

One-Talent Soul Winner

#0387

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—January 28, 1972

Last Friday night, we were studying how to work and live successfully in the Christian way, and all our thoughts were focused upon Jesus. You remember we represented it by the fingers of the hand: “Look unto me,” “Call upon me,” “Come unto me,” “Love Jesus.”

If we love Him, we’ll want to do all these other things, and the more we do these other things, the more we’ll love Him.

This evening, I want to study especially His words, “Follow me.”

Let’s turn to Matthew 4 verse 19:

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

He was talking to Peter and Andrew, to James and John, who were fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. And He invited them to leave their nets and come and join Him in the greatest work in the world, the work of soul-winning. And He spoke of it as fishing for men.

Now, the thing that I want you to notice tonight is this. That in this experience of answering the call of Christ to unite with Him in soul-winning lies our greatest opportunity for fellowship with Him and the secret of victory over temptation and sin. Do we want a friendship with Jesus? If we’re going to go with Him, we’ll need to go where He’s going and do what He’s doing, right? Well now, what *is* He doing?

Turn to Luke the 19th chapter and the 10th verse, and we’ll find out what He’s about:

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” Luke 19:10.

He’s in the seeking business. What’s He seeking? What was lost. And He’s not only hunting, but He’s also what? Saving. Oh, yes. He not only comes where the drowning man is, but He also pulls him out. He not only goes over the mountains *looking* for the lost sheep, but He also searches until He *finds* it and puts it on His shoulders and bears it home rejoicing.

Now, He invites you and me to share the same work, to be in the same business. And it’s for you, my friend. Oh, I hope that somebody out there in one of those pews tonight is going to get the thought that it’s for *you*.

You know, when Brother Wilson was telling us a few minutes ago about some of these experiences Bill Dull is having, it didn't take me long to think back not so long ago when Bill was a student here. And it fell to my lot one morning to work on a problem that had almost resulted in Bill going home leaving this campus. He'd only been here a few days.

My point is, friends, the way the Lord is using Bill right now is the way He can use many a young man and a young woman and an older one too that's sitting right here tonight. God has a work for *you* to do. And this is what I want to study with you—how *you* can have a part with Jesus.

He says:

“...Follow Me, and I will...” Matthew 4:19.

What?

“...make *you* fishers of men” Matthew 4:19.

But may I tell you, friends, this is a very individualistic work, a very individualistic work.

You know, I have a few keys here in my pocket, and there aren't any two of them alike. And there's none of you has a key like that one. And none of you has a key like that one. And do you know why these keys are so peculiar? Because each of them is designed for a separate peculiar lock.

And the reason that you are peculiar and individual is that there are certain individuals that need the help that you can give. And God had planned before you were born to get you ready (with a little filing, of course) to fit into the needs of various people that nobody else can reach as well as you can. Are you willing?

You see, the Devil understanding this, tries to discourage us by making us feel that there's nothing much we can do because we're not like somebody else that's winning souls. Well, if all the people that need to be helped were just alike, that might be a good argument. But friends, people are not like that. People are different. They're not like Ford or Chevrolet cars running along the highway. Oh, no. Each one is a new model. Each one has problems, prejudices, past experiences, dispositions, ways of looking at things. Each one has a different set of brain cells.

What if *you*, with what you think of as handicaps, disadvantages, lack of qualifications—what if you had been selected by God for those very reasons to reach a certain soul, but you should decline through some false humility or lack of confidence? Wouldn't that be a tragedy, my friends? This is the Devil's game.

And oh, I want you tonight to know that *you*—I mean *you*—can do a work for Jesus, if you will let Him use you as He wants to.

What did our text say?

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

Let's let Him do it. What do you say?

But now, listen. He says, “Follow Me,” not “Follow Bill Dull or Bill Frazee,” or any other Bill. Listen. Follow whom? Jesus. Why? Jesus is the only infinite One that ever walked this planet and showed us how to do it. He's infinite, but He's down to earth. He knows how to lead you into the very situation where you can accomplish the most.

Listen, as I read it from an inspired pen:

“If the teachers of His Word are willing, the Lord will lead them into close relation with the people. He will guide them into the homes of those who need and desire the truth, bringing them into the situations best suited to their talents”
Welfare Ministry, page 101.

