

Look to Christ

#0374

Study given by W. D. Frazee—January 21, 1972

Before we read these texts, I want to read a few lines from this wonderful book, *Steps to Christ*, page 70 and 71:

“A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust. Your hope is not in yourself; it is in Christ. Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ” *Steps to Christ*, page 70.

Look to Christ.

“Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul’s contemplation. It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness” *Steps to Christ*, pages 70–71.

And so, this evening, we want to look to Him. We want to behold Him. We want to contemplate Him. We want to listen while He speaks. We want to look at the beauty of His character, and we want to respond, don’t we?

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me” John 12:32.

Now, the text for this is in Isaiah, the 45th chapter, and the 22nd verse, if you’d like to turn to that. What are the first three words in this text?

[Answer from the congregation] Look unto me.

And that’s the words on our chart or poster here. Now, let’s read the verse together:

“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth:
for I am God, and there is none else” Isaiah 45:22.

Now, what is it that you and I are to do? We’re to look. Where? Look to Him. Look unto Me, He says. What will happen if we look?

[Answer from the congregation] We'll be saved

Do you want to be saved? Well, if you do, do what? Look. You mean just looking at Jesus would make a difference in our lives? That's what He says.

"Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth:
for I am God, and there is none else" Isaiah 45:22.

Now, we'll turn to 2 Corinthians 3:18. We'll find what happens while we look. 2 Corinthians 3:18, now, what is the word in this text that's like look? Beholding, that's right. Maybe you'd like to read this one with me. All together:

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory
of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to
glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord" 2 Corinthians 3:18.

What happens as we behold the glory, the character, of God? What happens? We are changed. Well, would you like to be changed? Would you really like to be changed? Well, if you would, you will do what? You'll look, you'll behold. And, if you do, this says what will happen? Change. Changed into what? The same image.

You mean you'll become like what you look at? That's what this says. My friends, the people of this world—they're becoming like what they look at on the TV screen and on the movie screen, aren't they? Yes. At a rapid rate. They're becoming like all these things they read about.

But you and I are called to look in another direction. Look where? What does Jesus say?

"Look unto *me*, and be ye saved..." Isaiah 45:22.

Beholding Him, we shall be:

"...changed into the same image from glory to glory..."
2 Corinthians 3:18.

Oh, I'm so glad we (you and I) can become like Jesus. Aren't you glad? Praise the Lord for this. All right.

Now, we're not only to look to Him, we're to call upon Him. Turn to the 50th Psalm, the 15th verse. Psalm 50, verse 15. Now, what are the first four words of this text? "And call upon Me." Now, that's what our chart has it, "Call upon Me." It's the same "Me." The word look to—it's Jesus, our Lord. All together:

"And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee,
and thou shalt glorify me" Psalm 50:15.

What will happen if you call? He'll deliver you. Well, do you need deliverance? I wonder if there's anybody here who needs deliverance from tobacco.

You don't need to raise your hand but, look, suppose you have a problem with cigarettes or some other form of tobacco. Would you like to be delivered?

Why friends, there are literally millions of people in America tonight that would like to be delivered from tobacco or liquor, alcohol, or some drug problem. Listen, Jesus says do what? "Call upon Me, and I will..."... what? "I will deliver Thee." Isn't that wonderful? Isn't that a promise? Yes. If we look to Him, it will inspire faith, and we'll come with our problems.

Now, your problem may not be liquor, it may not be tobacco, but you may have some other problem. Well, friend, whatever your problem, you need Jesus, and He says do what? Call. "Ah," somebody says, "I've called, but I don't get delivered." Well, I'd call again, friend. No. I mean that seriously. I'd call again.

And I'll tell you why I say that. Turn to Jeremiah, the 29th chapter. Jeremiah, the 29th chapter, verses 12 and 13. What are the last three words of the first line here? Call upon me. That's right. All right. Let's read Jeremiah 29, verses 12 and 13. All together:

"Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart"
Jeremiah 29:12-13.

