

Your Place in God's Program 2 of 2

#0076

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 31, 1979

The seventh chapter of Ezekiel. While you're turning to that text, I want to share a few thoughts with you by way of introduction. Nurses and all others who come in contact with the sick have a peculiar responsibility, a special opportunity, which is the greatest thing in all their ministry. They are to be the channels for the healing power of Jesus. This healing power is love—the love of Christ. And so the more love we have, the greater will be our power for healing. These are the things that I wish to study with you tonight.

Let me read this statement for you from the *Ministry of Healing*, this wonderful book that contains the wisdom of the Great Physician.

“God is just as willing to restore the sick to health now as when the Holy Spirit spoke these words through the psalmist... Christ's servants are the channel of His working, and through them He desires to exercise His healing power... Christ desires to manifest His presence in the sickroom, filling the hearts of physicians and nurses with the sweetness of His love” *Ministry of Healing*, page 226.

That's not saccharin, friends; that's not the TLC that is manufactured by the techniques and schemes of Babylon. It's fruit from the tree of life, sweet indeed, friends.

“Christ desires to manifest His presence in the sickroom, filling the hearts of physicians and nurses with the sweetness of His love” *Ibid*.

We haven't forgotten our text. We're going to get to it presently, but I wish you'd meditate on this just a little. Has the thought occurred to you that the use of natural remedies, the agencies of nature, is a very time-consuming thing? Too bad, isn't it? Well, it's all according to what we're trying to accomplish.

The Great Physician deliberately planned it that way, my friend. He deliberately planned that the one that *needs* the love of Christ, and the one who is the *channel* for that love, should be brought into contact with each other. Not just momentarily. You see, this view of things will have a profound influence on where we put our emphasis. Unless we understand this, we will suppose that anything which gets results, physiologically or otherwise, must be useful. And so our emphasis will be on techniques which are most efficient, which take care of the

patient with the least expenditure of time and labor because labor is *the* number one item in medical and healthcare today. Right?

And so we cannot blame the hospital administrators of this world as they devise new methods of speeding up the care of the patient. Thus we have a multiplicity of machines and other agents which more and more make it unnecessary for either the physician or the nurse to spend a great deal of time with the patient. In fact, there isn't very much time to spend. Am I correct?

Now, there are many facets of that, that I am not attempting to discuss tonight. I am simply calling your attention to the fact that Christ deliberately planned a sanitarium type of ministry in order that the physicians and the nurses and the other helpers *would* spend time, *will* spend time, *do* spend time with the patient. Because *this* is where that love flowing from the heart of Christ through the human agent reaches the patient.

Hydrotherapy, you know any way to do that in two minutes? Massage. How about that one? I could go on with other agencies.

Now let me read my statements again.

"Christ's servants are the channel of His working, and through them He desires to exercise His healing power... Christ desires to manifest His presence in the sickroom, filling the hearts of physicians and nurses with the sweetness of His love" *Ibid*.

Oh, dear ones, what a beautiful picture, isn't it? A beautiful picture. And do not attempt to neutralize what I have read by challenging me to prove how the great hospitals of the world could be run on this great program. I don't know, friends. I don't know. I wouldn't try it. But, bless the Lord; there's a place for every one who wants to carry out these principles. Christ accepts, oh so gladly, every human agency that is surrendered to Him. Christ is looking for those who will enlist in His army of medical missionaries who will be the channels for the working for His healing power—the healing power of love.

Now, I think we're ready for our text over in Ezekiel the 47th chapter. You remember that this chapter deals with a river: a river that flows from the sanctuary. All of this is very meaningful.

In the vision, Ezekiel is shown by the angel this river coming out of the front door of the sanctuary. As he watches this river flowing, the angel measures a thousand cubits toward the east and leads the prophet out and has him wade across the stream.

How deep is it there in the third verse? To the ankle.

Ankle deep. Can you wade through that kind of water? Well, the prophet could. He got his feet wet, didn't he? Yes.

But the angel wasn't through. Fourth verse. He measured again a thousand cubits and had the prophet wade across, and this time the waters were to the knees. But he wasn't through. Latter part of the fifth verse, he measured again a thousand cubits and had the prophet go through the waters, and they were to the loins, waist-high.

Fifth verse:

"Afterward he measured a thousand; [and it was] a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over"
Ezekiel 47:5.

Now we've already noted that these waters issued from where? From the sanctuary, from the temple. And we are told what happens as the result.

The ninth verse:

"It shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live"
Ezekiel 47: 9.

Last part of the verse:

"These waters shall... be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh" Ezekiel 47: 9.