We are told that there are people with one talent that can reach other souls that people with ten talents can't approach at all. Now, I don't know how many talents you have, and you don't need to find out how many you have. Just start using the *one* that you *know* you have.

And if there's some soul here that says, “Brother Frazee, I don't even have one.”

I shall contradict you, for in the parable that Jesus gave there in Matthew 25, while there were some that had a number of talents, there wasn't a one in the story that was left without any. You remember that, don't you?

Oh, my dear friend, you with the *one* talent, will you let Jesus use that *one* talent to reach a soul that needs a one-talent key to open it? Will you do that? And how will you find out how to do that? I want to be very practical tonight, friend. There is something that everybody here tonight can do. And if you'll do it, every one of you can win a soul. And *unless* you do it, none of you will win a soul. It is this: pray for souls, pray for souls.

Do you have a little prayer list? Do you get down with Jesus day by day and ask Him not only to bless those souls but watch the next point. Do you ask Him to help you find the key to those hearts? Do you ask Him to help you to know when to speak and to whom and how, and what to say? Listen, He is in the guiding business. He says:

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

I remember one morning I was praying over some names. And as I came to a certain name and was praying about this name, I'm sure it was the dear Lord that

impressed me with the thought of going over to where this man lived and taking a young man who was helping me, and that we would sing for this man. I'd heard he wasn't feeling well. So, we did it. We went over that day and sang for him. Only a few days later, I was called to preach his funeral.

Well, I'm glad that I went when I was impressed, but why was I impressed? Because I was praying for him, see. My point is, friends, God has a thousand different ways of reaching souls, and He'll help you to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right word, to the right man, if you will seek Him day by day for His guidance.

Why not give Him a chance? Why not be just as practical and matter of fact about it as though you were going to work in a factory or in a home.

Suppose some of you girls were going to a home to help with the housework. I can imagine that if you'd go in there in the morning at eight o'clock, the first thing you would expect to do would be to present yourself to the lady for what? Directions, directions. Do this way with Jesus.

And if you say to me, "Well, Brother Frazee, I do that, but I don't seem to get any orders."

Well then, I'd just keep on praying until you get some. That's all. There are times when the best thing you can do is to be still. Talking all the time isn't the answer. But oh, if day by day you're praying to God, at the right time the dear Lord will help you to say the right word to the soul for whom you're burdened.

You may need more love for that soul than you now have. As time goes on, you're either going to get less love or more love. It will depend upon how earnestly you pray. Oh, I repeat, this is something everybody here tonight can have a part in. Everybody can get down all alone with God and pray for some definite souls—one or two or three or half a dozen, however many your heart can hold.

But don't think, friends, that running over some long list in itself is the thing. You need time to pray for certain ones that God has especially planned for you to reach. One soul that your key clicks with is worth a hundred that you merely press the key against the lock, but it won't go in. It's worth more than a dozen where the key goes in but won't turn. The only key that opens the lock is the one that fits so well that it not only enters but can turn the bolt. Am I right?

Friend, there is somebody that God has prepared *you* to be that one that opens the heart, that opens the lock. And I'm not just telling a story. This is true. This is real. This is for you. Jesus says:

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

Can you think of anything else more wonderful than to reach the heart that needs help? Jesus said:

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

Now, there's something else we can do besides praying. We can drop seed, precious seed. The seed is the Word of God. We can have this Word in our hearts and on our tongues. We can share it with others. And then, thank God, we can be watching for opportunities to leave portions of the Word, or messages concerning the Word with this one and that one.

Let me read you an inspired statement here from the little book *Christian Service*, 151:

“Carry with you, wherever you go, a package of select tracts, which you can hand out as you have opportunity... Important results will follow” *Christian Service*, page 151.

Yes. Brother Finley, I wish you'd tell us a little bit about these new tracts that have just come out from our publishing house and are to be used in this Mission '72. Will you tell us a little bit about it?

