

Meeting God's Heart Need 1 of 8

Jacob's Ladder Is For You

#0228

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—April 25, 1972

Who was it that saw a ladder? Jacob. Now, when Jacob saw this ladder, he wasn't a *good* boy, he was a *bad* boy. He had a good father and a good grandfather, but Jacob hadn't been very good. You remember he had lied to his father, and stolen from his brother, and he was running away for fear he might be killed. And as he went along feeling bad because of all he'd done, and not knowing what was ahead of him, just fleeing, fleeing, of course, he came at last to the end of the day, and he lay down. And there was no motel for him to pull into, no home to entertain him. He was out where he had to lie down on the ground, and he had a stone for a pillow. But he was so tired that he slept anyway. You know, when you're tired enough, you can sleep almost anywhere. Jacob was that tired. And as he slept, he saw this ladder.

Turn to Genesis 28:12. There are two words in this verse that I want you to notice—something very interesting:

“And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it”
Genesis 28:12.

Where was the bottom of the ladder resting? On the earth. Where did the top of it reach? To Heaven. That was a long ladder, wasn't it? The point is, the ladder reached where Jacob was. He was down on the earth, and the ladder reached there. And the top of it reached clear to Heaven where God is because the next verse tells us:

“And, behold, the LORD stood above it,” Genesis 28:13.

So at the top of the ladder was who? God. And at the bottom of the ladder was who? Jacob. What do you suppose the ladder was for? To *connect* them. Who was coming *down* the ladder? Angels. Who was going *up* the ladder? Angels.

Oh, I am so glad, folks, there's a ladder here tonight, and God is at the top of the ladder, and you and I are either at the bottom of the ladder, or somewhere *on* it. Now, I don't know where *you* are. My point is, even if you're at the bottom of the ladder, the ladder reaches where you are. If there is somebody here that has never taken a step toward God, you've never made one move toward God, the ladder is right where you are.

But suppose you *have* been following Christ the best you know. You are somewhere up this ladder. Folks, there is another rung of the ladder to climb; there

is another step up these shadowy stairs to take. And I hope that, during these few days we are together, we can all take a few more steps. What do you say? And remember, this is the thing I want to stress right here in these first five minutes—the ladder reaches where you are.

Some people get discouraged because they can't do what somebody else does. They can't pray like somebody prays, or talk like somebody talks, or sing like somebody sings. No, that isn't the important thing. The important thing, dear friends, is to understand that God is interested in you, and that He comes right where you are. He knows all about you.

That's what He told Jacob. You see, as I say, Jacob knew that he had a good father, and that God had talked to Isaac. He knew he had a good grandfather, and that God had talked to Abraham. But Jacob knew that he himself was a bad boy. He had broken God's law. And here God comes to him and says, "Jacob, I am not only interested in your father and your grandfather, I am interested in *you*. And I am interested enough in you that out here on these sands, with your head on a pillow, I am giving you this view of Me and My love. I have come right where you are with this special message of interest and love. And listen," God says, "I want you to be with Me. I want to be with you." He says:

"I will not leave thee" Genesis 28:15.

Who is with us this afternoon? *God* is with us. He's with *you*.

Let me read you something here from *Ministry of Healing* to put with this:

"He knows each individual by name, and cares for each as if there were not another upon the earth for whom He gave His beloved Son" *Ministry of Healing*, page 229.

Does God know your name? Did He know Jacob's name? Yes. He called him by name. He knows you, and He *cares* for you just as if you were the only one in all the world, the only one for whom Jesus died.

"Oh," somebody says, "that's too much. I can't comprehend that."

Don't try to comprehend it. Just enjoy it. I can't comprehend all the air around this planet, but I enjoy what I get 18 times a minute. Don't you? Yes. I don't try to comprehend it. I'm glad there's a lot more than I need. There's plenty for everybody. I can't comprehend all the sunshine that shines down. But do you know, I get just as much sunshine as if there were nobody else in this world to get it. Don't I? The sun shines for me as if I were the only one to enjoy its healing rays.

