

Peter 6 of 10

I Will Make You

#0380

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 13, 1969

Matthew 4, beginning with the 18th verse. This tells the story that we read yesterday in Luke, but from a little different angle:

“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And He saith unto them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed Him” Matthew 4:18–20.

Now notice the divine recipe for success in learning the trade of soul-winning:

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

We cannot make ourselves soul winners. That’s Jesus’ work. But what can we do? What did He tell Peter to do? “Follow Me.” If we do the following, He’ll do the making. Our part is to *choose* to be with Him. His part is to accomplish in us those changes that will make us successful soul winners.

Oh, how important it is, then, to answer His invitation and choose to be with Him.

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

This is a divine guarantee. And if we’ll follow the instructions on the label, it’ll work, dear friends. This is the way Jesus trained Peter and his brethren. He took them with Him.

Notice in the book *Education*:

“To them, above all others, He gave the advantage of His own companionship. Through personal association, He impressed Himself upon these chosen co-laborers...

“...They were with Him in the house, at the table, in the closet, in the field. They accompanied Him on His journeys, shared His trials and hardships, and, as much as in them was, entered into His work” *Education*, pages 84–85.

So by being with *Him* for a period of time, they *absorbed* His life. They watched how He did things. They listened to His words. And then they shared His

work. They helped arrange the people as they came for clinics and for studies. They answered questions afterward. They were sent out later on little trips. They came back. They made reports.

But more than just being with Jesus in His work, they were with Him in His life. This says they were with Him at the table. They ate together. They were with Him in the closet. They prayed together. They were with Him hour-by-hour, day-by-day.

Jesus was more interested in the long view, for we see that He allowed those men to be with Him making mistakes. Again and again in the four Gospels, we see evidence of the failures of this one and that one, and no one made more mistakes than Peter, at least as far as outward appearance is concerned. Of course, all the while, Judas was carrying on his under-handed activities.

But as far as what people could look at is concerned, Peter probably made as many mistakes as anybody. But all the while, Jesus was making him a fisher of men. Christ was looking forward to that Pentecostal sermon that Peter would preach. He was looking forward to that marvelous ingathering of souls, prefigured by this gathering of fish that we read about.

Now, how can we make this very practical to us today? How can you and I enter into the experience that Peter entered into? Well, there are some very practical things that we can do.

First, we are to seek a personal association with Jesus—individually.

He says,

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

True, He’s unseen, but equally true, He is present. In fact, being unseen, He can be with you just the same as He can with me. Though we may be hundreds and thousands of miles apart, the dear Lord Who trained Peter can be with you and with me. But we must *follow* Him.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:6.

In the early morning our first thought is to be of Him:

“He wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

What for?

“That I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary” Isaiah 50:4.

Soul-winning is something that we’re to learn something new about each day. One reason for that is that each soul presents a different problem, and each soul has

new problems from day to day. So as we work with men, we must have the moment by moment guidance of the great Teacher, the moment by moment direction of the great Soul Winner.

This experience of going to God in prayer and seeking for Him, and His direction, must be a very living thing with us. It isn't just some ritual that's to be gone through, like going to mass or to confession, or something of that kind. Life with Jesus is to be just that—*life with Jesus*. My association with Christ must be a living, personal reality. Without this, I cannot be successful in soul-winning.

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

Now, in carrying this out, the Savior would have us focus our thoughts upon definite souls. Jesus Himself, in His work, did not attempt to reach the whole human family while He was here. It's true that He reached thousands, but there were millions that He never met. He had accepted the limitations of humanity, and we certainly are bound with those limitations. Soul-winning is essentially a one-by-one process, in most cases.

It's true that Peter preached that sermon at Pentecost, along with the other apostles, and thousands came. But it's also true that many of those were people that Jesus and the disciples had been working for and with, over a period of time. Jesus had sowed the seed, and under the showers of the Holy Spirit a great harvest sprang up.

Soul-winning still remains, in most cases, a personal encounter, a man-to-man, woman-to-woman experience. And so one of the first things we need to do in learning the trade of soul-winning is to ask the Lord to lay on our hearts a burden for definite individuals. As the Lord's messenger writes to the young people:

“Begin to pray for souls” *Messages to Young People*,
page 207.