This is living water, friends. And then the twelfth verse:

"And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because..." Ezekiel 47:12.

Why?

"...their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine" Ezekiel 47:12.

Another translation gives this ninth verse.

"Wherever the water goes it brings health and life
teems wherever the river flows" Ezekiel 47:9.

Life and health. These wonderful blessings which we seek in the medical missionary work to impart to others, to communicate; they come to this healing river, this mighty river that Ezekiel saw.

In *Volume 6 of the Testimonies*, I read on page 228, after quoting these verses from Ezekiel 47:

“Such a river of life and healing God designs that, by His power working through them, our sanitariums shall be”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 228.

What is a sanitarium? Well, a sanitarium is a place, friends, where the healing river of Ezekiel 47 is flowing. That’s what a sanitarium is. Every Seventh-day Adventist home ought to be a little sanitarium. Every Seventh-day Adventist health care institution ought to be a sanitarium—a place where the healing waters are flowing wide and deep bringing life and health.

Now it is not the building that these waters are communicated through. It is not the facilities that provide this gift of love, this healing power. It is the people, my friends, it is the people. I would rather have Elisha the prophet without *any* equipment; of course, God has called us to have certain equipment, but my point is, we are talking tonight of God’s great potential that He’s put in the medical missionary work. The world knows little, many of the world know nothing about what we’re studying. You and I ought to be well versed in it both by study and by experience. We should know by experience, this healing power of love.

May I suggest to you friends, that it is difficult even to conceive how such a plan, as we are reading about here, could be carried out without fully-converted people. Do you agree with me? God never intended that a Seventh-day Adventist health care institution should be staffed by either the priests or the prophets of Babylon. He never made any such plan at all.

Every worker, especially those in responsible places, must be one with whom the Spirit of God is communicating. Jesus put it very simply.

“Without Me ye can do nothing” John 15:5.

So we’re talking about a program where converted people, men and women who love Jesus, are the channels for the exercise of His healing power, the healing power of love.

“Such a river of life and healing God designs that, by His power working through them, our sanitariums shall be”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 228.

That was page 228. I want to go back to page 227, the preceding page, and notice where these waters come from. The prophet there in Ezekiel 47 saw the waters issuing from where? The sanctuary. But don’t miss this next point. Just as a medical health care building in itself has no healing power, no building, even a heavenly building, has healing power, friends. Do you know why it is that those waters issuing from the sanctuary have healing power? Jesus is in there. Jesus is in there.

Turn to Zechariah the 13th chapter, the first verse. What's the word in this verse that suggests water? A fountain. This is the source of Ezekiel's river. I'm going to read that to you from Inspiration in a moment. Rivers don't flow of themselves. There has to be a source, a spring, a beginning, a fountain.

Here it is:

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness" Zechariah 13:1.

Now I'm going to read from *Volume 6*, page 227.

"The waters of this fountain contain medicinal properties that will heal both physical and spiritual infirmities"
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, page 227.

Oh friends, let's get a hold of it and bottle it up and sell it for \$10 a cup. Maybe more than that. That would be a good way to finance a lot of good projects, wouldn't it? I don't want to be irreverent friends, but oh, I pray that God would help us to see the utter incongruity of putting a dollar sign on the blood of Christ.

"From this fountain flows the mighty river seen in Ezekiel's vision" *Ibid*.

So we're looking back up the river, we're looking into the sanctuary. We see the waters coming out of the sanctuary. But the *fountain* is the bleeding heart of Jesus, my friends.

John saw him in that fifth chapter of Revelation surrounded there with the elders from this world who were assisting Him in his priestly work, receiving the praise and the adoration of all the angels, but he saw Him as a smitten lamb: a lamb as it had been slain.

"God permitted His only-begotten Son to be bruised, that healing properties might flow forth from Him to cure all our diseases" *Medical Ministry*, page 120.

Now this is not just spiritual, for I read here on page 227, that "this fountain contains medicinal properties that will heal both physical and spiritual infirmities." Wouldn't it be a shame to work without this? Wouldn't it be a shame to just go through the motions of what can be done for patients with things that other people can do? The world can do something. Dear hearts, poor hearts, they're trying.

But oh, you and I know about this sanctuary; we know about this sacrifice of Jesus Christ. And we know that God has committed to *this* people, *this* movement the precious privilege, the high honor, the great responsibility of being the channel through which this healing power flows.

There is a fountain filled with blood

drawn from Emanuel's veins,
and sinners plunge beneath that flood
lose all their guilty stains.

And remember, He died not only to forgive sins but to heal our diseases.

"With His stripes we are healed" Isaiah 53:5.

What did we read here?