Now, notice, you will seek Jesus and find Him when you do what? Search for Him with *all* your heart.

Now suppose I have something in one of the rooms in my home, and I decide, you know, I think I'd like to get rid of that. It's just been around here, and it's in the way. And so, I call up, we'll say, the Salvation Army and their truck comes along, but somehow they pass me by.

And the next day, I look, and I see that thing is still there, and I say, Well, you know, I'm just as glad they missed me. I'm glad I still have it. But suppose a few weeks later, I look at that thing and, again, I say, you know, I really ought to get rid of that thing. It's not doing me any good around here, and it's taking up space. I could put something else in, and again, I go to the phone, and I call the Salvation Army.

I want to ask you something, friends. If that happens often enough, do you think I'll find out whether or not I really want to get rid of it? What do you say? Do you know, there are things that people pray to God about getting rid of and, if they'd get answered like that, they'd be disappointed. That's right. That's right.

I was talking with somebody a long way from where I'm preaching tonight some weeks ago, and we were laboring with a poor soul that was infatuated with another woman's husband. And as we got down and prayed with her, she prayed, and I think she meant it after a fashion—she wanted to be delivered; she thought she was. But, you know, within a few days, she was right into it again, right into it again.

Sin is an infatuating thing, my friends. Whether it's the infatuation of liquor or tobacco or the infatuation of sex or the infatuation of heresies and offshoots, sin is an infatuating thing. God would like to deliver everybody immediately, just like that, but God wants to give you what you really want. That's right. He wants to give you what you really want.

And, if you want to be delivered, He wants to deliver you. No problem there. But oh, friends, sometimes what we need in order to find deliverance is more *earnest* prayer, more *persistent* calling, more *continuous* intercession.

Now, will you read these verses with me again—Jeremiah 29:12 and 13. All together:

“Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart”
Jeremiah 29:12–13.

That's it. That's it. So, “Call upon Me,” He says. Whatever your problem, physical or spiritual: some appetite, some passion, some yen for reading that you know isn't what you should have, for food that you know isn't what you should have, for friends that you know are not the ones that God has chosen—whatever your problem, Jesus says, Look unto Me, and call upon Me, and you'll get some help. Let's do it, what do you say?

Now, you know where the text for this one is, don't you—Matthew 11:28. Matthew 11:28. Oh, this is a wonderful promise, and we've been told by inspiration that this is a prescription for the healing of all physical, mental and spiritual ills. Isn't this tremendous, friends? This is really a panacea, in the true meaning of the word. This is a cure for everything. Matthew 11:28, what are the first three words?

[Answer from the congregation] Come unto me.

Come. Come where? Come unto Me. That's it.

So we're not only to call on Jesus, we're to go where He is to get the help. That leper that saw Jesus coming down the mountain, he went to meet Him, and he knelt at His feet, and he said, Oh, Lord, if you will, you can make me clean. And Jesus said, I am willing, and He put out His hand and touched him, and He said, Be clean, and immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

All right, now, let's read Matthew 11:28. All together:

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28.

What can you have? Rest. If you'll do what? Come. Come where? Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus.

The 5th chapter of John, now. Here, He says we'll have rest, if we come to Him. Something else He's promised, if we come. Perhaps, we'll read the 39th verse with it to get the setting. Jesus was talking to the Jews back there in Jerusalem. John 5:39 and 40. All together:

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life" John 5:39–40.

What could they have had, if they had come? Life. And where did Jesus say there was a witness that testified of Him? In the scriptures. Oh yes, friends. As we come to the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, we shall find our blessed Lord—So, come.

Now, there might be some fearful soul here that would be a little timid or hesitant about coming. He has an encouragement for you in John 6:37. Just turn over the page now, to John, the 6th chapter, and the 37th verse:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me..." John 6:37.

Now, read with me the rest of the text:

"...and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"
John 6:37.

