

Where Jesus Wants You

#0359

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 15, 1977

Now, our little study tonight, Matthew the 13th chapter, verses 44–46, just three verses. Jesus was outdoors when He gave these parables. You remember in the early morning He had come to the Sea of Galilee for meditation. The people began to gather, and presently He found Himself surrounded by a large crowd. He talked to them about these lessons from the seed sowing as the sower was there on the hillside. And He talked to them about other things.

The two stories we want to note this evening are the hid treasure found and the great pearl purchased:

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it” Matthew 13:44–46.

Now, in that marvelous commentary on the parables, *Christ Object Lessons*, the prophet to the remnant applies these parables in a beautiful way. The treasure hid in the field is found to be the Word of God, and as we search the Word we find wonderful nuggets, pure gold.

And the pearl is found to be Christ, the Pearl of great price. Finding Him, we find the quest of life, that which every human heart is yearning for whether he knows it or not.

But this evening, with those thoughts clear before us, I would like to notice some special applications to our program here as they affect you and me in our daily lives. In each one of these stories, Jesus presents something of great value which is discovered. And in each case, the man who discovers it finds it so alluring, so desirable, that he does what? He sells everything else to buy that one thing. And that’s what I want to study with you for a little while tonight.

You know, it’s a wonderful thing, friends, to find something that is so desirable that you’d rather have it than anything else, than everything else all put together. Now, that’s a way a man is who finds the right wife, so the Bible says:

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing,...”
Proverbs 18:22.

Ministry of Healing in quoting that says “such a wife.” It describes her in that wonderful chapter on the builders of the home. It’s a wonderful thing when a man finds somebody that is more precious than anybody on earth, and all the other people on earth put together. God uses these various human experiences to teach us precious lessons. Christ is the One “altogether lovely” [see Song of Solomon 5:16], the “chiefest among ten thousand” [see Song of Solomon 5:10]. He is the One that really satisfies the longing of the soul.

But we find Jesus not merely in, shall I say, meditation, prayer. We find Him in fellowship. Christ is busy doing something. And it is as we share with Him in service that we *really* find what satisfies the heart. I don’t mean merely working *for* Him. I mean working *with* Him.

You know, I’ve been here now on this campus; it’ll soon be 36 years. And when that 36th year runs out, it’ll be exactly half of my life. And I was walking down this evening, down the road and by the fields. I was looking at the places where I used to plow with a mule. Now, they do it with the tractor. And I think of other memories, many precious memories 36 years on this campus have brought to me, dear friends.

Somebody was asking me the other day; I’ve forgotten who it was. It might be somebody here. I’ve forgotten who it was. But they were asking me, as I look back over my life if I was satisfied. Well, they didn’t mean I was satisfied with myself. Of course, I’m not. But they meant was I satisfied with what the Lord had led in and what I had been guided in, the different experiences that I’d had.

And I had to be honest and fair and frank and tell the truth, and tell them I was. I *am*, dear friends. I’m a happy man. I look back over 70 years now, and as I say, I’m sorry I’ve been so slow and made a lot of mistakes. And God’s been very patient and forgiving and worked and tried to make up my deficiencies. And for all that, I praise Him. But I can look back in a long line of providences that have guided my life, and I wouldn’t have missed them, my friends, for anything in this world.

I suppose there might be somebody that wishes you’d been the first man on the moon. I wouldn’t have done that for anything. In fact, I’ll tell you, while he was up there walking around, I was holding a week of prayer in one of our academies. And I told the young people that I was so glad I was there and not upon the moon because I’d hate to miss what God was doing for us in that week of prayer. And I meant every word of it, dear friends.

I feel so sorry for so many people, and the world is full of them, that wish they were somewhere else except where they are. Do you know what I mean? Yes. And as I say, I’m so thankful for these two stories Jesus told of two men that found something which so filled the horizon, so filled their heart with longing, that everything else was to be sold so they could get that one thing. And they got it, they got it.

Now, as I say, I’d like to focus, just zero in on our experience here. You know, as I said, looking back on my own experience, I have so much to be thankful for. But when I tell my experience, which I occasionally do, I try to make plain that I

don't think everybody else should have an experience just like I have. In fact, nobody else *could*, friends, impossible. Nobody else can go over the ground that I've gone. I'm unique—nobody else like me, before or afterward. I'm just me. But that's true of each of you. But my point is God has something for *you* just as wonderful for you as what He's given me, the pearl of great price, the treasure found in the field.

You know, when I was a young man at Loma Linda and training in medical missionary lines, there was a doctor friend of mine that offered to pay my entire way through the medical course if I'd take the medical course.

"Well," you say, "why didn't you do it?"

