

# How to Live 2 of 12

## *To Be Alone With God*

#0252

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—1964

Matthew 13:45–46. Here is an illustration from nature:

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking...”

What?

“...goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it”  
Matthew 13:45–46.

Now, what was he hunting? He was hunting p-e-a-r-l, is the “s” there? What was he hunting? If you look at your text, you'll see the answer. What was he hunting? Pearls, plural. By the way, what kind of pearls was he seeking? Goodly pearls, beautiful pearls, outstanding pearls, unusual.

In this search, he finally found what? One. And that one pearl, to him, outweighed all that he had collected. And so, don't miss this! He added that pearl to the collection he already had. What? He didn't? What did he do? He sold all that he had and did what? Bought the one pearl. I don't know how much he had before, but I know how much he had when he got through. He had what? He had one. That one to him was worth more than everything else.

My dear friends, oh, I hope you'll get this. You will never find in Christ all that He is and wants to be to you until everything else is put aside, and this becomes the one quest of your life.

May I tell you that most of us here this afternoon have grown up under a great disadvantage? Very few of us have known much about sacrifice, self-denial, obedience, hard work, economy. Very few of us have known much about those things. And I want to say to you, my dear friends, the greatest blessing that can come to you at Wildwood, (don't miss this please!) Is not convenience, favorable environment in a material sense. The greatest blessing that can come to us here at Wildwood is by our own choice to focus with all our souls on the effort, whatever it costs, to know Christ, to get acquainted with Jesus, and to find in Him the answer to our personal problems.

Listen, do you know what a medical missionary is? Shall I tell you? A medical missionary is somebody that has solved his own problems and is ready to

take on the problems of suffering humanity. This is a medical missionary. And if you haven't solved your own problems, learning all the techniques of hydrotherapy and nursing arts, you might even learn surgery; it won't make you a medical missionary. A medical missionary is somebody who has solved his own problems through contact with Christ and is ready to take on the problems of others.

Have you solved your problems? You don't need to tell me, but answer to yourself and Jesus in the silence of your soul. Have you solved your own problems?

"Well, I think I could if the committee would just let me do what I think I ought to do."

"I think I've solved my problems as soon as this one or that one changes their attitude."

Well, then you haven't solved any problem at all. You still have a problem.

Now, this man was hunting for what? Pearls. And he finally found what? one pearl of great price. And he did what? He sold everything he had to do what? Buy that one pearl. Did he get it? Do you suppose he was happy? Ah yes, friends, and you'll be, and you are happy this afternoon if you have found the Pearl.

Some of you have learned that song that I've been going over several times on Friday night vespers, "I've found a Friend; oh, such a Friend!" Let's sing it:

I've found a Friend; oh, such a Friend!  
He loved me ere I knew Him;  
He drew me with the cords of love,  
And thus He bound me to Him.

And 'round my heart still closely twine  
Those ties which nought can sever,  
For I am His, and He is mine,  
Forever and forever.

Have you found it? Is He your friend? That is why Paul and Silas could sing at midnight in the Philippian dungeon with their feet in the stocks and their backs bleeding. They didn't say, "Oh, if we could just get out of here, we'd sing." They sang right there. They had found Jesus. They knew He was looking after them. And they didn't say, "Lord, if You love us, get us out of here." There was no "if" about it.

As long as you and I are saying about any situation in the home, in the school, in the institution, in the church, "Lord, if You hear me then make this thing different," we haven't found the pearl. We may be seeking, but we haven't found the pearl.

Ah, but you say, "Don't you think, shouldn't some things be different?"

Yes, a thousand things. But friends, we get the cart before the horse. Jesus is seeking to anchor us in *Him*, not in what He does to change circumstances. He is seeking to have our anchor, our solace, our confidence, our security in *Him*, not in something that somebody else does or does not do.

One of the practical problems that some of you were thinking about yesterday afternoon was where do we find the time to do all these things? It's very practical. Where do we find the time to commune with nature? Where do we find the time to talk with God in prayer and Bible study, sufficient to get tanked up, to get our batteries recharged? Where do we find time for all these good things the doctor is telling us, exercise and rest? And all the rest, where do we find the time for it?