You know, friends, if I go up to the White House next Monday and knock at the door, I doubt if I'd get to see the president. If I'd go down here to the state capitol and try to see the governor, I probably would find that he was too busy. But Jesus is never too busy for an interview with you. He's never too preoccupied. He's waiting to welcome you.

And no matter what you've done or failed to do, He says:

"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise..." John 6:37.

What?

"...cast out" John 6:37.

Did you ever hear of somebody being kicked out of a school or kicked out of the institution where they were working? Jesus is not kicking anybody out that will come to Him. Isn't that wonderful? Yes. *You* can come.

Mary Magdalene came to Jesus, and He accepted her, but she went out and sinned again. He prayed for her, and she came back, and He didn't cast her out. And that went on over and over again, to how many times? Seven times. But Jesus never gave up, and Jesus isn't giving up on you. And if you'll come to Him, He says that you won't be what? Won't be cast out. Isn't that wonderful, friends? Oh, I like that:

“...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”
John 6:37.

All right. Now, we’re not only to come to Him, but we’re also to stay with Him. We’re to follow Him, and He’s made some wonderful promises on this. John, the 12th chapter, and the 26th verse. John 12:26. What are the first two words in the second line? “Follow me.” That’s what’s on our chart. All together, let’s read the whole verse:

“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am,
there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will
my Father honour” John 12:26.

Did you notice what the result of following Jesus is? Wherever He is, there we are. Isn’t that nice? Wouldn’t you like to be with Jesus all the time? Well friends, He wants you with Him all the time. He likes your company. He enjoys your fellowship. He’s lonesome if you’re not with Him.

Dear friends, He’s on the move. He’s going, and He says, “Come and...” what? “Follow Me” “Follow Me.” Let’s do it, what do you say?

Now, do you know what will happen, friends, if we’ll follow Him? Let’s turn to Matthew 4. We’ll see what the blessed result is. Matthew 4:19. The fourth chapter of Matthew, 19th verse. What will happen if we’ll follow Jesus? We’ll become what?

[Answer from the congregation] Fishers of men.

Who says so?

[Answer from the congregation] Jesus.

Who guarantees to make us fishers of men? Jesus.

“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you
fishers of men” Matthew 4:19.

What’s He talking about when He says fishers of men? Soul-winning, yes. Peter and John had been catching fish all their lives, but now He said, From now on, you’re not going to catch fish, you’re going to catch men, and men are harder to catch than fish.

But oh, Jesus is the great fisherman, and He says to every one of us:

“...Follow me, and I will make you...” Matthew 4:19.

What?

“...fishers of men” Matthew 4:19.

Wouldn't you like to be a soul-winner? Well, press close to Jesus, look to Him, call upon Him, come to Him, and then follow Him, just go with Him, in and out, up and down, day and night, back and forth, here and there, as He leads, looking for souls, ministering to them, working for them, talking to them, joining with the Savior in the tender plea:

“...Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19.

Do you know why some people don't listen to this invitation and don't accept it? Turn to Mark, the 10th chapter, and you'll see the problem. Here's the problem, Mark 10:21. This is Jesus' experience with the rich young man—the rich young ruler. He wanted to be with Jesus, he looked to Him, he called upon Him, he came, but he wouldn't follow. He found out it cost something.

Now, see if God can help you to pay the price that he refused to pay. Mark 10:21. All together:

“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him,
One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou
hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in
heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me”
Mark 10:21.

To follow Jesus, then, involves taking up something. What is it? The cross. Do you know why? Well, He's carrying the cross. He was on the way to Calvary when that rich young ruler wanted to go with Him. Oh, the rich young ruler didn't know He was on the way to Calvary, but He was, wasn't He? And, friends, while the physical suffering of Jesus on the cross came to an end as He breathed His last, the suffering of the great heart of Jesus will never end until sin is gone forever.

