

Balm of Gilead 2 of 2

#0165

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—February 25, 1977

He loved me and gave Himself for me. Can you say it, each one; is it really for you? Thank God, yes.

A week ago we were studying a balm in Gilead in Jeremiah 8:22

“Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?
why then is not the health of the daughter of my people
recovered” Jeremiah 8:22.

In other words, if there's a good doctor around with good medicine, why are we sick? That's the Savior's question.

We studied some wonderful promises and wonderful assurances last week, and I'm sure we went home convinced that God is in the saving business, ready to solve any problem. Tonight I want to go a bit further with this study. I bring you a very simple and very obvious fact, and that is that no matter how good a remedy is, the remedy and the patient must be brought in contact. The remedy and the patient must be brought in contact. The balm of Gilead must be applied, or else it's all in vain that Jesus has provided it. No matter how little our problem, friends, we can't solve it without Him. No matter how great our problem, He has the answer.

Tonight I want to bring you this precious truth, and that is that the balm of Gilead is nothing less than Christ Himself. He is the branch that was put into the waters of Marah that healed those streams. He is the One that was with Israel there in the pillar of cloud and fire, and through Moses, told His people, “I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

Christ, I repeat, is the balm of Gilead. He is the answer to every question, the solution to every problem, the remedy for every disease of body and mind and soul. Let us face this fact, my friend: all that is available for us is only because He died upon the cross.

As that tree by the waters of Marah must be cut down and cast into the waters, so Christ must be stricken, wounded, He must be slain that from Him might flow the healing stream to take care of our sins, our sicknesses.

Turn please to Zechariah 13:

“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.

What is this fountain? Oh, this is the blood of Jesus.

“There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel’s veins;
And sinners plunge beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.”

Thank God. Every problem that sin has made finds its answer in that stream of blessing that flows from the wounded hands and side of Jesus, our Lord. And now I repeat, dear friend: the remedy and patient must be brought together. The balm of Gilead must be applied. The blood must be sprinkled upon us. We must come in contact with the cross of Christ. And it is at the cross that we meet our Lord.

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”
Zechariah 12:10.

Someone says, "Well, I don't see very much healing in this. It looks like it's a rather painful time of sorrow."

You Doctors will agree with me when I say that sometimes a patient who is hurting sometimes has to be hurt worse in order to be healed. Is that right? I know what that is on the receiving end.

One of the sad things today about this generation, though it's not peculiar to this generation, is there is an increasing desire to get rid of symptoms rather than deal with basic causes and basic problems; an increasing willingness to shoot the watchdog, cut the wires that sound the fire alarm, and go on doing the thing that makes the problem. And when Jesus calls us to Calvary that we may be healed, He's calling us to the only place where we can become awakened to the thing that's making our problem, and find the remedy for it.

The problem is sin—that's the basic problem. We may look at our other problems: financial problems, home problems, health problems, worry problems, personnel problems, relationship problems. The basic problem is that big, little word of three letters: S-I-N. Do you know what's right in the middle of sin? Right in the middle of S-I-N is 'I.' That's the problem.

God has a strategy that I want to study with you tonight. It's involved in getting real help for your problems, whatever your problems are. God's problem is to divert you from yourself, because *you* are in the middle of your problem, and don't forget it. If you don't know that you haven't even understood your problem yet. And so God's strategy is to divert you from your problem. One of the best ways to get diverted from a problem is to look at a bigger problem. Did you ever have some kind of pain in your body and forget all about it when a harder pain, bigger pain struck you in some other organ? Jesus is seeking to call us from our little pains, our petty

problems, to behold the great pain, the broken heart at Calvary. That's what this text is talking about.

He says, I'm going to pour My Spirit upon you, and you will look upon the One that you have pierced. Then you will:

“...mourn for Him, as one mourns for His only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” Zechariah 12:10.

This is where help comes; in getting our mind diverted from our selfish desire to get what we want, even when it's something good, and get our whole souls filled with the vision of what *our* sin has done to Jesus.

It is as if we were following up a stream through pasture and meadow, then in the hills and up into the mountains, and finally we come to the source, in the great spring that issues from the cliff. What is it? Oh, friend, it is the cross. The only stream of healing that's flowing in the plains of this world flows from Calvary.

