he say concerning the Passover?

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" Romans 14:5.

In his own mind. That's what I'm talking about. Do you mean that Paul was willing for some to keep the Passover and others not to keep it? Do you see what he said in the next verse:

"He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks" Romans 14:6.

You see, Paul had rules in the Christian church for a variety of experiences on many matters. Why? Not just because human beings are individuals. He was seeking to encourage each Christian to be persuaded where? In his own mind.

It's a wonderful thing to have an experience with God so that you can go right ahead, not defiantly, not with a rebellious attitude toward others, but quietly, calmly and humbly, and do the thing that you believe that God wants you to do—in diet, in dress, in music, in reading, in recreation, in the way you train your children, in education, and in a hundred other subjects.

Of course, if you take what I've said and use it as a license to be independent and rebellious, you will have to answer to God. But the answer to that danger is not missing the experience I am talking about. The way to learn something is to try to do it. Take even the simple things in life to the Lord in prayer and say, Lord, help me to learn how to find out what you want me to do. God may impress you to talk with this brother or that sister. They may shed light from the Scriptures or the Spirit of Prophecy on your problem.

But first of all and last of all and through it all, be instant in prayer seeking God for an experience with Him in knowing what He wants you to do. And all for the purpose of not just to find out what God wants you to do, and not just get strength to do it, but this makes God happy. God likes to have you to visit with Him. And if needing to know what to do may be a good excuse to get you in there in the secret place with Him, God will use that. So let us take *every* problem to Him.

"In every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer"
The Desire of Ages, page 667.

That's what we're talking about. We're talking about using *everything* as a means to get closer to God.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" Proverbs 3:5–6.

The way to acknowledge Him is to say, "Lord, I don't know enough to make these decisions. Help me to know what You want me to do." And Jesus will help you. Yes, He will. And if you don't know how to do it, kneel down and tell Him you don't know how to do it, and you'll just have to be taught like a baby learns to walk. Keep at it until you find out. Your *soul* is at stake. Your eternal destiny is at stake.

"The mind that depends upon the judgment of others is certain, sooner or later, to be misled"
Education, page 230.

But worse of all, he's missing a personal fellowship with Christ, a friendship with our Lord.

Would you like to kneel with me as we pray together?

Heavenly Father, we're so glad for these verses we've read from Thy Holy Word tonight. We thank Thee with all our hearts for this First Commandment of the Decalogue—"Thou shall have no other Gods before Me." Thou art our Lord, Thou art our Creator, Thou art our Redeemer. And Thou hast told us that Thou dost *long* to take us personally into an individually experience with Thee, for it is written by the prophets that we shall all be taught of God.

Tonight I thank Thee that light has broken in on some hearts here. Just now, we all want to come closer to Thee than we've ever been before. Take our hands and lead us. And we thank Thee in Thine own dear name, Amen.

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org