

What Do You Really Want?

#0413

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 2, 1974

I'm so glad the Lord has given us a choice, that we can decide what we want and what we're going after. You know, long ago, there was a young woman who was given a wonderful offer by the king of the world. Ahasuerus held out the golden scepter to Esther.

And he said, "What would you like? You're going to have it even if it means the half of the kingdom."

If you'd like to put that down in your notes, it's in the book of Esther, the fifth chapter, the third verse. And then, you'll find it again in the sixth verse, and in the seventh chapter and the second verse, and in the ninth chapter and the twelfth verse.

Four times the king said, "Esther, what do you want? What do you really want? I'm going to give it to you, even to the half of my kingdom."

Hundreds of years later, there was another young woman to whom a king made a similar offer. You read about that in Mark the 6th chapter, verses 21–23.

King Herod said to Salome, "What would *you* like? I'll give it to you even to the half of my kingdom."

She asked for the death of a prophet. Esther pled for the life of a people. And both got what they asked for. Both got what they wanted. Didn't they?

What do *you* want? What do you *really* want? What do you want more than anything else in this world?

Turn to the 145th Psalm verse 16, and we'll notice a marvelous statement, one of these stupendous statements that inspiration alone can make:

"Thou openest Thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing" Psalm 145:16.

God is in the business of giving every creature what it wants. Look around you in the world of nature, and you'll see it. What do fish want? They want water. Is it there? Lots of it. Rivers and lakes, oceans, and there the fish are because that's what they want.

What does a pig want? Well, he wants a mire to wallow in. Is there any around? Oh, yes. They manage to find it, don't they? Yes. What does a buzzard want? Well, you know what he's looking for. He could fly over a whole field of clover

and not stop for what's interesting the bees. But if somewhere out there on the hillside, he can find an old, stinking carcass, he's found what he wants. Even in this world of sin, arrangements have been made for the different creatures to have what they want.

I said to my wife this afternoon, "What do doves eat?"

She said, "I'll look it up for you."

She looked it up, and she said 99 percent of their diet is seeds. Not exactly buzzard fare, is it? And does God arrange for the doves to find the seed that they want?

"...Your heavenly Father feedeth them..." Matthew 6:26.

Now, they have to hunt for it. They have to seek for it. And it's written for you and me:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you" Matthew 7:7.

What are *you* seeking for? What door are *you* knocking at, hoping that it will be opened? What do you want to *do* in life? What does success mean to you? What do you wish to attain? What do you wish to obtain? What do you want? What do you really want?

I was reading in some interesting testimonies that came to the St. Helena Sanitarium out in California many years ago before most of you were born. The sanitarium was going through a period of difficulty, perplexity, problems. And the Lord's messenger said that that sanitarium in God's providence at that time was to be the crucible to develop what was in the workers; to bring out the dross and the gold.

Let me tell you, friend, in the place where you are tonight, if it's on this campus or somewhere else, God is giving you an opportunity to find out what you really want and to develop a character that will appreciate and be able to accept what you really want. That sometimes takes time. It takes time to discover what you want.

Somebody says, "Oh, I know right now what I want."

Are you sure? Can you look back and see any time that you thought you wanted something and then found out you didn't? Well, if you can't do that, you haven't lived very long. You don't even have to have gray hair to have discovered this important fact in life. And that is:

"...The way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" Jeremiah 10:23.

Sometimes, God permits us to have at least a taste of something we *think* we want, hoping that we'll discover before it burns us all the way down that it isn't for us, and that we'll spit it out. It's too bad to get ulcers finding out what *isn't* meant for us, isn't it? Yes.

What do you want? What do you really want? What do you want with all your heart?

Today I read about an interesting experience that comes from several years back. It runs like this:

"The boy had fallen running home after school and skinned his left knee. It was no more than a scratch, but by night the knee began to ache. 'Nothing much,' he thought. He was 13 years old and the sturdy son of a frontiersman. And so, ignoring the pain in his knee he knelt down and said his prayers and climbed into bed in the room where he and his five brothers slept.