[Brother Finley] I'd like to tell you about the tracts as I tell you an experience that I had just this past week. My wife and I were visiting in one of the community hospitals here, and we had our daughter with us, so both of us couldn't go to the patient at the same time. And so, I visited first and then came back down to the waiting room, and then my wife was visiting the lady and giving her some comfort and counsel as I was in the waiting room with my daughter.

And as I was sitting there in the waiting room, I had my Bible with me, and a lady came up to me seeing my Bible, and she said, “You know, Pastor, I enjoy your preaching so much.”

And I began to think as I heard her say that because I didn't recognize her, I'd never seen her before, and so I just calmly listened.

And she said, “You know, sometimes when you're preaching on the street corner, I miss my bus listening to you.”

Well, right away I knew that she had mistaken me for someone else, but I thought to myself, “Now, Lord, here's an opportunity. What can I do? How can I open this lady's heart? What would Jesus do?”

And so, I just listened. And I said, “Do you enjoy studying the Bible, reading the Word of God?”

And she said, “Oh yes, I do so much.”

And I could tell from her dress that she was a patient there in the hospital and just lounging in the waiting room.

And so, I said, “How long have you been here?”

And she told me, and we spent some time there talking together for about 10 or 15 minutes, talking about the promises of God.

And I said, "Let's have prayer right here. Let's ask the Lord to be with you and guide you."

And so, we prayed together.

And then I said, "I have something I'd like to give you. You know, people are worried about our world, and they're concerned with what's going to happen in the future. But this little tract presents hope and confidence. It presents the fact that our world is not going to break up but that Jesus is going to come, and He's going to solve the many problems that seem unsolvable today."

And so, I gave her this little tract, "Struck by Lightning."

As Elder Frazee has mentioned, these tracts have recently come out, and they are one of the many, many tools that God has for us to use in reaching hearts. There are eight tracts in the series, and each of them deals with problems that our society is facing. And they present the beautiful Bible answer to any problem that our society is facing.

This one, "Struck by Lightning," presents the answer to the problems of pollution, the problems of our environment. This one, "Marriage Isn't Easy," presents the answer to marital problems that people are facing today as found in the Word of God. "Rescue from Orion" presents the beautiful answer to the problem of war and crime as Jesus intervenes. "Guilt Can Be Lethal" presents the answer to worry, fear, tension. "What Faith Healers Don't Tell You," a beautiful little tract that presents the natural remedies and God's answer to sickness.

This is an interesting one. "Cinerama Psychic," God's answer to spiritualism and the miracles of Satan, His answer to that is the truth about death. "Hell and High Water," God's answer to the problems that we're facing in our world. This tract points out the fact that there was a flood, the world was destroyed once by water, it will be again destroyed by fire. It's a beautiful little tract giving people hope and confidence in the days ahead. And then, this last one called "A Star in the Night," God's answer to tension through the Sabbath, a great star or beacon shining in the night.

And so, these are wonderful little tools that the Lord has for us.

[Elder Frazee] Brother Finley, who is the author of these tracts?

[Elder Finley] The author is Elder George Vandeman. And interestingly enough, each tract offers a free book. Each tract corresponds to one of Elder Vandeman's books. And an individual after reading these tracts (they're very short, very concise) after reading it, he has an opportunity to send in for a book. And then, after he sends in, we will receive the names from the General Conference of

Seventh-day Adventists in Washington, D. C., and follow up by delivering the book ourselves.

[Elder Frazee] Thank you, my brother. Thank you for telling us about these.

Now, we plan to use thousands of these this year. You can have some of these in your pocket or ladies in your purse. And as you meet somebody when you're shopping, when you're visiting, when you're traveling, when some salesman comes to the door, whenever, you can select the one that *you* think will be of special interest to this individual. And who is there to guide you and help you pick out the right tract for that person? Jesus is there. He says:

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

Now, dear friends, you'll pardon me if I express it this way, but I know the Devil well enough to know what He's telling somebody, and so I just want to contradict him.

The Devil is telling somebody in some pew here tonight, “This is all right for other people, but it doesn't mean me.”

My dear friends, no matter what your problem, your handicap, you can have a part with Jesus in this work.

Listen. This is *Christ Object Lessons*, 332:

“Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them...Press with determination in the right direction, and circumstances will be your helpers, not your hindrances” *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 332.