So when you're dealing with these wonderful things, don't start dividing by the number of people in the world and say, "I'm afraid I get a pretty small piece of pie." The whole pie is for you, my friend. Let me read it again:

“He knows each individual by name, and cares for each as if there were not another upon the earth for whom He gave His beloved Son” *Ministry of Healing*, page 229.

Isn't that tremendous?

I wonder if there's anybody here that has five brothers and sisters. May I see your hands? Yes, there are several. I wonder if there's anybody here that has got *ten* brothers and sisters. Well, I've seen families with more than that. Now, tell me this. How many of you here this afternoon have at least one brother or sister? May I see your hands? Well, almost everybody. Well, you folks that are so unfortunate that there are five or six or eight or ten in the family, you don't get very much love, do you? There isn't very much to go around, is there?

Why friends, the fathers and mothers I know, if they've got any love at all, they love the second one not half as much as they gave the first one. And when the third one comes along, they don't say, "Well, we've only got one-third for this, and the others will have to take it a little lighter now." No, no.

Now, listen. What about the One who *made* the fathers and mothers? Do you think that He has to divide His love among the billions of people in this world? Why, no, He doesn't.

Let me give you another statement on it. I like this:

“The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth to share His watch care” *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

My, my. Jordan, is it for you as though you were the only one? Rick, is it for you as if you were the only one? Daniel, is it for you as if you were the only one? And you girls, each of you, is it for you as if you were the only one? Is the ladder for you? Has God put the ladder down where you are, just as if you were the only one to climb it?

Oh, folks, I'd hate to be up here telling you fairy tales. I know this is true. First, because God says so. Second, because it works. I see it working. My heavenly Father is as interested in me as though I were the only one in all the world.

Let me tell you just a little experience. And this is such a tiny little experience, and yet it meant so much to me. Just a few weeks ago, I was taking a walk with my wife just before dinner. She went on home, and I went a little farther in the woods. I was carrying my coat, and it had two or three things in it. It was getting warm; that's why I was carrying the coat. And I looked in the pocket to see if something that was in it had fallen out. Well, it hadn't. But I looked a little more, and this little pocket comb had fallen out.

Well, I like the little thing. Of course, it didn't cost a million dollars, but I like it. And it's just what I want, and it fits in my pocket. It had fallen out in the woods,

somewhere. There I was, way out in the woods. What to do? Well, my mind went to my Friend, my dear Friend, the Lord. And I said, "Now, Lord, I'm not going to ask you to do this as a test. I'm not going to say, 'Lord, if you love me, please help me find this.' I know you love me, whether you help me find it or not. You know whether it's best for me. It might teach me to be a little more careful." But, I said, "Lord, I sure would appreciate it if I *could* find it."

And so I started to walk. But I wasn't on a trail; I was just in the woods. So I went along looking, and there at my feet it was. And I was so thankful; I knelt down right there on the leaves and thanked the Lord. I put it back in my pocket, and here it is; I've got it.

Well folks, as I say, that's a very little thing. But if God had been busy looking after the affairs of billions of people and all their needs and that kept Him occupied, He wouldn't have been able to *notice* that, would He? No. But He was giving me His attention, you understand, as if He had nothing else to do.

That's what it means to be *infinite*, young people. Infinite means there's no limit. There's no limit to the *power* of God; there's no limit to His *wisdom*; there's no limit to His *love*. Therefore He can give you the whole thing and still have the whole thing for your brother, your sister, your father, your mother, your uncle, your aunt, your cousin, your neighbor, your friend, and billions of people besides. Isn't that wonderful? Oh, I'm so thankful.

And that's why He came to Jacob and said, "Jacob, listen. I am interested in you. I was interested in your father, still am. I was interested in your grandfather and still am. But Jacob, I am interested in you."