Jesus invites you and me to come with Him in the soul-winning program, but there's no way—don't miss this—there is no way to win souls without suffering the pain of the cross. There is no way to win souls without suffering the pain of the cross.

Don't you know it hurt Jesus so much when Judas, the man that He poured out His love on for years, came up and betrayed Him with a kiss? Did Jesus refuse the kiss? Did He push him away and say, No, I'll have nothing to do with you. Did He? No. He let Judas kiss Him. But oh, how it hurt the Savior.

And then, when Peter denied Him with cursing and swearing, think how that hurt the Savior. It hurt Him worse than all the whipping He got on His back. You know, dear friends, you can hurt somebody you love a lot more with what you say than with any whipping anybody could give them.

I was talking with somebody not long ago, and I said, I know I love you, and I said, The reason I know that I love you is this—what you've done couldn't hurt me near as much if I didn't love you so much. That's the way sin is, dear friends. It hurts God and, if we're in fellowship with God, it hurts us. And the more you love somebody, the more anxious you are to win them for Christ, the more any failure on their part hurts. This is part of the cross that Jesus invited this young man to take up.

Will you be a soul winner? It's a thorny path. There's a cross to carry.

Now, I was talking with somebody about two years ago that was planning to be a soul-winner, and I said, "Do you know something? You're going to get your heart broken. I don't know when, I don't know how, but you're going to get your heart broken." And so, it came to pass.

All who, in this world, render true service to God or man receive a preparatory training in the school of sorrow. The weightier the trust and the higher the service, the closer is the test and the more severe the discipline" *Education*, page 151.

You'll find that in the book, *Education*, page 151. My point is, friends, do you really want to come to Jesus and learn of Him and then go with Him in soul-winning service? It means to carry a cross. Why, then, would anybody do it? Well, I'll tell you why, friends. The secret of it all is in that little word, that great word, that tremendous word—love. God so loved that He gave all for us and, if we love Him, we will love to respond to His invitation and give our lives to His service.

Let's turn to John again. John loved to write about love. He was the disciple that Jesus loved, you remember. He loved them all, but John pressed close. Here in the gospel of John, let's look at the 14th chapter, 23rd verse:

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" John 14:23.

Then, look at the 15th verse. All together:

"If ye love me, keep my commandments" John 14:15.

Well, there it is, dear friends. You know why I put the love there on the thumb? With the thumb, you touch all the other fingers. Think of it that way tonight. It is love that leads us to look to Him. It is love that leads us to call upon Him. It is love that leads us to come to Him. And it is love that leads us to follow Him. Am I right? You know it's so.

But friends, that's only half of it. Watch it the other way. The more we look to Him, the more we love Him. The more we call upon Him—press close to His side in intercession, the more our love deepens. The more we come to Him, the more we discern the beauty of His character and fall in love with that wonderful life. And the more we go with Him in service, the more we follow Him in soul-winning endeavor, the more our love increases.

So it's just back and forth, each one helping the other. Shall we do it, friends? And, you know, there's one thing about this, friends. We have eyes on only one side of our heads. God thoughtfully put our eyes in the front of our heads. I'm glad. Aren't you? No eyes in the back. So, when I look to Jesus, I can't see what's behind.

Jesus is calling us on with Him into a glorious future not merely in eternity but right here in this world! Paul says:

“...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” Philippians 3:13.

Ah friends, if we will look at Jesus, we can forget about a lot of other things that may divert us or distract us or destroy us. Often, the help we need is not in wrestling with the habits that get us down, but rather deliberately turning away from thinking of those things, even in a negative way, and looking to Jesus.

Let me be very practical with it. Suppose this is cigarettes. Look here, suppose I’ve got a package of cigarettes here. This isn’t one but just suppose it was. And I look at that thing, and I think, oh my, how good that would taste! But I mustn’t do it. Oh, but I feel nervous, and that would give me some relief. No, no, I mustn’t do it. And I keep that up.