"God permitted His only-begotten Son to be bruised, that healing properties might flow forth from Him to cure all our diseases" *Medical Ministry*, page 120.

Let me stop here just a moment and ask. If even one half of what I am reading and talking about is true here tonight, would it make a difference whether a nurse took time to be tuned into Jesus before he or she went on duty? Would it? It might make all the difference between life and *death* for some critical patient, my friends. All the difference between life and death. Oh, that God may help us to fill up our cups and carry them to the patients.

I thought of it sometimes this way: Suppose I see an attendant in the sanitarium rushing along down the hall, and they have a tray with water glasses. I say, "Where are you going?"

"Oh, I am going to take these glasses to this room, this room and this room."

"What's in the glass?"

"Well, it is supposed to be water, but I didn't have time to stop for the water. I've got to get the glasses to the room. It's time to deliver them."

We don't quite do it that way, do we? No. But *here* is something, my dear friends, that you cannot see with the physical eye. No one may be able to measure the amount of water that you carry to the sick—the spiritual glass—but God knows about it. Oh, let's fill up! What do you say? Let's be in such contact with the source of life and health that our very presence will bring healing into the sick room.

This is what God intends, friends. Anything less than this is living beneath our privileges. This is God's glorious ideal for every one of His medical missionaries. This is why He established Old Battle Creek, and when Battle Creek failed, He established Loma Linda and the other places. My dear friends, God is still in the business of enlisting those who will share with Him in this ministry of healing.

You know, the last General Conference that Sister White attended was in Washington D. C., in 1909. The last one. If you'd like to read some wonderful things, read this plea for medical missionary evangelists which she made at this last General Conference she attended. You'll find in Volume 9 on page 167.

Let me read a few lines. Think of the prophet in her last visit to the General Conference. She'd been with this people since the beginning back in 1844. And all along the way, her messages had rung out pointing the way and inspiring and encouraging those who would listen. Now in this last general conference she attends, she says:

"We are living in the last days. The end of all things is at hand. The signs foretold by Christ are fast fulfilling. There are stormy times before us, but let us not utter one word of unbelief or discouragement... Let us remember that we bear a message of healing to a world filled with sin-sick souls. May the Lord increase our faith and help us to see that He desires us all to become acquainted with His ministry of healing and with the mercy seat"
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9, page 167.

There you have it friends—the ministry of healing linked with the mercy seat. These healing waters flow from the sanctuary. And then she adds:

"Henceforth medical missionary work is to be carried forward with an earnestness with which it has never yet been carried. This work is the door through which the truth is to find entrance to the large cities, and sanitariums are to be established in many places... Christ is no longer in this world in person, to go through our cities and towns and villages, healing the sick; but He has commissioned us to carry forward the medical missionary work that He began. In this work we are to do our very best" *Ibid.*

Aren't you glad for that commission, friends?

"Institutions for the care of the sick are to be established, where men and women suffering from disease may be placed under the care of God-fearing physicians and nurses" *Ibid.*

Well, the whole chapter is marvelous and it is our commission. Our commission.

Now, if you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Let me give you a picture of what he *tried* to do about it once. Turn to the 16th chapter of Matthew. I don't think he's forgotten any of his tricks. Where did we learn that this river of healing flows from? The sanctuary. And what is it in the sanctuary? It is the bleeding heart of Jesus.

"With His stripes we are healed" Isaiah 53:5.

Without His death, we could not receive His life. He must atone for our sins through the sacrifice of His life on Calvary, and His presentation of that blood in the sanctuary in order that forgiveness and healing may be ministered.

Now in Matthew 16, beginning with the 21st verse, we see Jesus trying to explain this to His disciples. He longed for them to understand that salvation could come only through His sacrifice, that the cross was essential to the plan of salvation.

“From that time forth began Jesus to show unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day”
Matthew 16:21.

But somebody thought that that was inappropriate. Who was it? Peter.

“Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying,
Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee”
Matthew 16:22.

Jesus turned and said unto Peter, what?

“Get thee behind me Satan” Matthew 16:23.

[Tape skips]

[Inaudible] ...was impressing Peter with those remarks that he made? Satan. Satan was responsible for getting a good man to try to teach Jesus how to carry out His medical missionary work without the cross; how to carry through the plan of salvation and healing without sacrifice. Satan was trying to use Peter to help Jesus to see that. Did he succeed? Does Satan succeed today? Far too often, friends. Too many good people are being used by the enemy of souls to teach this denomination how to do healthcare work without sacrifice—without the cross. And God help us, my dear friends, to say what Jesus said. To recognize the real inspiration behind the efforts of good men.