I want somebody here tonight to get the thought that the things you have considered as reasons why you can't be a soul winner, rightly turned around, those are the very things that you're going to use, God is going to use, to make you a successful soul-winner.

Now, I want to share with you a little experience—a little experience? You'll think before we get through it's a big one. It happened over in Africa, at the Rusango Mission in Africa. There was a period of drought. There hadn't been rain for a long time, and the crops were affected so much that there wasn't enough corn. And the way the mission was set up it meant that quite a number of the students were going to have to go home because there wouldn't be food to feed them.

So, the faculty got together to study over which half of the student body to send home. And they went over name after name. And you can imagine it was a heart-breaking thing. And naturally, if a student was not doing well scholastically, or was not performing well in his work assignments, or was making disciplinary problems, naturally he would be thought of as one of the halves of the student body to go home.

Well, among these was a young man by the name of Yakob, Yakob Honatuba. He wasn't doing well at work. He wasn't doing well in his classes. And he was making a problem in the dormitory. And so, of course, he was to go. Well, like a number of the other students, he took what little belongings he had, and before the day was over, he was on his way quite a distance.

Time went on. The faculty busied themselves with the half that remained, that they had food enough to feed, and the others were scattered out wherever they lived, many miles in various directions.

A number of months later, a missionary of another denomination stopped by to spend the night.

And as they were visiting there in the evening, he said, "I didn't know that you folks had a church in the Kasempa District."

And our missionary said, "No, we don't have any church there. We don't even have a prayer house there."

"And that is what I thought," Mr. Fell, this other missionary, said. "But I was passing through one of the villages there the other day and ran across a group of your believers."

"Impossible," our missionary said.

"Well, not impossible, but true." He said, "I think I know Seventh-day Adventist when I see them. I talked with them for a few minutes and found they were worshipping on Saturday. And besides, they sing the same songs that your boys sing here."

"Strange, very strange," the mission director said. "I can't imagine who you ran across."

Well, in the morning, the missionary from the other church went on his way, and later in the day, our missionary talked with one of the other missionaries there on the station. Their curiosity had been aroused, and they decided they'd make a trip to go down there.

And somehow, those natives in Africa have a way of telegraphing things by the grapevine, and by the time our missionaries got down there to this village, word had reached the group, and they came out to meet them.

And they were singing, "Lift up the trumpet, and loud let it ring, Jesus is coming again."

And leading them was Yakob Honatuba. He'd gone out there in that village, miles and miles from the school or any other work of the Gospel. And there he had witnessed to his own people and raised up this company of believers. And they were keeping the Sabbath, and he'd taught them these songs.

And then, he took the missionaries over to a little building, the tithe house, wherefrom their meager resources, they had set aside the tenth for the house and work of God.

Before the missionaries left, Yakob, very timidly with tears in his eyes, said, “Do you think perhaps I might come back someday to the mission school?”

What do you think? Do you think he could? My point is, friends, God took a most discouraging circumstance of drought that made it necessary to send students home, and He took the very failures of that boy, Yakob. And He put together those problems and used those problems to put that boy where all alone in a heathen village he witnessed for Christ.

Oh, my friend, I pray that God will help us to use our advantages while we have them. What do you say? And along with it, learn to use our disadvantages, our problems.

Are you having some problem? Do you have some handicap? If down on your knees you will come to God day after day after day, He will teach you how to use those handicaps to the glory of His name. You can reach souls that nobody else can reach. Jesus can help you to be at the right place, at the right time, with the right word, to the right man.

Will you let Him do it? Oh, will you let Him make you a fisher of men?

You see, friends, what we’re dealing with is eternal life, and that’s of infinite value. The problems of the world are catching up on us. And God intends that out of these problems of war and riot and revolution, of drugs, of pollution, of the breakup of the home, the breakdown of society, worry, fear, anxiety—God intends that all these problems shall become the opportunity for you and me to find souls with the message of Jesus’ love and show them how to get their problems solved in Christ.

And if you’d never had any problems, how could you help people that are full of problems? If you’re having problems now, will you let Jesus help you find His solution and cause you to make those problems the means of helping others? Jesus will take you through that sort of training if you let Him. He has an appointment with you for a private class every day.