Well friends, I'm going to tell you this afternoon. But I want to say this to you; it's got a price tag on it. There's a price tag on it. And I don't know whether you want to buy it or not. That's up to you. But you won't buy it at the dime store. There's a price tag on it. I've read it to you here. This man that wanted that one pearl did what? Sold all that he had and bought it.

We are dealing with life. And life in one aspect of it is time, one minute after the other. What we do with time affects what happens to us in eternity.

Now, listen. I want to tell you about a little cartoon I saw once. If all you listen to is just the surface you might smile, but if you're really thinking, you'll do more than smile. And it's right at the heart of the problem. That's why I tell it to you. A woman was seated in a doctor's consultation office, and the doctor had just given her a diet. Obviously, the patient was overweight. As she was looking at that diet, she said to the physician, "Now, Doctor, this diet that you have given me, do I take this before or after my regular meals?"

Do you get the picture? Now, I've said that to say this: One of the great disappointments that come to students and workers and visitors and guests at Wildwood is this: They come here and they see a program, and their problem is whether to take it before or after all they've been doing before in their past life; how to take the wonderful opportunities that are here, and sandwich those opportunities into the program or way of life that they're already used to. And my dear friends, I say it reverently, even God cannot solve that problem, so don't ask me to do it. I cannot do it.

There is only one way to get the benefit of this. And that's to do what the man did who was seeking goodly pearls. He took those wonderful pearls that he had gotten together, and he laid them down in order to get what? The one pearl. You can have an experience with Christ deeper and closer than you have ever known if you are willing to pay the price of putting aside a lot of other things.

Turn now to *Ministry of Healing*, page 456. Now I want you to read on this page until you find a mathematical term. What is it, Gary? A thousand. How much more than five hundred is a thousand? Twice as many. How much more than one hundred is a thousand? If I should tell you this afternoon that in order to get what

we're studying about, a deep experience with Christ, there were ten things in your life that had to come out, would you be willing? But here:

"We must turn away from..."

What?

"...a thousand topics that..."

What?

"...invite attention" *Ministry of Healing*, page 456.

There are a thousand things that are going to invite your attention. I don't think that'll be the dance hall or the gambling hell or the horse racing. I don't think it'll be the nightclub. I hope none of those things are bothering anybody. If they are, put them down as part of the thousand, but there are still 995 left. And many of those, my dear friends, are either things that we wouldn't call bad, or they are things that we might call definitely good.

I wrote down some things that I'd like to have you write down, not to get in an argument with somebody about, but to get into a personal session with God over. I'm going to give you 13 things which you might check. Some of these, you'll say, "Oh, well, there's no way for me to save any time on those." All right, but if out of the 13, you find one point on which you can save some time, then my time will have been well spent.

Now, let me make clear before I read you this list, that I'm not suggesting that everything on this list is bad. That's not what I'm discussing. I'm suggesting here some things that you might save time on in order to find time to study the Bible and pray and commune with God in nature. This is the question I'm answering, "Where do we find time to be alone with God in prayer, in Bible study, and in nature." Here are 13 things you might check.

If none of these 13 things offer you an opportunity to save any time, and you still don't have time to pray and be alone with God and nature, I invite you to a personal visit. I'd like to help you with your problem, but first, check these 13 things.

1. Reading newspapers and magazines.
2. Keeping up with the latest books.
3. TV.
4. Radio.
5. Hobbies.

Well you say, "Shouldn't people have a hobby?"

Well, my dear friends, I don't think any of those pearls that the merchantman sold were bad at all. He was seeking what? Godly pearls.

Listen, how much time do you think those men that went to the moon spent working on their hobbies while they were on their trip in Apollo?

You have the opportunity of a lifetime during the few months or years you are here on this campus. Now, if God teaches you how to take advantage of all the glorious opportunities here, and at the same time have a chance to spend some time in stamp collecting and making a coin collection and so on with a long list of hobbies, okay. I'm not saying you shouldn't. I'm making a list of things that you can check through if you're having difficulty finding time to be alone with God in prayer, Bible study and nature.

6. Just visiting, and I put in parenthesis (gossip and chitchat). Standing around or sitting around talking to this one and that one.

Someone says, "Don't you think we ought to be sociable?"

