

Peter 10 of 10

Come

#0384

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 16, 1969

As we come this morning to our closing morning study on the life and experiences of the apostle Peter, I would like to study with you the little word “come,” as it enters into the call of Jesus to Peter, and his response.

We’ll turn to John 1 to begin. This word “come,” you know, is often used by the Master. We think of it in that wonderful invitation:

“Come unto me” Matthew 11:28.

But in John 1, Peter is introduced to us by way of Andrew, and Andrew is introduced to us by way of John the Baptist. John, James’ brother, and Andrew were standing with John the Baptist one day, and as Jesus was there, John the Baptist pointed to Him and said, “Behold the Lamb of God.” Those two disciples, Andrew and John, followed Jesus. In the 38th verse, Jesus turned and asked them, “What would you like? What are you seeking?” And they said, “Master, where do you live?”

“He saith unto them, Come and see” John 1:39.

This is the first invitation of Jesus to His disciples. “Come and see.”

“Where do you live?”

“Come and see.”

So they went with Him and stayed with Him for several hours that day.

“One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus” John 1:40–42.

Andrew came, and then went and got Peter. You know, I’ve thought of what a thrill must have been in Andrew’s heart as three years later, he heard Peter speak the Pentecostal sermon. Down in his deepest heart, there must have been a glad feeling. There’s the man I brought to Jesus. Now he’s bringing *thousands* of others. We little know, my friends, what the influence of a single word for Jesus may be.

Well, my point is, Jesus called Andrew and John, Andrew called Peter, and the first disciples had entered into fellowship with Jesus.

Now let's turn to Mark 1, and we'll find this word "come," again. This is some months later. They're up on the Sea of Galilee. While the disciples had, in a sense, enlisted with Jesus there at the Jordan, they were still spending part-time in ordinary life, ordinary vocations. So here is Peter and the others, fishing:

"Now as He walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them" Mark 1:16–17.

What? Come, come. You came down to Jordan, but you need to come closer now.

"Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him" Mark 1:17–18.

You know, friends, Heaven is a ceaseless approaching to God through Christ, we're told. All the way along in our Christian experience, in this world and in the next, we'll hear the voice of Jesus saying, "Come, come, come." And the true Christian life is following as Jesus calls. It's coming every time He says, "Come." Isn't that nice?

Now let's go to Mark 6:31. His invitation is not *a/ways* to work. Sometimes it's to rest:

"And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while" Mark 6:31.

Then Mark tells us why Jesus said that:

"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.

There, near the Sea of Galilee, was a place out in the country where they could be alone for a little while. Now, it's true that the multitudes saw them going and soon gathered. So, most of the day was spent in healing and teaching. But, for a little while, they had this rest with the Lord.

The Spirit of Prophecy tells us that this invitation is given to us today as much as it was to those first disciples. Like Peter, you and I need seasons of rest, physical rest; time to sleep; time to relax; time to get out in nature; time to be alone with God. We need seasons of *spiritual* communion when with the open Bible, on our knees, we can hear the voice of Jesus calling us. To all of this, the Savior is inviting us, and He says, "Come." Oh, to hear His voice!

"All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need

to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God" *Ministry of Healing*, page 58.

If there's any one of these invitations that we need this morning, it is this one, my friends—to come apart, to come aside and commune with Jesus. "Come and rest awhile."

Now let's go to Matthew 14. This one is the night after the one we've just read. You remember this morning, they had that season of rest and recreation. The rest of the day, they were teaching and healing the multitude. That evening Jesus fed the five thousand. They wanted to make Him king. He sent them away. He sent the disciples over the lake while He remained to pray. But in the night He came to them, walking on the water. And when He finally revealed Himself, and the disciples had gotten over their fright and recognized the Savior, notice what Peter said:

"And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water" Matthew 14:28.

What did Jesus say?

"He said, Come" Matthew 14:29.

Peter had heard that "come" before. And oh, I can just see Peter as he steps out of that boat, not timidly, not wondering if it will support his weight. He rushes to meet his Lord. "Come, come."

"And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus" Matthew 14:29.

Of course, we know that he took his eyes off Jesus. He got to wondering, perhaps, what Andrew and James and John were thinking of his walking on the water. The wind was boisterous. A wave came between him and Jesus. With his eyes off the Lord, what happened? Yes, he sank. But Jesus, as Peter cried to Him, put out His hand and saved him. And arm in arm, Peter and Jesus walked back to the boat.