Do you know what could happen, friends? Do you know? Now, I’m talking about cigarettes because that’s something tangible you can see, but friends, this applies to 500 other temptations. It applies to the temptation to gossip, the temptation to complain. It applies to every bit of impurity, sentimentalism, foolishness. It applies to the temptation to indulge appetite in any one of a dozen forms.

Listen, friend, whatever your temptation—think of it, do you know the answer? Why, the answer is for me to turn away from this thing, just put it down and start looking in another direction. Where will I look? What does Jesus say?

“Look unto *me*, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth...”
Isaiah 45:22.

Now, I want to ask you something, friend. Can I look at cigarettes and look at Jesus at the same time? Can you? No, no, no. I can’t do that. I can’t do that. As someone wrote in the flyleaf of a Bible that was presented,

“This book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book.”

That’s it, friend.

So, when you’re tempted—whatever the temptation—do not stand there and argue with the Devil. Do not stand there and wrestle with the lion. Turn and look to Jesus. Turn and call upon Him. Come to Him with all your heart. Think upon Him.

Now, again, let me be very practical. How do you do that? Well, there are at least three things, any one of which or all of them, can help you. One is to repeat the Word of God—repeat the Bible. It’s a good thing to have a little pocket Bible or some portions of the Bible in your pocket. If that isn’t convenient, copy out some verses, put them in your pocket—in your purse.

Fill the mind with the Word of God, and when you're tempted, instead of thinking, Oh, no, I mustn't do this, I mustn't do this, I mustn't do that! No, no! Overcome evil with good. Start repeating the promises of God.

Another thing that we can do is pray. Call upon Me. If we're where we can, get down on our knees all alone and cry to God. But we may be busy with work; we may be on a train or plane or a bus. Friends, we can lift our hearts to Jesus and ask Him for His help.

And then, there's a third thing we can do, and that's sing. Oh, Jesus, often met the tempter by singing. We're told that there were times when He was a young man in the carpenter shop that companions there in the carpenter shop would actually get around Him and try to irritate Him in some way to get Him to lose His temper. Now, imagine that, friend. Just laid a plot to try to trip Him up.

Jesus couldn't leave. He was on duty. But, do you know what He'd sometimes do? He'd start to sing one of the Psalms. And do you know we're told that before they knew it, some of those people that had been trying to irritate Him would join Him in singing?

Ah, friend, tonight, then, I give you three practical ways to do what we've been studying about. One is reading and repeating the Word of God. The other is in calling upon God in prayer, audible or silent. And the third is singing, singing.

All right. Now, I want to give an invitation tonight. There may be somebody here tonight, friends, that has never come to Jesus. Wouldn't you like to come tonight? Wouldn't you like to do just what we've studying about? Wouldn't you like to call upon Him? Oh, my dear friend, Jesus wants to deliver you! He says, "Call upon Me and I'll answer you."

"...whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered..." Joel 2:32.

If you've never come, come tonight. But suppose you have come sometime in the past, but there is some temptation, some sin, which binds you in its grasp, and tonight you long for deliverance. Ah friends, I know there's help for you. Hymn #567.

Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest,
By trusting in His word.
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save *you*,
He will save you now.

Oh, I hope that there's somebody here tonight that has never come, that will come tonight. Somebody that has never come before, you come tonight and get the help that Jesus has.

And then, if there's somebody else that has come before, but the Devil has tripped you up, gotten you down and tramped on you, and you need help from Jesus to get back in gear with Him, come, come.

Now, I'm not making a general call for everybody that wants to do better. I hope everybody here wants to do better, don't you, friend? I'm making a specific call, so somebody that has never given your heart fully to Jesus, but you want to seek Him tonight for help, you come.

And somebody else that has sought Him in the past, but the Devil has defeated you and gotten you down, and you've failed, and now you want to come back and get some real help from Jesus, you come.

Hymn #567. Let's all stand.

Come, every soul by sin oppressed,
There's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest,
By trusting in His word.
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.