"Next morning, the leg was still more painful, but he didn't tell anybody. The farm kept the whole family busy, and he had to be up in the morning to get his chores done before school. And so, he dragged to his work and went on to school.

"But two mornings later the leg was hurting so bad that he couldn't drag himself to the barn. And since it was Sunday, he had a chance to rest while the folks went to Sunday School and church. And by that night the leg had swelled so much that they had to cut the shoe off his foot. And mother bathed his foot and leg, put poultices on, and the next morning sent for the doctor.

"The old doctor examined the leg and pursed his lips. He said, 'It's not likely we can save the leg.'

"The boy sat up, and he said, 'What does that mean?'

"'It means,' the doctor said, 'that if things get worse, we'll have to amputate.'

"'Not me,' the boy said. 'I won't have it. I'd rather die.'

"'the longer we wait, the more we'll have to take off,' the doctor said.

"'You won't take any off,' the boy said.

"His mother turned away shaken, and the doctor stalked out and nodded to the mother to follow him into the hall. And then, he explained the situation.

“But presently, they heard the sick boy calling to his brother, ‘Ed, Ed, come up here, will you?’

“And so, as his brother came in, the 13-year old, sick fellow said, ‘Ed, if I go out of my head, don’t let them cut off my leg. Promise me, Ed, promise.’

“And Ed promised.

“And so, when the doctor and the mother came back, they saw Ed with his hands folded standing there in front of the door.

“And looking the doctor in the eye, he said, ‘Nobody’s going to saw off that leg.’

“‘But Ed, you’ll be sorry,’ the doctor gasped.

“‘maybe so, Doc, but I gave him my word, and nothing changed that.’

“And so, for two days and nights, Ed stayed there on guard. He didn’t get away even for meals. He slept there right at the door. And meanwhile, the fever mounted, and the leg got worse. And it looked as if it was going to take his life.

“And then, the father and mother in their hour of desperation, they remembered that their father, the boy’s grandfather, had been a praying minister. In their great need, they knelt down and asked God to save that boy’s life. And they kept on praying. And while somebody went out and did the chores, others continued to pray.

“And the next morning when the faithful doctor came by, his experienced eye saw a sign: the swelling was beginning to go down. Dr. Conklin closed his eyes and made a rusty prayer of his own, a prayer of thanksgiving. And even after the boy dropped into a normal sleep, one member of the family after another kept the prayer vigil.

“That night, the boy opened his eyes, and the swelling was way down now, and the discoloration had almost faded. In three weeks, pale and weak but with eyes clear and voice strong, the boy could stand up. And Ike Eisenhower was ready to face life” [Source unknown.]

What did he want? He wanted his leg. And he wanted it enough to go through pain so excruciating that most people couldn’t have stood it. God gave him what he wanted.

What do *you* want, my friend? What do you want enough to suffer for it—to seek it with all your heart, to stick to your purpose? What do you *really* want?

You remember that James and John came once with their mother. They said, “Master, we’d like to have You give us whatever we ask” [a paraphrase of Mark 10:35].

Jesus said, “And what would that be?” [a paraphrase of Mark 10:36].

They said, “We’d like to sit one of us on the right hand and one on the left hand” [a paraphrase of Mark 10:37].

To us, listening, it sounds like a selfish request, but Jesus knew that down underneath the obvious selfishness, there was a deep love for Him and a desire to be with Him. And they never lost that desire, my friends. And 60 years later out on the Isle of Patmos, that Jesus that they had walked with in Galilee and Judea visited the aged apostle. And John wrote down what He said:

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne...” Revelation 3:21.

How the heart of John must have thrilled, how he must have thought back over those 60 years of fellowship with his Lord. Did he get the answer? Did he get what he wanted? Oh, yes. Thank the Lord.

Think of Jacob, as a boy, as a young man.

“Jacob, what do you want?”

“Oh, I want the blessing. I want the birthright. I want it so much I’ll cheat to get it.”

“Too bad, Jacob, that only delays it.”