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

All alone with Jesus day by day, down on your knees, go over your prayer list. If you don’t know who to pray for, get down with an empty list and pray until you know some name to put on that list. And then, day by day, pray that Jesus will help you to say the right word at the right time. Keep praying day after day that God will water the seed that you’re sowing, the words that you’re speaking, that His Holy Spirit will witness with hearts. Pray, pray, pray.

“Lord, lay some soul upon my heart,
And love that soul through me;
And may I humbly do my part
To win that soul for Thee.

To win that soul for Thee,
To win that soul for Thee,
And may I humbly do my part
To win that soul for Thee.”

Will you turn to number 625, please.

“Hark! ‘tis the Shepherd’s voice I hear,
Out in the desert dark and drear,
Calling the sheep who’ve gone astray,
Far from the Shepherd’s fold away.
Bring them in, bring them in.”

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #361, first stanza.

Listen, friends, I want to ask you something. How many of you here turn to want to be heart to heart with Jesus, following Him to put your life into soul-winning? May I see your hands? Thank God. Are you going to give Him the time, day by day? Are you going to talk with Him about souls and let Him talk to you about souls? Will you send Him that word tonight? Good. All right.

Now, as we sing this song, I have a special invitation to several here tonight. You’ll have to decide whether this is for you or not. I leave that with the Lord to impress your heart. There’s somebody here tonight that’s not doing anything in soul-winning, but you’d like to get into it, but you don’t know how to get in, where to get in.

While we sing this song, I want you to come to our little after-meeting room here, and Pastor Finley will be right there at the door to meet you. And whether there’s one or a score, we want to help somebody here tonight that’s not now involved in soul-winning, and you don’t know where to get into it and how to get hold of the handle. You come. We’ve got something for you.

Now, besides those that are not doing anything in soul-winning, there may be somebody here tonight that’s doing something in soul-winning, but you feel that you can do more and should do more, but you don’t know where to get into that. You come, too.

Now, this is not a general call. I hope all of us are going out of this chapel tonight with the determination to work for Jesus and pray earnestly about souls. But there’s somebody here tonight that will want to enlist in a very definite way. Remember, if you’re not doing anything now in soul-winning and you don’t know how to get into it and how to begin, come while we sing.

And if you’re already doing something but you feel that God wants you to do more than you’re doing and you don’t know how to reach out for souls and want to

get into something definite, more than you're doing, you come as we sing this song, 625.

Now, I have another invitation. There may be some soul here tonight that needs salvation. If there is, I want you to come up right here to this altar. I want to grip your hand. I want to pray for you and with you. In other words, friends, we're here tonight, not just to talk about helping people out there somewhere. We're here tonight to help somebody that's right here that needs help and wants it, to find Jesus. If there's somebody like that, you come right here and let me grip your hand.

"Hark! 'tis the Shepherd's voice I hear,
Out in the desert dark and drear,
Calling the sheep who've gone astray,
Far from the Shepherd's fold away.

Refrain:
Bring them in, Bring them in,
Bring them in from the fields of sin;
Bring them in, Bring them in,
Bring the wanderers to Jesus.

Who'll go and help the Shepherd kind,
Help Him the wandering ones to find?
Who'll bring them back into the fold,
Where they'll be sheltered from the cold?
Refrain.

Out in the desert hear their cry,
Out on the mountain wild and high,
Hark! 'tis the Master speaks to thee,
"Go, find My sheep where'er they be."
Refrain.

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #361, first stanza.

After the benediction, as the audience passes out, may we request special reverence for the sanctuary and let our voices in the foyer be subdued.

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee so much for the call of Jesus:

"...Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"
Matthew 14:9.

We're glad for those who are hearing the call and enlisting in this glorious work tonight. Bless in the after meeting with them. Bless these who have come up here to seek Thee for special help. Bless as we tarry with them. Bless any others in this audience to whose hearts Thou art speaking.

And as we go forth from this chapel, may it thrill each heart to know that he's somebody special in Thy plan. And day by day alone with Thee, teach us how to be

at the right place, at the right time, with the right word. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

God bless you all.

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