For Jesus shed His precious blood,
Rich blessings to bestow;
Plunge now into the crimson flood,
That washes white as snow.
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.

Think of it, dear friends: the prisoner can be released, the leper can be cleansed, the sinner can be saved. Where is it? It's in Jesus. Look unto *Me*, come unto *Me*, call upon *Me*. The help is in Jesus. It isn't in yourself, it isn't in any other human beings. It's in Jesus. *You* can be saved, *you* can be changed, *you* can be delivered.

Friends, I've seen God do it for scores, hundreds of people. I know He can do it for you—no question about it. Come.

Yes, Jesus is the truth, the way,
That leads you into rest;
Believe in Him without delay,
And you are fully blest.
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,

He will save you now.

Come, then, and join this holy band,
And on to glory go,
To swell in that celestial land,
Where joys immortal flow.
Only trust Him, only trust Him,
Only trust Him now;
He will save you, He will save you,
He will save you now.

[Hymn #567 in the Old Adventist Hymnal. 279 in the New Adventist Hymnal]

Oh friends, I'm glad God is in the saving business! What do you say? Isn't He a wonderful Savior? And you, oh, some dear hesitating one, remember, Jesus loves you as though you were the only person in this meeting, the only person in the world. He's able to deliver you. He made the world. He keeps the stars in space. He can save you. All that power is harnessed to the task of pulling you away from sin, pulling sin out of your life, but come.

He won't force you. He'll plead, He'll knock, but He won't force the door. Oh, come, come running. We'll not sing more, but you just come right now. Don't wait. Just step right out from the pew and make your way up here to seek God. Somebody else that God is calling. That's right. Come and seek God. Somebody else. Ah friends, I want you—you that God is calling, you that God is calling. God bless you. God be with you, my friend. I know He'll hear your prayer—no question about it. Jesus loves to hear you.

“... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out”
John 6:37.

Praise God, friends, He's in the saving business!

Now, we're going to have a little after meeting with these that have come up. Oh, I love an after meeting. God has a special blessing for us in this little after meeting. Any of you that would like to stay, you're welcome. The rest, as soon as the benediction is pronounced, quietly and quickly make your way out and, please, no talking here in the sanctuary and outside in the foyer—please quiet—so that we can have an uninterrupted after meeting here. Remember, any who wish to stay are welcome.

And now, dear Father in heaven, we thank Thee with all our hearts for witnessing to the message of Thy word. We thank Thee for these dear seeking ones. Answer the call of their hearts. I know Thou wilt. Thou art doing it. As they seek Thee here with all their souls, more than fulfill their highest expectations.

And, Lord, any others throughout this audience that Thou wouldst have tarry, put it in their hearts. Dismiss the congregation with Thy blessing. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

God bless you all. And you, who are kneeling, if you'll take the front seats, please.

[Elder Frazee shares in an after meeting]

"Son, would you help me a minute. Ok, what's your name?"

"Bobby."

"All right. Just come here a minute, Bobby. I want to ask you something. Bobby, did you ever get a splinter in your finger?"

"Yes."

"Does it hurt?"

"Yea"

"All right. Now, suppose you had a big splinter that had run way into your finger there. What do you think ought to be done with it?"

"Get it taken out."

Get it taken out, he says. Would any of you agree that that's the thing to do? There's the splinter in his finger. Get it taken out.

Well, wouldn't that hurt? Did you ever have a splinter taken out? A big splinter?

"Just a little one."

Uh-huh. What do the rest of you think? Do you think it hurts to have a splinter taken out? Did you ever have a splinter taken out, and the blood would run? Yea. M-hm. Maybe we'd better not try to take it out. Hurt too much. Better leave it in there. What do you think? Think you'd better leave it in there?

If there was a real splinter there in your finger, would you rather leave it in? Why not?

"It get infected"

It *would* get infected—it sure would. I wonder what we'd better do.