Jacob said, "Oh, think of all I've done."

God said, "That's why I brought the ladder down here. The ladder is to bridge the gulf between earth and Heaven. It's to bring God and man together.

Do you know what that ladder is? Turn to John 1, and we'll find out. Jesus had been calling His first disciples, Andrew, Peter, John, Phillip, Nathaniel. Now He says something to Nathaniel:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man" John 1:51.

What's this ladder? It's Jesus. *He's* the ladder; He's the only way that Heaven can reach me, and that I can reach Heaven. It is through Christ. And the worst sinner in the world can come, friends. And listen, don't think that there are certain steps you have to do before you come to Christ. The man that's smoking cigarettes doesn't have to quit cigarettes before he comes to Christ. The man that's got the whiskey habit, he doesn't have to quit the whiskey before he comes to Christ. The person that swears or uses filthy language, he doesn't have to quit all that and then come to Jesus.

It matters not what sin is bothering you. You can come to Christ just as you are. In fact, if you come, that's the only way you *can* ever come. Christ is the ladder. And the ladder reaches right down to the ground. And the very first step of the ladder is the step of coming to Jesus. See?

You don't say, "Oh, I've got to work hard and do better, and then, maybe someday, I'll come." How many people there are who know, for instance, that this message is the true message, the Seventh-day Adventist message, and they'd like to be Seventh-day Adventists, but they think that they've got to quit tobacco first. Well, they do need to quit tobacco, friends, but they don't need to quit tobacco before they come to Jesus.

What a strange thing it would be to see a man that's just so sick he's in pain, and we say to him, "Why don't you go to the doctor?"

He says, "I am going to go just as soon as I can get strong enough."

The weaker he is, the sicker he is, the more he needs to do what the man with the palsy did. You remember he had his friends carry him on a litter. He couldn't walk, but he said to his friends, "Men, I've got to get to Jesus. I can't walk, but carry me."

Listen, my dear friends, if you're so weak in sin that you can't even *drag* yourself to Jesus, get some friends to pray with you, and *carry* you to Jesus. They'll do it. They'll be glad to help bring you to Jesus, like that poor sick man. And you remember Jesus was so pleased with that fellow coming to him. And He said:

"Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee"
Matthew 9:2.

And He healed him, and he walked away rejoicing.

My point is, friends, wherever we are, the ladder, which is Jesus Himself, comes right where we are. Whatever your problem, Jesus is there with you in the problem:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in
trouble" Psalm 46:1.

If you're in trouble, God is right there with you in trouble:

You know, I like to think of what He's done to convince us of His interest in us. A couple of years ago or so, there was a girl living down in Florida, 18 years old. And she was kidnapped. She was carried up into a neighboring state and hidden so that nobody could find her. And the people that kidnapped her sent word to her father and said, "Now, we are going to have to have a half million dollars so that you can get your daughter back."

He was a multimillionaire. That's why they kidnapped the girl. The father paid, and he got his girl back. It cost him a half-million dollars. Do you think that girl thought that her father loved her, or do you think she had some *doubts* about it?

You, girls, if your daddy, or somebody else that loves you, had paid a half-million dollars to get you back, paid the ransom, would you begin to wonder whether or not they were interested in you? Why, no, you wouldn't. That would settle it, wouldn't it, if you had any doubts before?

Listen, friends, if you've ever had any doubts that God is interested in you, look at Calvary. Look at the cross. The cross is the ladder. It stretches from Heaven to earth. And on that cross, Jesus hangs the offering for you. He is the bridge. It's over His wounded body that we travel from earth to Heaven. The point is, friends, He has paid the ransom price for you. This is how interested He *is* in you. Now, when you look at that, can you doubt His interest in you? Can you doubt His love? Can you doubt His desire to have you with Him?