And you know without my saying it that I'm so glad that some people take the medical course. I'm glad Dr. Marjorie took the medical course. I'm glad Dr. Hansen took the medical course. Aren't you? And I'm glad Dr. Pat took the medical course. And I could name some others that are here and elsewhere. Sure. But I'm glad I *didn't*. That wasn't God's call for me.

And I don't look back at life and say, "Oh my, isn't it too bad that I didn't take the medical course when somebody offered to pay my way."

Why, no. God had something better for *me*, more important for *me*. Do you see what I'm trying to get at?

And so, life is not a matter of trying to guess what is the greatest thing in life for everybody and choose that for myself. Oh, no. Life is finding that treasure hid in a field.

And may I tell you, friends, most people miss it, most people miss it. That man that found the treasure hid in a field; he found it plowing. Read about it in *Christ Object Lessons*. He found it plowing. But when he discovered it, he knew that he had something he wanted more than anything else. And he went and sold everything else.

And listen, anything in life that's worth your life efforts is worth zeroing in on. Now you see, I couldn't take the medical course. Why? God had called me to something else. There are other offers I've had as life has gone on, invitations I've had. I suppose I could get some now if I'd just let some people know that I was available. But dear friends, I'm so glad I have found the treasure. I've found what God wants me to do.

Dear old Elder Tindall, he's buried up here in the little cemetery. He's the man that trained me in the ministry of medical evangelism. I've heard him say a hundred times, "I covet no man's place or position."

And he meant it. He knew he had the greatest call in all the world, the call to be a soul winner, the call to be a medical evangelist. I say the greatest call in the world, that was the greatest call to *him*, you see.

Now, let's leave our generation for a little and let's go back. Let's think of David. David was a shepherd boy, wasn't he? The youngest of the family. And when Samuel came down there at God's dictation to anoint a king among Jesse's sons, he looked at the oldest boy, and then the next one, and the next one, and he thought each one must be the one, but fortunately it wasn't left to Samuel to do the career counseling. God help our people that think that just career counseling is a way to find out what to do, friends. The Bible says:

"...the LORD seeth not as man seeth..." 1 Samuel 16:7.

And if even Samuel, with all his experience in running the schools of the prophets, didn't know how to pick out a king, I don't know how people today that are majoring in all these Egyptian and Grecian philosophies will be able to succeed in it. No, no. God looketh on the heart [a paraphrase of 1 Samuel 16:7]. And God knows the future. And so, when it was all said and done, who got anointed? Little David. They had to wait while he came in from the sheep.

Now, I've thought about it, and I want you to think about it. Here's David now. So far, he's done nothing but herd sheep and play his harp. Of course, he had quite a bit to do in that. He had to deal with lions and bears that were marauders. And he was strong, active, and he knew how to read and sing and play and herd sheep. And he was a helper, and he loved the Lord and all that.

But now, here all at once, it breaks on him that he's to be what? King. Can you imagine? What would you have done under such circumstances?

Did he say to his father, "Father, since Samuel was here, I've found out what my mission in life is, so I won't be able to carry on with the sheep anymore. You need to get some servant or somebody to do that. I've got to get on down to Saul's and learn all about this business of being king"

Is that what he said? Well, why didn't he? Wouldn't that have been a sensible thing? What would *you* have done? Would you have thought about what course you're going to take in what university in order to get qualified to be king?

What did David do? Well, he went right back to his shepherding. Why? Because he knew that the God who had called him and picked him out was well qualified to guide him in his life. And he wasn't about to leave the job that God had put him at in order to run after something else. He wasn't, not at all.

Now, at the right time he was down there with Saul for a while. He learned enough so that he, as we say, cut his eyeteeth. He learned enough to know that it wasn't all joy. He learned enough to know that court life was full of intrigue, sorrow, disappointment. And poor Saul, he must have felt sorry for Saul. He was glad to get back to his sheep. But my point is he waited until God put him down there, and so through his life.

Now, David made mistakes, of course. I'm sorry about that, but the point is David was a man after God's own heart in that deep in his soul, he wanted God's

way in his life. And God finally worked it out. God will do it for you and me, friends, if we'll let Him. God will do it for you and me if we'll let Him.

You see, God is a lot more interested in getting you where you belong than you could ever be. And the only thing on earth that can keep you from being where God wants you is *you*. You're the only thing that can get in the way. The Devil can't. He'd like to, but God won't let him. Well-meaning friends may offer their advice, and they may not know what they're talking about at all, or they might.

But my point is no human being can get in your way and hinder God's purpose in your life, no human being except *you*. You can. You dismiss the boat. Balaam missed the boat, Cain missed the boat, Esau missed the boat. They all had wonderful opportunities, but they missed it because they had their own ideas, and they stuck to those instead of letting God lead in their lives.