That's the way to begin.

Do you have a prayer list? And I don't mean a hundred names. I mean, at least one name. Souls are *born* into the kingdom of God. And in human life, even twins are infrequent, very seldom triplets. Souls are usually born one at a time, but somebody must carry them. Somebody must have them on their heart.

Oh, my friend, are you carrying somebody? Is there a burden on your heart for some soul? You know we sing it:

Lord lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me.

That's the point.

And in fellowship with Christ, in the secret place of prayer, we're to have an experience in talking to God about that soul, and then letting God talk to us about that soul.

I remember an experience. One morning, I was praying over some souls that we were laboring for in an evangelistic effort. And the impression came definitely to my heart to take the young man who was leading singing for me in those meetings, and go down to this man's house and sing for him. We did it that very day.

Before the week was over, I conducted that man's funeral. The Lord had arranged, you see, that I should have that closing interview with him. But it was in the secret place of prayer that the leading came, "Go with your singer and visit that man, and sing for him and pray with him."

In these simple things, friends, we may have the guidance of Jesus. But we must listen. We must watch for His direction.

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

Now, another very practical application of this principle is that Jesus, Who trained those twelve, caused them to train others and those still others, and those still others, and those still others. And there are in this world this morning, my friends, men who have been *trained*, by men who were *trained*, by men who were *trained*, by men who were *trained*, by those men that Jesus trained.

There is a line. Just as you can take your physical genealogy and say—"Well, so and so was my father. So and so was his father. His father's name was so and so. And my great, great grandfather's name was so and so." And those all converge back to Adam, don't they? so in this spiritual training, somebody, my friends, that Jesus trained, trained somebody else, and that one somebody else, and finally it comes down to our time.

It seems to me that one of the greatest opportunities in life is the opportunity of being with somebody who knows the trade of soul-winning that they learned from somebody. It's passed down, my friends.

Reading books about soul-winning is good. You may gather ideas.

But my dear friends, I would hate to eat a dinner cooked by somebody who had only read books about cooking, wouldn't you? Yes. The place to learn cooking is in the kitchen with a good cook. Do you remember what the Lord's messenger said? If she didn't know how to cook, and she were a mother, she would go to the best cook that she could find in the area, and stay with that woman until she'd learned to cook. And she would do that even if she were 40 years old. Do you remember reading that? The apprenticeship method is the greatest method of learning things.

Let me read you something that a dear minister, a successful medical evangelist, read to me when I was a young man just finishing my teens:

“Many young men who have had the right kind of education at home are to be trained for service and encouraged to lift the standard of truth in new places by well-planned and faithful work. By associating with our ministers and experienced workers in city work, they will gain the best kind of training” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*, page 119.

And He pointed out to me from this reference, that the best kind of training in soul-winning is in associating with our ministers and experienced workers in city work, in evangelistic endeavors. As I’ve said, the best place to learn cooking is in the kitchen. The best place to learn nursing is where nursing is going on. The best place to learn agriculture is on the farm, in the garden. The best place to learn soul-winning is in evangelistic endeavor, my friends—associating with men and women who know the trade. And the closer your association, the better, and the faster you can learn.

“As they unite their labors with those of the older workers, using their youthful energies to the very best account, they will have the companionship of heavenly angels” *Ibid.*

This is a wonderful page. It’s in a wonderful chapter called *Methods of Labor*. So we should cherish every opportunity we have to learn from those who know how to win souls more about the trade. This is the way Peter learned it. This is the way you and I can learn it.

But now did you notice something in that sentence I read from Volume 9? Listen as we go over it.

“Many young men who have had the right kind of education at home...” *Ibid.*

They are to have this experience of fellowship with evangelistic workers.

“Oh, does that make any difference, what kind of training we’ve had at home?”

Yes, my dear friends. The training in the home is the foundation. The training in the evangelistic field is built upon that foundation.

But somebody may say, “But Brother Frazee, I didn’t have the right kind of training at home. Maybe I didn’t have any home at all.”