Suppose a week after that girl got home from being kidnapped that she meets some of her young friends, and they say, "Mary, my, it's great to have you back. I know your father must certainly be happy to have you back."

Suppose she should say, "Well, sometimes I wonder. I just wonder whether he wants me around or not."

Would she say that? Why, of course not. Her father just the week before paid a half-million dollars to get her back.

Listen, friends, how much has Jesus paid to get you? Did He *pay* anything? Did it *cost* Him anything? Why, a million times more than all the money in the world, friends—His life, His infinite life. So when you look at the cross, you see how much God values you. You see how anxious He is for you to climb this ladder with Him.

And listen. He doesn't just stand at the top of the ladder and say, "Come up here, and I'll be glad to see you." No, no. The ladder, which is Christ Himself, comes right down where you are. Jesus, on the cross, took your sin; He suffered.

You may say, "Oh my, I'm not worthy."

Of course you're not.

You may say, "I don't deserve anything good."

No, you don't. I don't either. Friends, I'm so glad I don't have to get what I deserve. I get what *He* deserves. It's a lot better.

And think of it. When you and I come to Jesus, no sooner do we approach the mercy seat than we become the clients of the great Advocate. That means He's our lawyer; He's our attorney. He represents us just the moment we come to Him—not after we have done this, that, and the other thing—but just the moment we come to Him.

I just hope, friends, this very opening meeting, I hope we can get this very simple. It isn't after you get to the top of the ladder that you get some blessing. There's all you can hold right here at the bottom of the ladder. Of course, every step we take, our capacity enlarges, we can hold more. If we start with a teaspoon, pretty soon we can hold a cup, and finally a bucket, and then it just comes in barrels, friends. But listen. Right where you are, you start, and you can have all the blessings you can hold.

Do you know what I want you to do? Of course, you will have to decide whether you *do* it or not. I hope, after this meeting, sometime between now and when you close your eyes in sleep tonight, that every one of you will find a little time to be all alone with Jesus. Will you do that? Be all alone with Jesus.

Now, some of you have already known that Jesus thought so much of you. Some of you may be glimpsing it for the first time that God thinks so much of you. But I want to tell you something, friends. The folks that have known this all your lives, listen: It's better than you thought it was. He thinks a lot more of you than you knew about. He's more interested in you than you had any idea. He's paid a lot more for you than you knew about.

If somebody had paid a thousand dollars to get you out of jail, and later you found out that it had cost them ten thousand dollars instead, you'd say, "My, they really did think a lot of me, didn't they?"

Oh, folks, every time we come to Calvary with open hearts and try to understand what He did there for us, we know that it was a bigger ransom, a greater price than we had known before. And that means He thinks more *of* us than we knew before.

There are some things you can exaggerate. This you can't. There's no way of getting it too big. God thinks a million times more of you than you have any idea. Oh, why not get all you can hold? And let me tell you why. It isn't just so you and I can feel better. It isn't just so you and I can get rid of sin. It's to make Him happy.

Listen, don't you know that father was happy when he got his girl back? Don't you know he was? Sure. Why? He liked her. He *must* have to pay *that* much. He *must* have.

And so, my dear friend, when you and I come to Jesus, come right here to the ladder and take that first step with Him, it makes Him so glad. So tonight, don't think so much of making *yourself* happy; think of making *Him* happy.

Kneel down, as I say, all alone with Him, in your room or out somewhere over the campus. Find a place where you can be alone with God this evening, somewhere after this meeting closes, before you go to bed, and talk to Jesus and tell him, "Dear Lord, I am so glad you think that much of me. And I'm coming to You. And if it's the first step, Lord, help me to take the first step. If I've already taken several steps, Lord, help me to take another step."

You say, "What step shall I take?"

Ask Him, friends. He's the ladder. He knows where you are on it; *I* don't, and *you* don't. But if you will ask Him, He'll help you to know. If He's done anything for you, those are the steps He's helped you climb. But oh, He's got some more. He wants to bring you closer to His Father above. And He's down here with you, helping to lift you, helping to raise you.