My point is, friends, Peter opened the way for Jesus to give him an unusual invitation. Jesus didn't rebuke him for it. Do you know there are those who have a faith that we sometimes think borders on audacity? I suppose that Thomas or Philip would never have thought of that, of asking Jesus if they could walk on the water. But Peter said:

"Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water"
Matthew 14:28.

And Jesus said, "Come."

Every want that Jesus implants in our hearts He has provided to satisfy. Between now and the coming of the Lord, we're going to be led into experiences, my dear friends, where we're going to see marvelous things wrought. It's going to take

somebody who has a faith that goes beyond the ordinary. Now, of course, we shouldn't be presumptuous. Sometimes there's a fine line between faith and presumption. But here, as I say, Jesus didn't rebuke Peter, when he said, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to You on the water." He said, "Come." And Peter, looking to Jesus, walked on the water.

Now we'll go to John 21:12. We looked at this the other morning. But I want to look at it again this morning, for it has our word in it. This is that morning on the Sea of Galilee, after the resurrection when Peter and a number of his brethren had been fishing all night and caught nothing. In this early morning, they see this lone Watcher on the beach. They finally discern that it's Jesus. And in the 12th verse we hear His call to breakfast:

"Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine" John 21:12.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing to get an invitation from Jesus to eat with Him? Do we have it?

"Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb" Revelation 19:9.

Think of it! When He gave the disciples the bread and wine at that supper in the upper room, He said, "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." He's counting the days, longing for the hour when we'll sit down with Him in the kingdom of God. "Come and dine."

Day by day, we may eat with Jesus. Day by day, He invites us to eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood. Day by day, He is saying to us, "Come and dine." In His Word, in the volumes of the Spirit of Prophecy, He has provided for us a rich repast, a wonderful menu. Of every tree in this garden, we may freely eat. There's plenty, enough, and to spare. "*Come and dine. Come and eat with Me. Come and share at the table of the Lord.*"

Now, I want to hasten on to the end of the life of Peter. You notice here in John 21:18–19, Jesus talking directly to Peter says:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He saith unto him, Follow Me" John 21:18–19.

This was foretelling Peter's death by crucifixion. Years later, near the end of his life, Peter referred to this. Let's turn over to 2 Peter 1:14. We'll read the thirteenth verse with it. Peter is writing his last letter:

"Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; Knowing that

shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me" 2 Peter 1:14.

As I was reading of this, I thought, "Just think of it, *all* through Peter's life, he knew how he was going to die." From that morning when he walked with Jesus down the beach at Galilee, and Christ told him how He was going to be crucified, all through those years of ministry, He knew that ahead of him was a cross.

How would you like to know that? Just think of it. You know death by crucifixion was a most cruel death, a torture—hours of anguish and agony and pain. And every day that Peter ministered, he knew that he was one day nearer that fate.

Thank God, friends, it did not cast a gloom over his soul, no shadow rested on that loving heart. In fact, we're told that when it came to the hour, to him it seemed such an honor, such a privilege, to die as his Master had died that he made one request of his guards, and it was granted. He was crucified with his head downward, instead of upward.

In this death by crucifixion, it seems to me that Peter must have heard the Master saying—the One who had said, "Come and see," "Come and rest," "Come and walk," "Come and dine"—now He is saying, "Come and die with Me. Die with Me the death that I died."

Peter could say with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ." In his last moments as he hung there on that cross, were moments of the closest fellowship with Jesus in suffering and death.

Now let's turn to Matthew 25:34. There's another "come" in the life of Peter, but it's still future. He hasn't heard this one yet, but he's going to hear it:

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand,
Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world"
Matthew 25:34.

Thank God, Peter is going to hear that, "Come." And there's something about it that's especially rich for Peter. Turn to Matthew 19:27–28. This is after the rich young man had gone away sorrowful, and Jesus had told the disciples, "It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of Heaven, but with God all things are possible."

"Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" Matthew 19:27–28.

Oh, is Peter going to have a throne? Yes, he is. And the King of the universe is going to say to Peter, "Come, come, come. You listened to My 'come' at Jordan,

and entered the service with Me. You heard My 'come' at the lake and left your boats and fishing nets. Again and again, you heard that call, "come," and you came. Now, Peter, I've called you from the grave, and you have come. I've called you home to Heaven, and you've come. Now here's your throne, Peter. You're to reign as a prince over one of the tribes of Israel."