But Jacob never forgot what he wanted, and *God* never forgot what Jacob really wanted deep in his heart, did He? No. And years later, there by the Jabbok, Jacob wrestled in prayer with the Son of God. And his whole soul was poured out in that earnest plea:

“...I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me”
Genesis 32:26.

Did he get what he sought? Did he get the blessing? Oh, yes. The Scripture says:

“...And He blessed him there” Genesis 32:29.

And in token, his name was changed from Jacob, the supplanter, to Israel, a prince of God. Thank God, he got what he really wanted.

Think of Solomon at Gibeon.

Just entering upon his work as the king of Israel in her days of greatest glory, God says, “Solomon, tell Me what you want. Tell me what you really desire” [a paraphrase of 1 Kings 3:5].

Solomon says, “Lord, I want a wise and understanding heart to know how to go out and how to come in before this people” [a paraphrase of 1 Kings 3:7–9].

God said, “Solomon, because you haven’t asked for riches or honor, but you’ve asked for wisdom, I’m going to give you what you’ve asked for and all these other things too” [a paraphrase of 1 Kings 3:11].

It’s true that in the glory of his prosperity, he lost sight of God for a season. But in his sunset years, he saw the utter vanity of all things earthly and sinful and turned again to drink of the living waters. Solomon got what he’d asked for. He got what he really wanted.

He said:

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding” Proverbs 4:7.

What do *you* want? What do you want with all your soul?

There’s Moses, at 40 years of age, he faced the decision, “What would he go after?”

The throne of Egypt was his if he would continue on the route he was traveling. But there was something more that he wanted. He wanted to deliver his downtrodden people.

And as God looked at Moses, He said, “Moses, is that what you *really* want? Very well, we’ll get you ready.”

And it took 40 more years to get him ready. As I say, friends, it takes time to discover what you want. And if it’s more than a hog wallow, it may take time to develop what you want and to develop you to appreciate it and enter into it.

If it’s a purpose in life that’s worth wanting, it may take time to get you to the place where you can carry out that purpose. But do you really want it? Do you want it enough to pay the price? Do you want it enough to make the effort, to accept the goal and keep at it?

“...This one thing I do...” Philippians 3:13.

Moses did. And thank God, he got to see what he had given his life to. He got to see his people, two million of them, taken from the slavery of Egypt to the glorious Promised Land. What do *you* want? What do you really want? Do you really want to

be led by God, or do you want your own way and just the *name* of being in harmony with God?

May I tell you that the circumstances you are in tonight offer you the opportunity of either one. They will bring you to situation after situation where you will either be led of God as you earnestly seek Him, or like Balaam, you'll carry out your own purpose, trying to fool God and yourself, hoping to get your way with God's approval. What do you really want? Do you want to be led of God?

You know, just the other evening I was talking with a dear friend of mine who leads out in a sister institution. He was asking me for counsel on a certain matter. He'd been teaching a class on some reformatory subjects, and somebody had written off to somebody else to find out about a certain testimony that had been written. And sure enough, back came the answer that gave this person who had written the opportunity to do something different from what had been taught in the class.

He was asking me if I had any counsel. I said, "Yes." And I referred him to some other statements that were equally plain or plainer.

But I said, "Remember, my brother, God gives people the opportunity to find what they want and to do what they want."

Doesn't He? Did you ever find somebody that was studying this message, and they became deeply convicted and convinced that the seventh day is the Sabbath, but it bothered them because it would mean a change in their life practice and perhaps the disapproval of relatives or friends? Did you ever see them go through the experience of hunting for some loophole? Did you ever see them as they explore the Bible, hunting for some text that'll get them off the hook?

Do you know what happens? If that's what they really want, they find it.

Can you think of some texts in the Bible that might help a person who wants to get off the hook about keeping the Sabbath? Oh, yes.

An inexperienced mind says, "Why would God let verses like that get in the Bible?"

Indeed, why would He? They're all right. They belong there. If they're understood right and used right, they'll never lead anybody astray. But oh, my friends, God is going to let everybody find what he really wants, whether it's on this campus or a thousand miles away.

