

Fellowship 5 of 8

Mercies New Every Day

#0267

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 1, 1970

Last night, I studied with you what seems almost incredible, and that is that the experience God wants to give each one of us, is different from the experience of all other people. But I have something that seems almost more incredible than that. He wants each one of us, today, not only to have an experience differing from all other people but differing from all the experiences that we've had up to this day. He has something new for us, something wonderful for us every day.

Turn to the book of Lamentations. This might sound like a strange book, the book of Lamentations, to get something wonderfully cheering out of, but everything that God gives us in the way of pain or sorrow or trial is designed to bring us a message of cheer and comfort and hope.

Lamentations 3:21–23. It's hidden, you know, between the book of Jeremiah (Jeremiah wrote this) and Ezekiel. So here we find Jeremiah getting hope in the midst of his troubles. This may have been written when he was down in the dungeon:

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" Lamentations 3:21–23.

Now notice, we not only have mercies from the Lord every morning, but they are what? New. God's mercies are new every morning. So God is in the business of not only planning a life for you different from what He has planned for anybody else, He has planned for you a life today, different from any day you've had before. Isn't that stupendous? Marvelous?

Notice how it is echoed in this statement in the book *Ministry of Healing*:

"We continually have new scenes and new trials to pass through, where past experience cannot be a sufficient guide" *Ministry of Healing*, page 509.

"We are seldom, in all respects, placed in the same position twice" *Ibid*.

It's an interesting thing. You know, we have an experience and we think, "Oh my, I know what I'll do the next time that happens." But when does that particular thing happen in exactly the same way? Seldom:

"We are seldom, in all respects, placed in the same position twice. We continually have new scenes and new trials to pass through, where past experience cannot be a sufficient guide. We must have the continual light that comes from God" *Ibid.*

I wonder if He's willing to give it to us.

Turn over to the book of Isaiah, Isaiah 58:11. Pick up this traveler's check. See if you don't think it is a good traveler's check to carry along. Any of you traveling, pilgrims on the King's highway?

"And the Lord shall..."

What?

"...Guide thee continually..." Isaiah 58:11.

Do you know why He guides us continually? We need it continually. It isn't enough to just put us on the road and turn us loose and say, "Follow your nose and you'll get there." Oh, no. There are all sorts of experiences along the way.

You remember in Bunyan's allegory, Christian started out from the city of Destruction and arrived at last at the Celestial City. Did you remember the different experiences that met him? And as you think back through the allegory, you will recall that every experience was something different from all that went before. This is true. This is accurate. This is a proper portrayal of the Christian life.

But this says:

"And the Lord shall guide thee continually..."
Isaiah 58:11.

Oh, I think this is wonderful!

Now, this morning we are going to take a few illustrations. Let's go back to 1 Samuel 9. I want you to look at this day and see how it started off, and see what happened before the experience focused on a great life-changing event.

This is the story of Saul, the son of Kish. His father was apparently a wealthy farmer. And somehow or another, the asses had strayed away. Animals do that, you know. So Saul's father said to him (he was a grown man at this time), "Saul, take one of the servants and go hunt the animals. See if you can find those asses."

So you can read the story here. They went over quite a bit of territory, and they didn't find, as we would say, hide nor hair of them. And so finally, Saul said, "Well, we'd better go home. Father will quit worrying about the asses and start worrying about us."

And the servant said, "Well, now, see here. We're close to a city where there is a man of God (this was Samuel). And maybe if we would go and see him, he could give us some information."

So, they talked it over, the pros and cons, and finally, we see them going up to the city. And as providence would have it, Samuel had arrived back from one of his tours from one of the schools of the prophets, and there he was. They had a visit with him. But the interesting thing is found in the last verse of the chapter and the first verse of the next chapter:

"And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the Word of God. Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the LORD hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?" 1 Samuel 9:27–10:1.

Saul was anointed king over Israel. My point is this, he went out from his father's house hunting for some animals. He came back with the knowledge that he had been appointed king over Israel. What an experience!

Oh, well, nothing like that would ever happen to you, would it? No, nothing exactly like that. But something far more wonderful to you than that could be if it were repeated for you. God has something wonderful planned, but He often hides His plan that we may follow on in faith.

Saul went out doing what his father had told him to do, just a common, we would say, menial task, hunting for some asses. But it was following that thread of providence that led him to the prophet's house to receive the anointing oil. Oh, my dear friends, isn't it wonderful how God puts things together and plans for every life, every day?