Sure, friends. Listen, do you want the pearl? Are you looking for some time to be alone with God? This is my question.

7. Before the mirror. Would you like a reference on that? We will find it in *Volume 1*, page 162:

"The time that you spend standing before the glass preparing the hair to please the eye, should be devoted to prayer and searching of heart" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 1*, page 162.

Here's some time that God has budgeted in your 24 hours. If you spend it over here you'll not have it to spend on something else.

Somebody says, "Don't you think we should look well-groomed?"

Yes, but my subject is not grooming. It's not reading, TV. My subject is one thing, how to find time to get the pearl.

8. Writing letters. Somebody was telling me about how, when they write letters, they write on and on, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 pages. Well friends, there is time that somebody could be alone with God.

Somebody says, "Don't you think we ought to write letters?"

Yes, friends:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." Matthew 6:33.

9. Music, instrumental, vocal, theory, practice.

“Ah, but,” someone says, “we need music.”

Yes friends, we need a lot of things. But first, we need what? The pearl. And I’m quoting inspiration:

“Oh, that the sound of instrumental music might cease and they no more while away so much precious time in pleasing their own fancy” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 2*, page 144.

10. Travel, long and short. Thanksgiving will be coming along. You know what a lot of people want to do? They want to run somewhere. Christmas will come. Thousands of dollars will be spent in running back and forth over the continent, here, there and yonder. And it not only takes money, it takes time, it takes energy.

“Ah, but,” somebody says, “don’t you think some traveling needs to be done?”

Yes, that’s not my subject. My subject is how can you find more time to be alone with God? I’m giving you some suggestions.

11. Excepting various invitations and responsibilities. You’ll be invited here on this campus and off the campus to do this, to do that, to take this job, this assignment. I’m not talking now about your work assignment. I’m talking about various extracurricular activities. And they won’t be invitations to the dance hall or the movie theater. Some of them will be good things, things that need to be done. Things that somebody needs to do.

But friends, if they keep you from time to be alone with God, they are the Devil’s instruments. Make certain when somebody invites you to do something that you take it first to God and find out whether it’s something that’s going to help to you find the pearl, or something that will keep you from getting the pearl.

12. Shopping trips in town. It’s safe to say there are some people that take five times as much time over a year shopping in Chattanooga as others do on this campus. It’s safe to say that. Now, if you’re one who runs to town every chance you get, there’s a chance that you might have to have some time alone with God. Incidentally, along with saving time, you’ll save money.

Now, that was number what? Twelve. How many did I promise you?

13. A way you can save time is learning to speed up if your movements are slow. I want to read something to you on that:

“By tact and method, some will accomplish as much work in five hours as another does in ten” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 344.

Wouldn't that be wonderful, friends, if you could cut the time that you spend in certain activities in half? And think of all the time you'd have for Bible study, prayer and to be alone with God and nature. Those are things that you can check.

Now, some suggestions of other ways in which you can find time to carry out what we've studied in the three periods yesterday, and in these three periods today: Turn to *Ministry of Healing*, page 510–511. I'll just introduce this part of the study this afternoon, and we'll pick it up again tomorrow the Lord willing.

“The reason why so many are left to themselves in places of temptation is that they do not set the Lord always before them. When we permit our communion with God to be broken, our defense is departed from us. Not all your good purposes and good intentions will enable you to withstand evil” *Ministry of Healing*, page 510.

Even here on the Wildwood campus, the Devil is here to tempt. And your good intentions won't be enough:

“You must be men and women of...”

What?

“...prayer...”

Now watch.

“...Your petitions must not be faint, occasional, and fitful, but earnest, persevering, and constant” *Ministry of Healing*, page 510.

You're going after that what? That pearl. How many pearls? One pearl.

“It is not always necessary to bow upon your knees in order to pray. Cultivate the habit” *Ibid.*

Do you know how you cultivate a habit? You do the same thing over and over again.

“Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor” *Ibid.*, pages 511.

I know somebody that has already walked four miles and a half today just meeting appointments on this campus, four and a half miles. Now, that person had the opportunity during most of that to be alone. Do you see that an individual in that situation has the chance to have communion with God in prayer and with nature

while they walk along these trails and roads? This is efficiency. And think of all the benefits health wise.

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