And as I look into those eyes of Jesus, as I watch the blood drops fall from His head and His hands and His feet, I say, “Is this really what it cost to provide healing? To provide a solution to my problem? Did Jesus have to die, and is it my sin that made all this? Tell me, friends, is that true? Is that it? Oh, yes. This is the atonement. This is God bringing man back to Himself by coming to the cross and taking man's sin, his sickness, his sorrow, taking all his burdens, and the weight of it crushes His soul, it breaks His heart.

If we could really see it really, truly, literally, wouldn't our minds be diverted from our own petty problems? Wouldn't we begin to get sorry for *Him* instead of just feeling so sorry for ourselves? The selfish human heart seeks to find somebody that will sympathize. Somebody says, “Oh yes, that's what I want, somebody to sympathize with.” You need something far more than somebody to sympathize with you. You need somebody to point you to the One that you need to sympathize with.

With your selfishness, your sin, you murdered the Son of God. He's hanging there bearing the sin of your life. That's it, that's what happened. Why does He do it? Because He *has* to? Oh, no. He doesn't have to. Then why does He do it? Because He *loves* you. And oh, if you can only see it as it is, He'll take over you and your problems. He'll handle them, but He can never do it until the balm of Gilead is applied to the wound of your soul. He can never do it in a way that will just gratify your selfish desires that you found in prayer the answer to what you want.

There is a type of prayer that's being taught in the popular churches today that is heathen and pagan: how to win friends and influence people, the power of positive thinking, and all that goes with that. It boils down to this: if you know how to play the religious game, you can come out a winner. I bring you no such message. I bring you to Calvary. I bring you to a painful experience of awakening to what your sin has done to Jesus. And if you will come and look, what happens to *you* will seem to be less and less important, and what happens to *Him* will become all-important in your life. This is the meaning of Calvary. This is why Jesus says:

“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth...” Isaiah 45:22.

They shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” Zechariah 12:10.

Somebody says, “Brother Frazee, if this is true, how could a man ever get any relief from that sorrow? Why wouldn’t he always be in pain and agony?”

Thank God, the reason Jesus is hanging there is to reveal to us the cost of sin so that we’ll give it up, and show us what our sin has done to Him so we’ll surrender it. And *then* we have the joy of knowing that we’ve brought relief to His stricken heart. We have the satisfaction of knowing that we are linked with *Him* in solving the sin problem of this universe. We go from the cross with joy, knowing that as ambassadors of our Savior’s love, we too can point men to the cross and say, “Be ye reconciled to God.” We can bear the balm of Gilead. We can bring others to the cross that they too may find healing.

It’s true that we need to come again and again. But thank God, every time we come it can be to surrender our sins anew, to receive a new awakening of the cost of it, to receive a new impression of how hateful sin and Satan are, and a new assurance of the forgiving love of Jesus Christ. Every day that can grow and bring us closer to heart-to-heart fellowship with Him in total—this is His purpose.

In order that we may have this experience of total fellowship with Christ, He has given us some very simple things that make it possible. One is the study of His Word. The Bible is the Word on paper. Christ is the Word in life and action. The Holy Spirit takes what we read in this book, and through it brings Christ to our understanding, to our perception. Aren’t you thankful for this Word? Here is the balm of Gilead.

Another channel that God has given us is prayer. Through His Word He talks to us, and in prayer, we talk to Him. But prayer is more than talking to God. Prayer is a two-way communion. As we kneel in prayer and talk with Him, He puts into our minds thoughts of conviction, thoughts of contrition, thoughts of comfort—blessed, precious assurances of His love. And remember, the whole purpose of it is to bring us close with Jesus, through the study of His Word and through prayer.

A third way that He has given us a fellowship with Him is linking arm and arm with Him to go forth to serve. Christ was the ambassador of Heaven to this world. He is seeking to enlist every one of us to share with Him in that ambassadorship. Have you received your appointment? Thank God for the privilege. And there is nothing that can bring us in closer fellowship with Jesus than to just be working with Christ for those who need His help: the poor and needy, the rich and needy, those who are needy in body, in heart, in soul, in spirit.

In *Volume 6* of the *Testimonies*, page 438, these three great channels are linked together in one brief sentence, and are given to us for a prescription for all

who are disheartened. Anybody here disheartened? Here's the prescription from the Great Physician:

“For all who are disheartened there is but one remedy,
- faith, prayer, and work” *Testimonies for the Church*,
Volume 6, page 438.