Well, let's take another experience from this same book, 1 Samuel 16. You remember the record of how that Saul came to be king over Israel and reigned quite a while, but he had his own mind. I mean that instead of listening to God and to the prophet, he figured out things himself, contrary to the will of God. God finally had to set him aside. And so the Lord says to Samuel:

"...How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with

oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for
I have provided me a king among his sons”
1 Samuel 16:1.

The Lord could have told Samuel exactly who to go to. He could have told him where the man was that was to be king. But notice He has His particular, as we would say, peculiar way to work out this plan. And so God simply says to Samuel go down to Bethlehem and go to the home of Jesse, and among his sons I have a king. But Jesse had seven sons. How would the prophet know?

Well, he got down there, and they had a sacrifice. Samuel didn't tell them what he had come for. God said, you just keep still about that, but look them over.

Samuel looked at that firstborn, fine, strapping young fellow, tall like Saul, he said, “This is the man.” But fortunately, Samuel had learned to listen to the guidance of God. God said to the prophet, “No, this isn't the one. Don't look at how tall he is and how wonderful his appearance is, because ‘man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart’ 1 Samuel 16:7.”

And so Samuel had to skip him. Then he looked at the second and the third, and the whole group. Not one of them would the Lord approve. And Samuel thought this mission was a failure, but he remembered that God had sent him down there to find one of Jesse's sons to anoint.

So finally he asked, "Are these really all your sons?"

“Oh,” he said, “There is a little fellow out keeping the sheep.”

Samuel said, "Send for him because we're not going to eat until he comes."

Now, my point is this: David started that day apparently, to him, just like hundreds of days before that. He took his sheep out to water, out to pasture. Probably, he was out there playing on his harp while the sheep grazed and in between chasing things away that might hurt the sheep. There he was out there, and a messenger comes and says, "David, your father has sent for you to come to the house."

Well, David was obedient. He came. When he got there, he found the prophet. And the LORD said to Samuel, “Arise, anoint him. For this is he.” And he took him on the side and told him. He didn't tell the brothers, but he was anointed.

My point is this: That was a very special day in the life of David. Do you agree with me? Yes. But it started just like, what we would say, an ordinary day. God had a special experience for David for that particular day.

But our text in Lamentations says that God's mercies are new how often? Every morning. Ah, my friends, how often men miss destiny; how often people miss

the appointment. They are not at the crossroads at the right time.

Now, turn over to Acts 8, and we'll look at another one. See how God puts things together. This is the story of Philip holding an evangelistic effort up in the city of Samaria. He's having big crowds. Wonderful miracles are being worked. Hundreds are accepting the truth.

But this day, the Lord says to Philip, "It's time for you to leave Samaria. I have an errand for you down on the road to Gaza just south of Jerusalem out in the desert." Interestingly enough, Philip did just what the Lord told him. He left what looked like a big work and went out on the desert.

In the providence of God, he got to a certain road at the particular minute when riding along that road in a chariot was the treasurer of Ethiopia—had charge of the queen's treasures 'way down there in Abyssinia. He'd been up to Jerusalem to worship. And as he was riding along in his chariot, he was reading. I don't suppose there was much to see out there in the desert. I suppose the servant was guiding the horses that were pulling the chariot. So there in that chariot, he was reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

And as God would have it, he had just come to the 53rd chapter, and the middle of the chapter, and here comes (imagine way out there on the desert, miles from any town or any house), a man walking or running. And Philip sees him reading this book.

He said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"No," he said, "I need somebody to help me. Come up in the chariot."

Philip, it says, started right there at that verse where he was reading and preached unto him Jesus.

My point is he was the right man at the right place with the right words to the right person. The Spirit of God had guided him from way up there in Samaria down on that road to Gaza.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if God would do something like that with you? Well, He does if you let Him. Yes, He is doing it. His mercies are new every morning. Every day He has some precious experience for you.

Of course, our problem is this, friends. I'll be honest with you. Our problem is that most of us have our plans so well set and so well laid that it's very hard for God, sometimes, to get us where He really wants us. It isn't always selfishness. It may be just an over-estimate of our own wisdom. Even in doing the Lord's work, we may be willing to sacrifice, but we're determined to carry it our way.

Let's turn to Proverbs 3:5–7. Notice the warning about following our own

wisdom. Notice the assurance if we'll let God run things:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil”
Proverbs 3:5–7.