And now it comes down to every one of us. Look:

"And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life" Matthew 19:29.

Ah, isn't it true, friends? That rich young man that had just gone away that day, how much he missed. He kept his gold, but he lost his God. He kept his fortune, but he lost his glorious opportunity. But oh, those disciples that had left their tax collecting, their fishing, and their other vocations, and had cast their lot with Jesus, who had heard His "come," and followed, even in this life, as far as joy is concerned, they had a hundredfold. And in the world to come, they would have everlasting life.

So it is with you and me, my friends. We may lose some things as we hear the Master say, "Come," and respond. We may have to leave some things behind. But how much we get, even in this life. Would you trade? No, no, no, my friends.

But listen, to follow Jesus means that every day He's saying, "Come," and He's leading us higher. And there's no way to go higher without increasing the distance between you and the world. May I repeat that? There is no way to go higher without increasing the distance between you and the world. Even if the world were stationary, that would be true. But ah, the world is going down in a terrible acceleration, isn't it? It's going down, down, down. But Jesus is calling us up, up, up. So with the world going *down*, and the call of Jesus beckoning us *up*, the distance is increasing every day, farther and farther and farther.

Do you know these men who went to the moon the other day? It took a tremendous amount of energy to break away from the gravitational pull of this planet, didn't it? But there came a time, my dear friends, when they were far enough away from this planet and close enough to the moon, that the moon was pulling them stronger and faster than any earthly gravitation could do.

Oh, I want to get that close to Heaven. What do you say? I want to get far enough away from this world that the things of this world have no power over me. And every step we take nearer to Jesus decreases the pull of this world and increases the drawing power of Jesus.

"I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" John 12:32.

Well, dear ones, where are you in the walk with Jesus, this morning? If you've never accepted Him, I hear His voice saying to you, "Come, come." If you've

begun the walk, it may be that this morning He is pointing out to you a new step to take, a new surrender to make. Do you hear His voice saying, "Come, come, come. Leave some things, take some things. Come closer to Me, with Me"?

Ah, it may lead to the cross as it did with Peter. It will, for it is written:

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" Matthew 16:24.

But oh, at the end, with Peter, we'll hear those blessed words saying:

"Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"
Matthew 25:34.

Before this world was made, God looked and saw you and me. He planned for us personally. His great longing is that we may share with Him a fellowship closer than angels know. The only way we can do it is every time He says, "Come," we respond and say, "Lord, I come." This is what we've been singing in this song:

I will follow Thee, my Savior,
Wheresoe'er my lot may be.
Where Thou goest I will follow;
Yes my Lord, I'll follow Thee.

Oh, that every heart may be strong and prompt and full in its response, "Yes, My Lord, I will follow Thee." No reserve, no quibbling, no holding back. Like Peter, impulsive, perhaps, but everything for Christ. When that impulsive response is tempered with a deep repentance, a deep conversion, it produces the apostle who, in the book of Acts, we see again and again being used by the Lord to do wonderful things.

God is training men and women today for His final loud cry work. And some of them, like Peter, will have faults that stick right out, just stick right out. And yet, as they hear Jesus call day after day, "come," and they respond. Even if they fall, they get up and go on. Didn't Peter fall again and again? But thank God, every time he fell, he got up and went along. He heard that invitation of Jesus saying, "Come," and he said, "Lord, I come." Thank God, he finished triumphantly. You and I can do the same.

Do you hear the call of Jesus this morning to your heart saying, "Come"? Does it call you to a closer fellowship? Does it mean a deeper work of grace in your heart? Does it mean a more complete surrender? Does it mean leaving something that other people might think is all right for you to keep, but in your heart, you know that Jesus is calling you? Is it a call, perhaps, to a more unreserved commitment to the work of soul-winning?

Whatever the call Jesus brings to your heart this morning, whatever the "come" that is echoing from the lips of Christ and reaching your heart, oh, I hope you'll say, "Lord, I will come. I do come. And I come right now."

How many of us would like to send Him the word this morning that we're with Him to come all the way? May I see your hands? Thank God, we're together in it.

Now, perhaps you'd like to put your commitment in your own words this morning, in a word of response. I know Jesus will love to hear you. What is your response?

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