Well friends, there’s good news for you. You can get it in some other home, if you want it bad enough. But do you know what that training in the home is designed to develop? It is designed to develop obedience, dependability, responsibility. And whether you’re three years old when you start learning some of those things, or six or sixteen, or twenty or thirty or 40 years old, those are the things that you must learn as a foundation.

Somebody who can't be depended upon to milk the cow, couldn't be depended upon to give a Bible study. Somebody who can't see that the lawn is cared for might forget some soul whose spiritual destiny he was entrusted with.

We are to learn in dealing with material things, the attention to details, the spirit to carry a job through and not lag. Dependability, reliability, cooperation, obedience—all these lessons are to be learned in the home. And when a young man or a young woman has learned these lessons in the home, then some Elijah may throw his mantle on an Elisha, who is plowing, and say, "Come with me and learn the trade of soul-winning."

But, if you haven't learned it in the home, friends, then learn it where God's providence places you. And if you didn't learn it when you were a boy, learn it when you are a man. If when you were a little girl, somebody failed or didn't know how to teach you to obey, learn it when you're a grown woman. Learn to obey, to cooperate, to be dependable. And this is not learned in a moment, my friends.

Now, what about Peter and those who were with him? Were they just a group of people that Jesus just happened to see? No, my friends, they were handpicked. And in choosing them, Jesus showed that He considered these lessons learned in the home and in the discipline of life, far more important than anything that can be learned in a classroom or from a textbook.

Notice as I read here in the book *Education*:

"The first pupils of Jesus were chosen from the ranks of the common people. They were humble, unlettered men, these fishers of Galilee; men unschooled in the learning and customs of the rabbis, but trained by the stern discipline of toil and hardship" *Education*, page 85.

Oh, how much is wrapped up in those few words:

"Trained by the stern discipline of toil and hardship" *Ibid*.

Did they come up the easy way or the hard way? The hard way. Was life to them soft? No.

Oh friends, the Devil has stolen the march on many people today. Many parents think that the way to show love for their children is to make everything soft and easy—give them plenty of money to spend, cars to run around in, radios, all sorts of things.

The point is not that some of those things may be bad. They might be. That isn't the point. The young person who gets everything he wants, or even always everything he thinks he needs, is not developing those traits of *pushing* the way through difficulties, of putting up with inconveniences: those lessons that are essential in one who would be a successful soul-winner.

Look at the difference between David and Solomon. David was trained in hard work as a boy out in the country. Solomon grew up in a royal home. Was there a difference in the character that the two men developed? Oh, yes. Seldom does one come from luxury, or even from places where everything is convenient, and develop a strong character and become a mighty soul winner. I won't say it's impossible. I'll say it's very difficult and seldom.

But look how God trains His men. Look how He trains Joseph to become a Savior of a nation. Look how He trains Peter, taking him from a life of hardship and stern discipline. Look how He gets Elisha ready. Look at the beginnings of this movement. Look how God developed Joseph Bates, James White, Ellen Harmon, John Loughborough, and many others.

Would you be a soul-winner? Jesus said, follow Me and I will make you. And oh, friends, in this part of the preparation, we have the glorious privilege of following Jesus. For what did He do when He came down here to demonstrate how to be a successful evangelist? He spent most of His life in a humble home, and as a hard-working carpenter at Nazareth. He helped to make the family living from the time He was old enough to handle tools.

Was this a part of getting ready to win souls? Oh, yes. Is this a part of following Him? Amen. So wherever you are in the divine sequence of training, put all you have into it. If your job now is to handle tools and work with your hands as Jesus did in the carpenter shop, as Elisha did on the farm at Abelmeholah, do your best. Remember, you are following Jesus.

But Jesus, at Nazareth, while He was working in the carpenter shop, watched for opportunities to witness by word, by song. Not only in the shop, but out in the community He visited, He spoke the words of life. Quietly, humbly, He ministered to the needs. He was a medical missionary, not working miracles, but doing the same simple, humble things that you and I can do. He was improving His opportunities.

Oh friends, let's give Him all we have today. What do you say? And He's promised to turn out a product that will bring *joy* to the universe, as they see the remnant *gathering* in the last souls before the storm breaks.

Wouldn't you like to speak this morning? Isn't there some word of response that wells up in your heart? What do you say?

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