Now, listen, this meeting is called the week of prayer. That doesn't mean just a week of meetings. I don't think we're going to burden you with meetings. We are going to have some meetings, as Brother Jensen has said, but oh, I want you to have an experience in prayer with God. Because, listen, God can do something for you that I can't do for you. And part of what He wants to do for you will never be done in a meeting like this. If all the blessing you get this week is from the meetings, well, of course, you will get some. But if you really want the thing to work, will you follow the recipe? Will you follow the directions? Girls, when you're cooking, quite often you have a cookbook. It tells you to take this and this and this and this in certain amounts and put them together, doesn't it? Yes. Or do you just throw the book away and *guess* at it?

And you fellows, is there a recipe when you mix concrete? Does it make any difference whether you put any sand in or not? Yes. Some of you boys were pounding up some concrete the other day, weren't you? Somebody told me that what had happened was that it wasn't the right mixture when it was put in. Is that right? Well, there you see.

The point is, recipes are to follow. Directions are to follow. And if you want an experience with God that will make you happy, and most of all, make *Him* happy, follow the directions.

Go to God, and by faith see that ladder let down from Heaven for you, and thank God. Tell Him personally. Open your lips and talk to Him. You may whisper if other people are too close around. But don't just *think* it, *talk* it.

When Jacob woke from this dream where he'd seen that wonderful ladder, he started talking to God. I want you to talk to God. If you've already been doing it, tell Him again. If you haven't, start tonight. Kneel down, open your lips, talk to God. And ask God to do something for you that will make Him happy. He delights to give. He just loves to fill your heart with victory over sin. If you're having some problem, talk to Him about it.

But while you talk to Him about your problem, will you talk to Him about *His* problem? Did you know God had a problem? Well, God's problem, friends, is getting sin out of the lives of people, so that they can know how much He loves them. And so, if you will talk to God about His problem and say, "Lord, I understand that you love me more than I knew you did. Will you please reveal that love to me? Will you please help me to know and feel that love? Not just for *my* sake, but for *Your* sake. Will you do that?" He will. Then when we meet together tomorrow, we will have another wonderful time.

Shall we kneel together in prayer?

Heavenly Father, we are so glad for the ladder let down from Heaven to earth. We could never climb there nor fly there. There is no way we could get there. The ladder must be let down from above. And oh, we thank Thee that the ladder is Jesus. And as we see His cross uplifted, we know that He has shown us how much He thinks of us, to pay our ransom, to die for our sins, to give His life that we might be forgiven and cleansed.

And now bless each one of us kneeling here as we come to Thee, either for the first time or the hundredth time, Lord. Just now, we're coming to the ladder. Just now, we're asking Thee to help us take that next step, whether it's the first step or the tenth step or the hundredth step. We want to take another step with Thee this week. We want to take another step tonight, Lord. We pray you will help every one of us in the quiet time we're going to have with Thee this evening. And we thank Thee.

Now, just now, where we are kneeling, if you would like to let Jesus know that you appreciate His love and that you want to take another step with Him on the ladder, would you just raise your hand where you are kneeling? Will you do that, friends? Thank the Lord. He sees.

Dear Lord, I know you see all these hands, and You grasp our hands, and You help us to climb up the ladder. And we thank Thee in Jesus' wonderful name, amen.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.

Amen.

Be seated. Just before we dismiss, I want to say a word to all—visitors, students, faculty, all of us. Watch for the chances to be alone with God these next few days. Watch for the chances. I've mentioned finding a time between now and when you go to bed tonight, but tomorrow, watch for the chances. The Lord may wake you up a little extra early in the morning. If He does, watch for that chance to be alone with Him. Talk with Him. Then through the day, any chance you get to be alone with Him, watch for that chance and talk to Him and let Him talk to you.

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