

Friend for Jesus

#0350

Study Given by W. D. Frazee July 30, 1976

He loved me and gave Himself for me. He desires us to value ourselves according to the price He has paid for us. And as I see what He has paid for me, therefore how valuable I am to consider myself, I remember that the same price was paid for my brother. Therefore, I am to value him.

This is the motivating force in soul-winning. Anything else is beneath our privileges. The cross of Calvary reveals what God thinks of the human soul. With what interest and energy, then we should seek to find the lost and reclaim them for God. We are to do this using the same methods that Jesus used.

How did Christ seek to win men? Through love.

Love revealed in practical ministry. He did things for people because He loved them. It wasn't, mark the difference, it wasn't that He did things for people to get their attention and their interest so that He could sell them something He had. No.

He did not try to win friends and influence people so that He could get them to do what He wanted. He really loved people, and they sensed that. And this is what drew people to Him. It wasn't merely that He did things for them; they sensed a tender concern on the part of Christ for them.

When He left this world and went back to heaven, He said to His disciples, and you and I are His disciples:

"As My Father hath sent me, even so send I you" John 20:21.

He has called us to reveal to others the same love that He has revealed to us.

Oh, I like this little statement in the compilation *That I May Know Him*, page 218:

"All who would win souls to Christ must be winsome"
That I May Know Him, page 218.

To win some, we must be winsome. And remember, this is not some art that we master. This is an experience that we're to share. It is not some act that we're to put on. We're not to study our lines so that we can recite just right so that we make an impression on somebody. Nothing remotely like that, friends. God delivers from all such, in public and in private.

But meditating on the scenes of Calvary, viewing the price that Jesus paid for the human soul, as our own hearts become melted and tender, we long to reveal that

love to others that they too may know Him and love Him. This is the science of soul-winning.

In the book *Medical Ministry*, page 205, this sentence stands out on my page:

“Let your influence be persuasive, binding people to your heart because you love Jesus, and they are His”
Medical Ministry, page 205.

Binding people to *your* heart because *you* love Jesus, and they, the people you are working for, are His. Thus your influence will be what? Persuasive. What is it that you seek to persuade them? Oh, Paul says we persuade men, we are ambassadors for Christ, We beseech you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

A friend of mine who spent many years going to our camp meetings and general gatherings all over the world was once spoken to by a girl at one of the camp meetings as the meetings neared their close. She said to him, “Elder, (she called him by name), you know I wish you could come home and live with us.” And of course, he was interested to know what had pleased the little girl. “Oh,” she said, “it would be so much easier to be good at our house if you lived there with us.”

It is a wonderful thing to have an influence like that, isn’t it, friends? And do you know, every one of us is either making it easier for people to be Christians, or harder for them to be—every one of us.

I would like to have you think about it for a little while tonight, the great privilege we have in being a friend of Jesus and being a friend of somebody that we are trying to help get closer to Jesus. Notice how it is put in *Desire of Ages* page 297.

“There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ’s stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ” *Desire of Ages*, page 297.

You get the picture? Here are souls that are literally unable to grasp the unseen. They might even read in a book about the love of God. But my dear friends, they could just as well be reading Chinese as far as getting the message. What do they need? Oh, God in His wonderful wisdom has arranged for people who know Him to get others to know Him by knowing them.

“There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen...”
Ibid.

I was struck with that expression “unable to grasp the Unseen.” What will God do? Oh, He will send a friend to them. Somebody who is a friend of Jesus will be a friend to that soul who is weak in faith and unable to grasp the unseen.

“...a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ’s stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ” *Ibid.*

Now notice, friend, what this is not. It is not an arrangement to attach human beings forever to us! This is not a Jesuit system in which somebody way up the line is supposed to be in touch with God, and then there is somebody in touch with that one under him, and then under and so on and down to me, and I get hold of somebody else.

Oh no! The *great* purpose of God using me to reach some soul is to be what? A connecting link. But it doesn’t stop there, “to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ.” And the work is never accomplished until the soul that I love for Jesus’ sake learns that there is somebody that loves him far more than I do, and that is Jesus Christ.