Don't think you're so smart. That's putting it in plain English. If you do, you may achieve what the world calls success. You may carry out your plan, but oh, you may miss the providence. You may carry on a grand work in Samaria and never know about that man out there on the desert riding in his chariot.

To state it in another way, my friends, God's providences are often interruptions. And most of us do not like interruptions. Do you like interruptions? Do you, really? Why, most of us don't. I suppose it would be queer if we did. There's nothing wrong with laying plans. We're to lay plans and then lay them at His feet, and sometimes lay them aside.

Even Jesus, when he was here in this world taking our place and living a life to be our example, met some of these problems and providence.

You remember that day when He was so weary, and He knew His disciples were weary, and He said:

“...Come ye yourselves apart... and rest awhile...”
Mark 6:31.

Do you remember? He had the disciples launch out in their little boat and go across the lake. And there He found a lovely place out there in the country where they could have I suppose the children would call it, a picnic. Jesus planned a lovely time of relaxation, refreshment, communion, fellowship, rest out there on those green hillsides. But do you know what happened? Well, let us read about it here in Mark:

“And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately” Mark 6:31–32.

And notice, what did the people do?

“And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and out went them, and came together unto him” Luke 6:33.

Jesus didn't have very long alone with His disciples. But did Jesus say,

“What’s the matter with these people? Can’t they let us alone for even a few hours? Don’t they know we have to get some rest?” Notice the next verse:

“And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things” Mark 6:34.

Tell me, friends, did that day work out the way Jesus and the disciples had planned in the morning? Why, no. He was interrupted. This was His Father’s plan. And all the way through His life in this world, He was dependent upon the guidance of His Father just as you and I are dependent upon the guidance of our Father. He put Himself in that position and accepted this interruption.

His heart of love went out in compassion for those people. And He forgot His own weariness in His desire to help them. He taught them and healed them, and preached to them all day long. And then in the evening, He fed them with that great miracle of the multiplied loaves. Oh friends, what a day! But how differently it ended from what anybody had planned in the morning.

Listen, *Ministry of Healing*:

“Often our plans fail, that God’s plans for us may succeed” *Ministry of Healing*, page 473.

You see, some of the most important things in our lives, we have no way of planning. When Saul went out to hunt the asses, he didn’t plan to meet the prophet and be anointed king. Nothing like that was in his mind. When David went out to herd his sheep that day, he had not the slightest idea that before sunset, he would be anointed from the prophet’s vial of oil. And those disciples, as they went out with Jesus for that day of relaxation, hadn’t the slightest idea that before sunset they would participate in a mighty miracle of feeding 5,000 men, with five little loaves.

“Often our plans fail, that God’s plans for us may succeed” *Ibid*.

Let’s let Him lead and guide. What do you say, friends? Let’s let Him have His way.

Now let’s turn to Isaiah 50:4, and we’ll get the key to all of this. I wonder if somebody can find a word in this text that was in our first text. What is it? Morning. That is right. The morning is the gate of day.

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakens morning by morning, he wakens mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

God's mercies are new, when? Every morning. His plans are new every morning. The first thing when we go on duty is to report and get our orders. Is that right? And so, morning by morning, if we wish to enter into Heaven's plan for our life, we can pause to get our orders. Don't miss this! Not that God, in the early morning hours, will tell us in advance all the details of the day. That isn't it at all. But He will give us, in that period of spiritual communion, the preparation that He sees we need for what He knows is ahead. That's the important thing. It isn't important for us to know.

Why friends, some of us, if we knew we were to face either a great tragedy or some glorious lifting experience in the afternoon, it would be hard for us to do anything all morning. We'd just be like this, you know. And so God often veils the future. He lets us come right up to some great event, doing the things that He sees are necessary to get us ready for that great tragedy or that great opportunity.

So morning by morning, if we will listen, He will pour into our hearts, through His Word and by His Spirit, the precious things that will enable us, like Philip, to give the right word at the right time; that will enable us, like Jesus Himself, to meet an interrupting multitude with compassion, instead of irritation; that will lead us to rejoice in the guiding hand of our God.

Oh, what a wonderful Savior we have. What do you say?

Now, I'm sure that there are a number of you this morning that would like to help to fill this house, God's house, with praises. Would you like to give your witness, your testimony? And we'll just let you stand there where you are, and the brethren will bring you a microphone. If you would like to speak, you just stand up and one of the men will give you a microphone. This way, the patients up at the sanitarium can hear your words of praise to the Lord, and I know it will cheer them as they lie on their beds.

[Testimony service follows]

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