I think of the experience of Jesus. You know, we're told to spend some time each day thinking about the life of Jesus from the manger to Calvary. It's a wonderful life, isn't it? Yes. The great Physician, the great Teacher, the great Evangelist, the Pattern for all ministers, the Pattern for all doctors, the Pattern for all teachers, the Pattern for everybody, right?

Now, suppose we visit Nazareth, and we say, "Is this where Jesus lives?"

"Oh yes, He lives here."

"Well, I'd like to see Him while I'm here."

Where would you find Him? We'll say He's 13 years old, or 11, or 15. Where will you find Him? In the carpenter's shop, carpenter's shop. How many weeks does He put in at that? I wonder if we'd try anything remotely like that if we'd get to first base with it in a training program. Do you know, it's the hardest thing in the world to get anybody to knuckle down to a steady program of doing one thing very long? Our attention span is quite short.

And don't misunderstand me. I'm not advocating that everybody stick with carpenter work for 20 years or more. But Jesus *did*. Jesus *did*, didn't He? And it could be there's somebody here that's been doing some humble job for three months, six months, a year, two years, and there's bound to come to the question in your mind (if you don't think of it somebody will), they'll say, "What in the world are you doing anyway?" Why, anybody can do what you're doing. You're not anybody—you're somebody."

Was Jesus somebody? Oh yes, friends, the Prince of heaven. And what was He doing? A carpenter, a carpenter. We're told that He went at it as soon as He could handle tools, as soon as He was old enough to handle tools. Now, you can figure out as well as I when that meant. But that means at *least*, friends that all through the teens and twenties He was doing what? Carpenter.

And we think today (at least we do unless we think deep and long), we think today that the only way to hold children and the only way to hold students in a

training program is to give them something new that will, I hear the word used (you know, different times have different words), I hear the word used that will “challenge” people. Have you heard that word? Did you ever hear it? Something to “challenge” people.

And so, it’s discussed, “What can we do to challenge this one and that one?”

Why bless your heart, friends, what was it that challenged Jesus? What was it that challenged Jesus? It was human need, wasn’t it? Human need. And it caused Him to leave heaven and come down here to this world.

“But,” we say, “well, why didn’t He get at it, then? Why didn’t He go around healing the sick and giving a lot of Bible studies and preaching?”

Do you suppose He couldn’t preach until He got to be 30? Do you suppose He didn’t know how? Couldn’t He have been billed as the boy Preacher when He was 14? He made quite an impression down there at Jerusalem when He was 12, didn’t He? Couldn’t He have capitalized on that? Couldn’t thousands of people be thrilled with the truths that He could have presented? Couldn’t they?

Well, what on earth is He doing there in that carpenter’s shop? My dear friend, He had found the treasure in the field. He had found the pearl. He had found the purpose of life for Him.

And that’s why He said at 12 years old, “Didn’t you know that I must be about my...” what? “...My Father’s business?” [a paraphrase of Luke 2:49].

And He was. Every day of His life, He was at His Father’s business, that and nothing else. And day by day, the Father opened it up to Him. Simple, humble, sacrificial. Was He happy? Oh, yes. And so, of Him it was written:

“Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Thy God, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows” Hebrews 1:9.

You know, I’ve watched a good many people (hundreds in the aggregate) come and go on this campus for over a third of a century. And some people find the treasure that’s hidden in this field, and some never find it, they never find it, never find it. And I can’t find it *for* you, friend. I would if I could. God knows I would. But you must plow for yourself, and God will help you find it.

And don’t misunderstand me. I want to make it crystal clear. I don’t think God calls everybody to Wildwood. I know He called *me* to Wildwood, and that’s the most important thing for me to know, isn’t it? Yes. And *you* can know whether or not He’s called you. If He’s called you here and you plow, you’ll come across treasure that you’d sell anything and everything in this world to obtain. If God calls you somewhere else, you may find it somewhere else.

I hope nobody will get the narrow idea, either from anything I say, or anybody else says, that Wildwood believes that *everybody* ought to be at Wildwood. Oh, no. No, no. Wildwood's just a little place. It only has room for a few people.

But tell me something, friends. Just stand with me up in heaven, and may I say it reverently, look over God's shoulder. How do you think God plans things when there's only just room for a few people here? Who do you think He would bring here? Wouldn't you think so? If they'd let him if they'd let him. I think it's a real privilege. It has been for me. And oh, I'm so glad I got in on it. And if you feel that way and God has given you that conviction, come and let us sell everything that it takes to buy the pearl, to buy the field, to get the treasure. What do you say?

And let's not say it, and I hope what I'm saying tonight I say right, I ask God to help me, let's not say it in a way that kind of makes everybody else off this campus sort of second-rate citizens. I don't mean anything like that. No, no. I thank God for all the wonderful things that wonderful people are doing in a thousand places besides this. Aren't you? Aren't you thankful? Yes.