Shall I read this again?

“There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and *unable* to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ’s stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ” *Ibid.*

Notice how it is put in similar, and yet just a little different language in *Volume 5*, page 246:

“Many are perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ’s stead, can be as a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon God. Oh, this is a blessed work!” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 246.

Isn’t it friends? Thank God, thank God. Here is a little poem that the servant of the Lord put in her writings. It’s found in this *That I May Know Him*, page 49:

Oh, hearts are bruised, dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled,
Are straying from the fold.

The captives to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

Can you think of any more wonderful mission in all this world than to be Christ’s hands to lay hold of the sinking and lift him up? To be Christ’s eyes to search for the stray and find them? To be Christ’s voice to plead with the wanderer and reach the ear and the heart and bring him back to God? Oh, what a mission! What a mission.

When once this grips our hearts, anything that would divert us is something to run from, not run to. No money can bribe the man who has caught this vision. No offer of gain, or pleasure, or fame, or position had any attraction to him. He's in this world for just one thing, to be the friend of God by being a friend to men, to be that connecting link between the Lord Jesus Christ and the soul that needs the revelation of that love. Friends, this is what I want to be. What do you say?

Now you know, interestingly enough, God has never given any of us the ability to do this equally well for every soul. There are no human beings that are like master keys that open every lock on the place.

You are peculiar, my brother, why? To reach some people that I can't reach at all.

When we sense this, we shall realize that every man can do a special work, every human soul can reach some other soul better than anybody else can reach that other soul. Believe me, friends, I know what I am talking about.

If people sensed that, they wouldn't sit around waiting for somebody of special talents to reach the people that they're burdened for. My friend, if you have a burden for a soul, you already have the greatest qualification. Seek God with all your heart for that soul, that relative, that neighbor, that acquaintance. Seek God with all your heart. Seek Him for love.

What you need to learn is not techniques. To experience love is the great thing.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love"
1 John 4:8.

'Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another' (1 John 4:11). You see, this great privilege is given to us not only that we may reach others, but that we ourselves may know God. It's only by loving that we know love. As our hearts are drawn out, put on the stretch as it were in the endeavor to reach souls, it is only then that we can understand the love of God.

I was talking not long ago with a physician friend of mine who has just met with a great tragedy. It was discovered that his little boy had cancer, a tumor of the brain. He was taken to the experts, surgery was performed, part of it was where they could not operate, but he is undergoing treatment, and it is hoped, we can always hope you know, it is hoped that there will be recovery. But they all realize that it takes the healing power of God to accomplish it.

My point is that as he and I were talking it over, he was telling me of what a deep experience, deep in sorrow, the Lord had led him and his wife into. He said, you know, the first 24 hours as we faced it, it just seemed that we cried all the time.

They couldn't go to sleep. They would pray, then they would read, then they would weep. Their little boy, cancer, nobody knows better what that is than a

physician and surgeon. He told me, "You know that this is the first time that any sorrow has come into our family, and trial like this."

Well, as I told him, I said, "you know, brother," I said, "these experiences that you have been going through, they give you a sympathy with your patients such as you have never had before." He said, "I know it." And I said, "There is something else. They give you an understanding of God, and His sorrow, His pain, such as you've never had before." And he recognized it.

My point is, friends, to love like God loves means that we must suffer something of what God suffers. This isn't just something like selling watermelons or even giving them away: nothing but joy and peace and pleasure. No my friends, I repeat to love the way God loves, to love souls that are in misery and woe in sin and vice, in need, to love them as God loves inevitably involves us in suffering, in sharing the suffering of others.

Because it oftentimes happens that to see another suffer really wrings the hearts and burdens the soul more to suffer oneself. You know I am correct. But ah, to share the pain of physical suffering is one thing, but deeper and more intense is the suffering as we long for souls that are in spiritual problems.

Sometimes it seems that our every effort is inadequate. Jesus went through those sufferings. How He wept over Judas! How He cried over Jerusalem! As the multitude saw Him there on the crest of Olivet, they had all been singing His praises and waving the palm branches, but as they came to the crest of that hill and He looked out over Jerusalem, He paused.