“Get thee behind me, Satan” Matthew 16:23.

Now notice as he goes on:

“Thou art an offense unto me: for thou savourest
not the things that be of God, but those that be of
men” Matthew 16:23.

Peter, what you are saying doesn't taste right. It doesn't smell good. You know what's the matter with Peter? When Peter heard Jesus talk about all that was going to happen to him up there in Jerusalem, he thought, “Why Jesus, why do it the hard way? I can show you how to do it the easy way.” And to Peter it made sense. But Jesus told him. He said, “Peter, you're reasoning like *men* reason instead of the way God thinks.”

In human reasoning, it appears the sensible thing to carry on medical missionary work in such a prosperous way that everybody connected with it can fly with the geese. And if not rolling well, at least not have to learn the lessons of poverty that Christ and His disciples learned in their medical missionary work.

“Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it and whosoever shall lose his life for My sake shall find it” Matthew 16:24–25.

The message is still ringing down the aisles of time, my friends. Christ has not changed His mind or His plan of action. He’s still calling those who will be His channels. And He presents before them not a rocking chair, not a throne but a what? A cross. Once we get this question settled, it settles a lot of other questions. It settles the money question. It settles the question of position and recognition. It settles the question of the desire for ease and comfort.

You remember that one of the disciples asked Jesus once about joining His inner circle, and Christ said to him:

“The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head” Matthew 8:20.

Oh my friends, would you be willing to join Jesus’ company in Galilee and Judea? Says someone, “If I could have the power to heal the sick as they had, I would do almost anything.” Well, you would not have to do almost anything, you would have to do *everything* that Jesus said.

The power of healing is coming, friends. The glorious latter rain loud cry is just ahead. But it’s coming upon a sacrificial people. It’s coming upon those who have learned the lesson of the cross. Not merely the cross where Jesus died, but the cross in human experience where they die with Him and dedicate their lives to an unselfish, sacrificial ministry for Christ.

You remember that back in the days of the prophets, there was a little girl who was carried away captive as a slave who waited on the wife of the captain of the host of Syria. In that five-star general’s home, the little girl, I presume that she must have been a teenager. She was old enough to do a good job, or they wouldn’t have had her around that high title family.

I presume, dear friends, that her parents thought they would never see her again. Maybe they never did see her again. But Jesus had a work for her. She was a medical missionary. She had love in her heart. Love for her enemies. Love for the people who had kidnapped her and carried her away as captive and made a slave of her. Love. That was real love, wasn’t it friends?

Hardly a selfless love. And as she entered into that home, she became acquainted with the sad fact that the general had leprosy. And one day, she ventured to suggest to her mistress, as she waited on her, "Oh, I wish my master could be down in Samaria where the prophet of God is, for He would heal him of his leprosy."

Where in the world did that little girl get the idea that following the Spirit of Prophecy would cure leprosy? Was that going on wholesale or even retail up there in Samaria? Oh for the faith of a child and the love of a heart that has been touched by the Spirit of God. But you know what happened. In rapid sequence, Namaan was on his way with a letter from the King of Syria to the King of Israel. The King of Israel didn't know a thing about how to deal with that sort of thing.

He thought there was some sort of war coming off over it. Didn't recognize; he wasn't converted, he couldn't see the work of the Spirit of God, just like a lot of people can't see it today. But Elijah heard about it in God's providence and said, "Let him come now to me and he will learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

You remember the wonderful experience that happened. Wonderful, did I say. Oh, so unspectacular! They didn't have all the PR people in the country out to welcome that general or take his picture as he stood there with Elisha. Don't misunderstand me; I believe in PR, but there's a time for all things, friends, and that was a time for the utmost simplicity. Occasionally, there's a time for simplicity today, my friends, if you want miracles.

And Elisha simply sent a messenger to him and said, "Tell him to go down in Jordan and take some hydro. And do it again. And again. And again. And again. And again." And like many today, that general decided that that was too simple. Too simple. Not only that, he thought if that's all it took, he could have done that in better water up where he came from.

But thank God that there was some servant there that helped drive the chariot that dared to reason with the man. And said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some big thing, wouldn't you had done it? How much rather than when he tells you this, just wash and be clean." Thank God he did it, friends. He followed the Spirit of Prophecy and he got well.

Now, what next? Oh, he wants to pay off. Just as there's a time for PR, there's a time for paying too. Of course, that wasn't the time for PR when he came, and it wasn't the time to pay off when he left, at least, so the prophet thought. Of course, prophets are visionary, aren't they?