Dear friends, there's only one right thing to do, is that right? What is it? To get it taken out. Would you be willing to have it taken out? Even if it hurt?

"Yes"

"Thank you, my boy."

Now, there you have it, dear friends, there you have it. But there are people going around with splinters in their fingers, and it hurts them. The splinter hurts. But, do you know, it's amazing what the body can get used to, it is. But friends, it's better to hurt *a lot* for a short time and get the splinter out than to keep hurting *some*, hour after hour and day after day and week after week. Isn't it? Now, you can have your choice, but there is no painless way to get rid of sin.

Do you remember we were reading about that rich young man there tonight? He came to Jesus. He had a splinter in his finger. It was a great big splinter, too. And Jesus said, There's just one—just one splinter. If we can get that out, everything will be all right.

So, Jesus said, If you really mean business, just go and sell everything you have and give it away to the poor and then come and take up the cross and follow Me. And the young man said what? No. I'll keep the splinter. I'll keep the splinter. And he did.

To come to Jesus means that we come with all we have and give it all to Him, is that right? Now, I don't know what your problem is tonight, but you've got a problem. That's why we're here, isn't it? Listen. Are you going to make your main prayer to Jesus: Jesus, please, somehow let me go to sleep tonight and wake up with the splinter gone in the morning. Is that what you're going to pray?

That somehow, during the night, while you're asleep, the operation will be performed, and the splinter pulled out, and you'll wake up in the morning, and you'll look at your finger and say, Oh, while I was asleep, the splinter got pulled out. Is that what you're going to pray? Don't pray that way, friends. Don't pray that way.

Jesus went where? To the cross. What for? To get the splinter out. Of you. He didn't go there for Himself. He didn't have any splinter. He knew no sin. But He went there and suffered for my sin. A little bit? What? A whole lot. Didn't He? What for? To get the splinter out. That's it.

And He says, If you'll look to look to Me on the cross, if you'll call on Me at the cross, if you'll come to Me here at the cross, and suffer with Me here at the cross, as you see what sin has cost, we'll get the splinter out all right. We'll get the splinter out all right.

Do you know why we hang onto the splinter? It doesn't hurt us enough. If a man could feel what cigarettes are doing to his lungs, getting him ready for lung cancer and emphysema, if he could feel what the nicotine is doing to his heart and getting him ready for a heart attack, he'd be willing to go through fire and water and anything to get rid of it, wouldn't he?

But oh, my dear friend, so many times, people don't feel the splinter very bad, but I can tell you this—no matter how little people feel the damage that sin is doing to them in body and mind and soul, they have no idea of the wonderful blessing that deliverance brings.

I heard a man say, who attended in one of our sanitariums (our little sanitarium out at Eden Valley) he said, You know, when I came here, I wasn't sick. I thought I felt good, but he said, I didn't know what feeling good meant till I'd spent a month here. See, he got some splinters out.

And, friend, listen. If it hurts to get the splinter out, believe me, when the splinter *really* gets out, and the finger begins to heal up, you'll feel better than anything the Devil ever did for you. It's worth it. It's worth it. And so, tonight, make up your mind that with Jesus' help, the splinter is going to get out tonight, tonight.

Now, how does Jesus get that thing out of our minds, our hearts, our lives? He does it by helping us to see how bad it is. There's nobody here would hang on to a rattlesnake if you knew that's what it was, would you? Why, no—one that was about to bite you, to take your life. And, friends, if God can help you and me to see how *bad* the thing we've been doing is, we'll turn loose of it. But, do you know, the only way—listen, don't miss this—the only way we can find out without dying is to watch Jesus die when He's stung with a rattlesnake.

You see, if I let the rattlesnake bite me clear through and get that poison in my vein in a strategic place, I'm done for it, and as I go down in death, I may say, Oh my, I see now, but it's too late, see. But oh, if I come to Jesus on the cross, I watch what sin does to Him...

[Recording ended in progress]

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org