The multitudes noticed His breast began to heave. Sobs came from Him. His whole form was convulsed, and finally, in choking utterance, the words came from His lips, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, if you would only know even thou at least in this thy day the things that belong to thy peace. Oh, if you would only let me do for you what I came to do."

Thank God there were individuals that responded, but that city rejected Him and nailed Him to the cross. The soul-winner must know the pain of being rejected, as well as the joy of being accepted. The soul-winner must be willing to go through the sorrow of disappointment as well as the great joy of being welcomed. This is to share the love of God, my friends. For love is not selective, restricting itself to those only that respond.

Jesus told His disciples, "If you love those that love you, only the sinners do that. Love your enemies. Seek to win them to you that they may be one to Christ. Pass by no human being as worthless. Seek to apply the saving remedy to every soul." Oh, what a privilege to be winsome that we may win others to Jesus.

Oh, hearts are bruised daily,
and homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled
are straying from the fold.

The captives to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

Now, somebody here is thinking, "Oh, I wish I had a friend like that." Well you do, my friend, whether you know it or not, you have it in Jesus.

But somebody says, "Yes, but I need more human friendship. I need more human fellowship. I need somebody to help me."

May I suggest something to you? The very fact that you are here tonight listening to this message convinces me that God's way of helping to solve your problem of longing for fellowship may be to send you out to find somebody that needs help more than you do.

In the 58th chapter of Isaiah, God addresses some people who are praying and even fasting, longing to have their prayers answered. And in effect, the Lord says to them, you will never have your prayers answered no matter how much you plead and how much you fast until you get busy and help others needier than yourself. Read it there in Isaiah 58.

Then your light will break forth as the morning. Then your health will spring forth speedily. And so, do you *need* a friend? Be a friend. I assure you that as you make yourself a channel of God's love, you yourself will feel the healing balm as it flows through you on its way to reaching those to whom you are a friend.

Not long ago, a friend of mine lost her mother. And as she was telling me about it, she said, "You know Brother Frazee, a number of years ago my husband died, and I was lonely, but I still had my father and mother. And then my father died, and I was lonely, but still I had my mother."

But now she said, "Mother is gone too. And I am alone."

And I said to her, "My sister, God is preparing to give you the most wonderful experience of your life. He is ready to be to you more than you have ever known him to be. You are on the threshold of an experience of fellowship with Christ closer than you have ever known."

May I give you three texts on which I base that? Isaiah 54:5, Psalm 103:13, Isaiah 66:13.

"For thy maker is thine husband" Isaiah 54:5.

She'd lost her husband, but God was ready to be to her more than any human husband could be.

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth
then that fear Him" Psalm 103:13.

She had lost her earthly father, but her Heavenly Father pitied and loved her more than any earthly father ever did.

“As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you”
Isaiah 66:13.

Oh friends, what a beautiful, beautiful promise. What do you say? You know in the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 199, we are told in plain language that for all we fail to receive from other human beings, God Himself will make up to us in the best of favors. And so dear friend, if somehow through bereavement, through separation across the miles, or through some tragedy that has come into your home or your life, you are denied the love that some human friend or dear one might bring, believe me, Jesus is your friend.

Don't dismiss that with a wave of your hand and say, “Oh yes, I know, He loves me. He loves everybody.” No. No. Say with the apostle Paul, He loves me, and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20. It is true, dear friend, He loves you.

Seek to explore deeper into the mysteries of that love. And as I said, and I repeat, offer yourself to Jesus as a channel, as a link in that chain let down to save the world. Will you do it? Will you be a friend to Jesus? Will you be a friend for Jesus?

[Testimony service]

Love is a gift from Jesus, and if we seek Him with all our heart, he will share his love with us. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us Romans 5:5. May I say this lest we be misunderstood, lest God be misunderstood? Love is not necessarily a gushing sentimental feeling, love is a deep abiding principle, a sincere choice to do good to others.

Prayer gives us more love, love leads us to pray more earnestly, and prayer and love lead us to go and do something. And that leads us to love people more and to pray more earnestly. Thus the blessed circle continues.

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