So when he came back with thanksgiving and praise upon his lips and wanted to give Elisha a wonderful payoff, Elisha said, "No, nothing. I want you to understand that this is a *gift* from the God of Heaven." Thank God, it won his soul, my friend. That's what Elisha was after. That's what the providence of God was after in allowing that little maid to be carried captive over there to Syria.

But there was one man on the staff of the sanitarium there in Samaria who could not bear the thought that that man would get away without putting in a lot of

money. So he ran after him and framed a lie and got the money and also got his, what? Leprosy.

Oh my friends, I know that anything I study with you can be misunderstood. I know that anything we read and study in these lines can be carried to extremes. But I want to tell you something, my dear friends. Before you can ever carry something to extremes, you must at least get somewhere near it. There is no danger here of anyone drowning in the Atlantic ocean tonight. You know that, don't you? We're so far from it. And we are so far from learning the lessons of sacrifice and self-denying love. We'll have to get closer before we'll be in very much danger of going to extremes.

Let's not go to extremes, friends. But let's go with Jesus. Let's go with Elijah. What do you say? Oh, I come back now to what we studied. God intends that every physician, every nurse, every minister, every teacher, every father and mother, everybody who comes in contact with sick people or people who need to be taught the way of life, God intends that every one of His nurses, His medical missionaries, shall be a channel for healing. The healing is the healing power of love. It's represented by this river that flows from the sanctuary. This fountain that's open within the temple. The bleeding heart of Christ.

"Let the water and thy blood from Thy wounded side that flows, be of sin the double cure. Save me from its guilt and power." Oh friends, I want that healing power in my own body, in my own soul. But I want it for others. I want to be not a dead sea but a river. I want to be a part of that channel through which God's healing waters flow. What do you say? Shall we enter in? Shall we ask Jesus to give us that experience? He's waiting, ready, anxious, glad to accept it. Just as ready as He was to use Peter and John and the others back there for those mighty miracles. And soon there is coming to this church, the remnant church, a revival of that mighty healing power that was seen in the church of Pentecost. It's coming, friends.

But first, we must learn the lesson of sacrificial love. First, we must learn the lesson of putting aside all pride of position. All pride of degrees and influence that the world gives. Don't misunderstand me. There's a place for proper training and for recognition of it. But as Isaac Watts wrote in those immortal words: "When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride." My dear friends, I tell you truly, if those of us who've had the training that the world can recognize, do not sense the glorious opportunity we have to be called into the medical minister of Jesus Christ, in His own time God will pass us by and call fisherman and carpenters and tax collectors and use them as He did those 2,000 years ago.

God's going to get this done. He's going to get this done on His terms. He is offering today the trained personal of this denomination the most glorious opportunity of this generation. He is offering the physicians and the nurses and all the rest who have had the technical training, the opportunity to crucify self. To do what the apostle Paul did: to sacrifice influence, position, reputation and to count it all but manure in order that the righteousness of Jesus may be revealed and His healing power be displayed. And if we'll be willing, like Paul, to say, "All right dear Lord, from now on there's just one thing I want to do. I want to suffer for You and with You. I

want to live my life in humility and in sacrifice, that others may know Your healing power and the gospel of Your grace.”

May we go to our knees in prayer? Oh our Father, we thank Thee for that mighty river flowing from the sanctuary. We thank Thee for the fountain that has been opened for sin and for sickness. We thank Thee for the bleeding heart of Jesus. The broken heart of our dear Savior Who loves us so much that He could not pass us by. We thank Thee for the love that led Him to give *His* life that we might live. And oh, we thank Thee that Thou hast invited us to share that sacrifice that we may share that healing power; that we might be the channels through which Thy healing love shall flow to those who are sick in body and mind and soul. God bless every one tonight we pray. As we have seen the glorious vision, give us hearts that respond with alacrity. May we run to accept Thine offer of partnership with Thee. May we rejoice in the high honor, the great privilege accorded us, to ambassadors of the Great Physician that channels for His healing power.

Now before we finish our prayer, as we're kneeling here, I want to appeal to everyone that the Spirit of God has spoken to in a special way, to respond not to me, not to human beings, not to flesh and blood, but to Jesus Christ. If God has spoken to your heart and you realize that there is a decision that He's calling you to and your heart reaches out for the help of Christ to do that, would just raise your hand where you are and let Jesus reach out and take your hand. I know He will.

Blessed Lord, Thou dost see our hands as they go up, to contact Thy nail-pierced hand. And oh, do Thou take us. I know Thou dost, and I know Thou will link us with Thee, and I thank Thee in Jesus' wonderful name. Amen.

[Congregation joins Elder Frazee in singing, "I Will Follow Thee."]

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