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. So faith, as we read the Word of God, prayer, and work. All right. I'm going to read that again, and I want you to say it with me:

“For all who are disheartened there is but one remedy,
- faith, prayer, and work” *Testimonies for the Church*,
Volume 6, page 438.

When I was a student at Loma Linda over 50 years ago, it was the custom in those days for patients who had surgery to lie very still for a long time. What do doctors say to patients now? “Just as soon as you can get out of bed and get moving.” I wonder why they did that? Well, they got hard-hearted and cruel, didn't they? Is that it? No. They have found by *experience* that these 600 muscles of the body are made for use. And even when a man has had surgery, the quicker he can get to use them, the better. It avoids blood clots and some other problems that the doctors can explain, in case you need an explanation.

My point is, the Great Surgeon, Jesus Christ, as He operates upon your soul to take out the cancer of sin, wants you to get busy as soon as possible sharing with others the good news of His salvation. For all who are disheartened, there is but one remedy; what is it? Faith, prayer, and work. Why didn't it say three remedies? Well, the three are one, dear friends. If you think you can get the remedy by just praying, you've missed it. If you think you can get it by just studying, you've missed it. Or just serving. But faith in God's Word, prayer and then sharing in work for Him, *this* is the three-phase blended ministry which links you in fellowship with Jesus Christ. Remember, if you're in contact with Him, He is the balm of Gilead.

Somebody says, “But Brother Frazee, the trouble is I've got so many problems myself. I don't see how I can take on anybody's problems.”

Well, I'll show you something interesting over here in the book of Job. I've sometimes wondered why there were so many chapters in Job—Just talking back and forth, Job's “friends” as they prod him and spur him and spear him and he answers back. Finally, God, after He'd listened to all of them for a while, began to talk to Job and talk to his friends. But nearly to the very end of the book, in the 42nd chapter, there is tucked away a little gem which tells me a great deal.

You remember Job had lost all his possession; he'd lost all his children; from a rich man, he became poor. Then he was afflicted with boils from head to foot and lay there in the ash heap. Then his friends came and criticized him, and found fault with him, and abused him. Job 42:10; will you read those first two lines with me:

“And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends...” Job 42:10.

Isn't that wonderful? Job might have said, “I need somebody to pray for *me*.” But the friends that should have been praying for him were criticizing him instead. The Lord finally got Job to the place where he started praying for those friends that were abusing him, and then God took over and fixed everything all right. The rest of the verse says that when they got through, the Lord gave Job twice as much.

In the commentary on this, listen to this wonderful statement:

“The Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed, not only for himself, but for those who were opposing him. When he felt earnestly desirous that the souls that had trespassed against him might be helped, he himself received help. Let us pray not only for ourselves, but for those who have hurt us, and are continuing to hurt us. Pray, pray especially in your mind. Give not the Lord rest; for His ears are open to hear sincere, importunate prayers, when the soul is humbled before Him” *Bible Commentary, Volume 3*, page 1141.

When I look at the date of that letter, 1906, it tells me a great deal, friends. You're acquainted with the history of this church. When did Job get help with his problem? When did he find healing for body, mind, and spirit? When he got his mind off his own problem and onto the problems of others.

Do you see what I'm getting at tonight, dear friends? First of all, to get your mind on *Jesus'* problem as He hangs upon the cross, suffering for sin. Then to link arms with Him in fellowship, in prayer, and in service, taking on the problems of others.

“Many invalids feel that everyone should give them sympathy and help, when what they need is to have their attention turned away from themselves, to think of and care for others” *Ministry of Healing*, page 256

There it is, dear friend. That's what cured Job; it got him out of the ash heap and back in circulation.

...God answers prayer for those who place themselves in the channel of His blessings. While we offer prayer for these sorrowful ones, we should encourage them to try to help those more needy than themselves” *Ibid*.

Someone says, "Brother Frazee, I don't know anybody in this world who is needier than I am." Well, I'll help you find somebody. There's nobody within the sound of my voice that's in the position where everybody in this world is better off than you are. Oh friends, around us is a needy world filled with weary souls. Let's reach out and help them. What do you say?

“The darkness will be dispelled from their own hearts as they try to help others. As we seek to comfort others with the comfort wherewith we are comforted, the blessing comes back to us” *Ibid*.

Isn't that wonderful? Do you know what the next sentence says? It gives us a prescription. Yes. That's the word that's used; you know Rx. Prescription. Do you know what the prescription is? Isaiah 58. Turn to Isaiah 58, and then I'll read you what this says in *Ministry of Healing* about this chapter being a prescription.