But listen, I'm not about to leave the precious treasure that God has committed to me to run off after something else. No, no. For me, I've found it. I've found what God wants me to do. I've found what God wants me to do.

Somebody says, "But Brother Frazee, people tell me that I could do so much more if I had this or that or the other thing."

Do you know they tried to tell Jesus that? They kept after Joseph and Mary, "When are you going to give that Boy an education?"

And not having the full vision themselves, they doubtless had an awkward time explaining some things. But God was doing the best He could with what He had. And Jesus, thank God, had a clear vision of what the pearl was. He went directly to the original sources, to the Bible, to nature, to the experiences of life, and what was that other one? What was it? Really? Is that the fourth textbook? Yes. In fact, sometimes it's mentioned first in that carpenter's shop.

Well, dear fellow workers, I just wanted to share some of these thoughts with you tonight because I want you to be happy. I've told you that before, haven't I? Next time I talk, I'll probably tell you again. I want you to be happy. I do. I long for you to be happy, and you *can* be if you're where you belong and plow the field and find the treasure.

I remember reading about Elder A. G. Daniells. You know, he was president of the General Conference longer than any other leader we ever had. It was my privilege in his later years to know him. Of course, he's been dead now many years. But when he was a young fellow, he was down in Texas preaching, and he got a letter from the president of the General Conference, and they had voted for him to go to New Zealand to open up the work down there.

And as he told this experience years later, he said, "I had been taught as a good soldier to believe that I was supposed to do what I was invited to do.

And so, I sat down and wrote a letter, and said, “Brethren, I have no particular call in my heart or burden to go, but if you tell me to go, I’ll go, and you’ll have to take the responsibility.”

And so, after he had posted the letter and he was thinking about it, he said, “Why, this isn’t the way to do. I’m God’s hired servant, I’m His bondservant, and I ought to know what God wants me to do and be able to take some responsibility for myself.”

So he said, “I went out to the barn and climbed up in the hay, and I stayed there on my knees in the hay until I knew what God wanted me to do. And I went back to the house, and I wrote another letter to the president of the General Conference, and I said, ‘Dear Brother, that first letter I wrote you, just disregard that one. I have studied and prayed earnestly over this call, and I have found out that God wants me to go to New Zealand, and I’m ready to go on my own responsibility, not just because somebody else thinks I should. And I’m willing to stay there until the Lord comes.’”

He’d found the pearl, do you see? He’d found the treasure hid in the field. He had to plow to get it. Was it worth it? Ah, dear ones, listen. Let me put it very simply. If you don’t find *this*, there is no amount of changing your work from this to that, to this to that, that can ever challenge you enough to keep you happy very long.

But on the other hand, if you find this, what I am talking about tonight, if it was just being a carpenter for 20 years straight, you’d be perfectly happy at it, perfectly happy at it because you’d *know* that you were following the leading of the Lord and doing what God had hired you to do. This is the pearl of great price.

Now, you can’t aim any higher than that. My point is, don’t settle for less, don’t settle for less. And don’t think that the cure for restlessness, either yourself or other people, is to invent constantly some new thing to challenge you, to challenge you, to challenge you, to challenge you. Study about the treasure found in the field. Study about the pearl of great price. Put away all this idea that comes from the world, that comes from Babylon (it doesn’t come from Jesus), that you ought to be promoted from time to time, promoted.

Jesus was promoted. Read about it in Philippians 2. You know how He was promoted, don’t you? Yes. He left the throne and came down to Bethlehem. That was quite a promotion, wasn’t it? And then, growing up as a man He humbled Himself and became a servant [a paraphrase of Philippians 2:8]. And finally:

“...obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”
Philippians 2:8.

Oh, friend, I want to learn how to share with Jesus. And let me say, while of course, those things hurt Jesus, the pain of being rejected and all of that, yet we’re told that He even *longed* for His baptism of blood because He wanted to save us.

He wasn't pulled along by somebody else. Somebody didn't have to visit with Him or counsel with Him every few days to kind of give Him a shot in the arm so He could go on. Did they? No, no, no. No, no. Day by day, He was seeking His Father for fresh supplies of grace, happy in the knowledge that He was where the plan of the universe centered.

And my dear friends, the plan of the universe centers where you are, as far as you're concerned. All heaven is interested in your salvation. You can't get anything higher, I repeat, than just to be just where Jesus wants you to be.

Did anybody tonight get any help from anything we've studied? Did you? All right.

Precious Lord, we thank Thee for the simplicity of faith. All of us, doubtless, have questions that we don't know the answer to, problems that we don't know the solution to. But we'd rather know Thee than know the answers without Thee. We'd rather *have* Thee than have all the solutions without Thee.

Take our little hands in Thy great hands and guide us home. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

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