You know, I've thought about it. You probably wouldn't think that this campus would be a good place to find cigarettes. And I don't think I could find any. But there are some people who could come on this campus and probably would find a cigarette somewhere. I don't know. Do you know why? Because that's what they want.

There are other things on this campus that you and I might wish sometimes weren't here.

And we might say, "Why doesn't somebody *do* something about it? Why doesn't somebody do something about it?"

I think we ought to do all we can to make our own lives and this place and every other place we can influence as much like Eden as possible. What do you say? But listen, did you know there was a serpent in Eden that led somebody astray? Well, why would God let that happen? How much better it would have been if the serpent had not been allowed to give that message that day. Or would it have been better?

When we deal with human choice, friends, we're dealing with a tremendously valuable gift. And the fact that it can be used in the *wrong* way doesn't mean that God was mistaken when He gave it to us. When God started out to give human beings what they wanted, He saw there in the distance the cross of Calvary. And He knew that that is what it would cost *Him* to make it possible for men to have a second chance so that they could find out what they *really* want, what they *really* want.

If you could talk to Adam and Eve now (and you *can* at the resurrection), they would tell, and they *will* tell you that they found out through painful years of toil and travail that what they *thought* they wanted that day in Eden was not what they *really* wanted.

It was an expensive lesson. They spent 900 years fully learning it. You and I'll have to learn it in a shorter time, if we learn it. But if we *insist* on going to the pig wallow and there rooting in the mire, if we *insist* on dining with the buzzards, if we insist on going to Sodom and lapping up its filth, sad to say, friends, we can so be changed by associating with the vile, the sinful that we shall lose all potential for being like God.

And it isn't only in what is called filthy and low that this danger exists. In the pride of this world, in the sophisticated education of this world, we find that fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that leads men not necessarily to the gutter, to alcoholism and the vilest lust. It may lead them to the heights of worldly fame in politics, in education, in business, in worldly success. And if that is what human beings want, God won't necessarily work a miracle to *keep* them from getting what they set their hearts on. God will not force anybody.

But oh, how Jesus weeps as minds that He made to reflect His image turn out at last to be Xerox copies of Lucifer, the adversary, changed to be the enemy of God and man. Oh, I say, the potential is tremendous. My friend, my dear young friend and older ones too, what do you want? What do you *really* want? Would you rather be like Jesus, or would you rather be like the Devil?

And may I tell you honestly, there is no third way. You may think there is a middle road between Jesus on the one hand and Satan on the other, but that's an illusion, a *delusion*. Every soul will eventually end up liking what Jesus likes, loving what He loves and hating what He hates, or exactly the reverse.

Jesus says:

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” Mark 8:36.

“If I gained the world, but not the Savior,
Were my life worth living for a day?
Could my yearning heart find rest and comfort
In the things that soon must pass away?

If I gained the world, but not the Savior,
Would my gain be worth the lifelong strife?
Are all earthly pleasures worth comparing
For a moment with a Christ-filled life?

Oh, the joy of having all in Jesus!
What a balm the broken heart to heal!
Ne’er a sin so great, but He’ll forgive it,
Nor a sorrow that He does not feel!

If I have but Jesus, only Jesus,
Nothing else in all the world beside;
Oh, then everything is mine in Jesus;
For my needs and more He will provide.”

“If I Gained the World,” by Anna Olander, first and fourth stanzas.

I’m so thankful that decisions are being made here tonight. Some people are deciding that what they’ve been wanting is exactly what they want more and more of. Did you ever have a piece of watermelon so ripe, so red, so cold, so luscious, that you knew that all you wanted right then was another piece out of the same melon? Did you ever have that experience?

And there are some people here tonight that are like this with Jesus and the life He’s called them to. Am I correct, friends? You know what you want. You want more of the same. If so, it makes Jesus happy for you to tell Him so. And it makes Jesus happy to hear you tell other people so.

But there’s somebody here tonight that God has brought here to hear a message that will change your direction. Tonight somebody has come face to face with the fact that what you have been seeking for is not worth the effort you’ve been putting into getting it, or any effort that you *could* put to get it. That even if you’d get it, it wouldn’t be worth it.