“The fifty-eighth chapter of Isaiah is a prescription for maladies of the body and of the soul” *Ibid*.

If you're acquainted with this 58th chapter of Isaiah, it starts out with some people that are moaning and groaning because they had been praying and didn't get any answers to their prayers. Then Jesus said (If you'll allow me to just put it in plain modern English), “Your trouble is you're thinking about yourself and not about others.” So He says if you want help look in the seventh verse:

“Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou see the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?...”

What will happen if you do that?

“...Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward”
Isaiah 58:7–8.

Isn't that wonderful? The 58th chapter of Isaiah is telling us how to get help, how to apply the balm of Gilead. In other words, friends, there is no way for you to get the help you need all by yourself, so that forever afterward, you and the Lord are just shut in together and let the rest of the world go by. No, no.

God won't let you do that. It would make you so selfish that you could never be happy in Heaven, or even on this planet. God has purposely arranged this strategy that your mind must be diverted from yourself by looking first to Him on the cross, and then sharing with Him in serving with others. That's what medical missionary work is all about. God wants to involve us with Him.

“Many are sad and discouraged, weak in faith and trust. Let them do something to help someone more needy than themselves, and they will grow strong in God's strength” *Christian Service*, page 151.

Aren't you thankful for that, dear friends? Yes, praise the Lord. Now I want to read you something from an old *Review*. This is from the *Review* of February 25, 1896; I have a photocopy of it right here. Why am I reading this? Because my

subject tonight is that the way that you get help from the balm of Gilead is to have it applied. The medicine and the patient must be brought together, and the medicine is Christ Himself. So everything that will bring you closer to Christ is to help you get every human problem solved, my friends. Now I'm going to read to you about some people that thought of a way that they could get closer to Christ:

"Some make long journeys to Jerusalem to see the place where Christ lived and taught. They listen to traditions and tales that men have invented. They spend money for that which is not bread...To expend time and labor in finding the places where Jesus worked in Jerusalem, cannot bring any real benefit to soul or body. The money would better be expended in helping those who are perishing out of Christ... Human guides may point to this spot or that one as a place where Jesus made His abode, and travelers may cultivate feelings of awe and reverence in looking upon various localities, yet they have no certain knowledge that Christ ever taught there, or that His feet every trod the soil... The steps of Christ are certainly marked out in the word. Go where they can be found today. Do not seek to go back to the land where Christ's feet trod ages ago... Many hold in reverence literal objects in Palestine, while they neglect to behold Jesus as their advocate in the heaven of heavens. Where is Christ? We would see Jesus, not in the places where He used to make His abode. Christ is the bread of life... He is in the heavens above, and as our High Priest, is offering up the incense of His own merit... We should earnestly inquire, not in regard to old Jerusalem and concerning the fables that are repeated for truth, but we should turn our eyes to the living Savior" *Review and Herald*, February 25, 1896.

Now I'm going to read to you from the *Review and Herald*, June 9, 1896. Listen carefully, and remember we're studying how to get close to Jesus. He's the balm of Gilead.

"How many there are who feel that it would be a good thing to tread the soil of old Jerusalem, and that their faith would be greatly strengthened by visiting the scenes of the Savior's life and death!" *Review and Herald*, June 9, 1896.

Have you ever heard somebody describe the awe and reverence that came on them as they saw the room where Christ had the Last Supper with His disciples or visited some other [inaudible word]. Listen to what the prophet to the remnant says:

"How many there are who feel that it would be a good thing to tread the soil of old Jerusalem, and that their faith would be greatly strengthened by visiting the scenes of the Savior's life and death! But old Jerusalem will never be a sacred place

until it is cleansed by the refining fire from heaven... Do we want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? We need not seek out the paths in Nazareth, Bethany, and Jerusalem. We shall find the footprints of Jesus by the sickbed, by the side of suffering humanity, in the hovels of the poverty-stricken and distressed. We may walk in these footsteps, comforting the suffering, speaking words of hope and comfort to the despondent. Doing as Jesus did when He was upon earth, we shall walk in His blessed steps" *Ibid.*

And friends, He's promised to be with us on that pilgrimage. I want to be with Him, don't you? Yes. Aren't you thankful for such light from Heaven? Thank God, every one of us can walk with Jesus day by day.

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