The Christ who met Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road is meeting somebody here tonight to change the course of your life. It may be over some little thing. It was a little thing that changed the course of Eve’s life there in the garden. It was only a dish of lentils that Esau sold out for. Judas got only 30 pieces of silver for his choice, and he threw that down a few hours later.

We're dealing with issues far greater than the size of the tokens.

We're dealing with this fundamental question, "Will I live for Jesus or for self? Do I really want to do the thing I was born for, live the life God made me for, however humble, sacrificial that may be? Is that what I want, what I choose, what I desire? Or do I want some way to get the halo of respectability on *my* plans, *my* wishes, *my* desires, *my* aims?"

Do you see, friends? Oh yes, there's somebody here that God is talking to about that. And so, my dear friend, with whom God is dealing right now, if you will turn from that which has absorbed your mind and heart, either in the world or in the church, that has kept you from life's greatest purpose as you see it tonight, if you are at the crossroads as you hear this message and you will turn from self to Jesus and say, "Lord, I'd rather have you than anything else," I want you to stand right where you are, somebody for whom this is decision time. Just remain standing, dear ones, while other souls make their decisions.

Oh, I thank the Lord for every one of you. It's worth a whole meeting for just one of you and here's a dozen. Dear ones, forget this congregation, forget the speaker, bow your head and close your eyes and talk to Jesus. *He's* the One that you're beholding.

His voice is speaking to your heart, "My son, my daughter, give Me thine heart. My son, My daughter, give Me thine heart" [a paraphrase of Proverbs 23:26].

Oh, what a wonderful thing it is to give the life to Jesus, friends. And when we face the Savior at Calvary, let me tell you, the better the thing is that keeps us from Him, the worse it is.

"If I gained the world, but not the Savior,
Were my life worth living for a day?
Could my yearning heart find rest and comfort
In the things that soon must pass away?
"If I Gained the World," by Anna Olander, first stanza.

Oh, I'm so thankful that souls tonight are finding in a full surrender to Jesus what the Savior longs to give.

Now, for a few minutes, I want to give an opportunity to those who've stood, if you'd like to come up and bear your witness, any of you that would like to that stood. If you made a decision tonight, may I just suggest to you that it can bring blessing to others if you put that in words, it can bring joy to the Savior if you put that in words. It can strengthen your own heart if you put it in words. And if you express not only your surrender but your faith that God has accepted you because He promised to, oh what gladness that will bring to the heart of our Lord.

[Testimony meeting]

[Comments by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

That's good. Wasn't that good? It was right on the point, folks. Why, if I'm running the Christian race and wanting to get to the end of the road as soon as possible, why should I weigh myself down with that which hinders, whether in diet, or dress, or music, or reading, or recreation, or amusement, or literature, or education, or anything else. This is the whole point in what we call the standards or reforms. It's to help us get what we really want and not hinder us in the endeavor. Is that right? Thank the Lord.

...You know, brother, while you were talking, I was thinking of a little car I had 30 years ago. And every now and then, it would slip out of gear. If you ever drove a gear-shift car, you know what I mean.

Now, do you know what I had to do sometimes? I had not only to put it back, but I had to keep my hand right on the lever to keep it in gear. We have to do that with our choice sometimes.

David prayed:

“...Lord...bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar” Psalm 118:27.

I'm glad, brother. I'm glad that when you've been tempted to let it slip out of gear, you put it back in. God is in the business of helping you.

And let me tell you this. Kettering, the man that invented the self-starter (he invented a number of things), he said, “Students need to learn; they need to be taught that the only time it's fatal to fail is the last time you try.”

Now, this isn't to educate us for failure, but it's to educate us to get up every time we fail. I carry a spare tire in my car. You know why, don't you? That doesn't mean I'm planning to have a flat, but I'm sure planning I know what to do if I get one.

God bless you. Keep going right ahead.

...God bless you, brother. I think part of what you found here is because you were looking for it.

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