

Survival (1973 AZ Camp Meeting) 4 of 14

#0428

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

Let us turn to Matthew 24. As I mentioned last night, this is a great chapter for those who wish to survive. That's why Jesus gave this instruction. The whole chapter is focused on the last generation. While it contains many things which are designed for those who heard the Savior, and for those who would see the destruction of Jerusalem, yet the entire chapter focuses on this last generation.

Now in the 12th and 13th verses, we have the thought that I wish to begin our study with tonight.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” Matthew 24:12–13.

These are the survivors, as you see. Those who do what? Endure. How far? Unto the end.

Some years ago, I visited Florida for the first time, and a friend took me to a large orange packing shed. There were hundreds and thousands of oranges coming in from the groves. Well, they had to be sorted and inspected. They passed through a shoot, and as they went along on this long line, there were places where oranges could fall through into a receiving place below. At first, the holes were very small; the purpose, of course, was to do what? To sort out the very small oranges. Then, a little further along the holes were a little larger, and you know, of course what happened. The oranges that were small, but not quite so small as the first batch, they went in through, and so on.

As I stood there looking at that. I thought, if those oranges could think, there's a medium-sized orange that said, I'm not going to fall through. I've already been through this sorting place, and I didn't fall through. I've already been through this net, this sieve, and I didn't fall through; I'm going right on through to the end. But will it? No. There is a place for it to fall through. God help us as intelligent human beings to know what's ahead of us and to be prepared.

“Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” This indicates people who were once on fire, warm with love for God, but gradually they cooled off. “But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.” Oh, I hope everyone here tonight will be one of the survivors. You *can* be.

In our study last night, we found that before the coming of Jesus in power and glory, Satan is going to appear as Christ. He's going to attempt to counterfeit the second coming of Christ. You haven't read about it lately, read the chapter on the time of trouble in *Great Controversy*. Read the description of Satan as he appears in

glory, traveling from place to place, appearing now here and there, healing the sick, and saying some of the same precious truths that Jesus did when He was here. And the whole world is going to be taken in this snare except the little remnant that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. They will detect the deceiver, even in his disguise. They will not be led astray. They are the elect. They are the survivors. They go through that terrible time of deception, and not one of them fails. So, when Jesus appears, they say, "Lo, *this* is our God. We have waited for Him. We didn't listen to that antichrist. We paid no attention to the Devil when he came appearing as Jesus. This is the One we're looking for. We've waited for Him, and He will save us."

My point is, before the true Christ comes, the false Christ appears. Before we can ever go through that experience, we must first receive in its fullness the glorious latter rain, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Last night, we noted that just as Satan counterfeits the coming of Jesus before that event, so he counterfeits the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Latter Rain before the Latter Rain is poured out. We read that in *Great Controversy*, that there will be a great religious revival which will sweep the world, and is pictured in 2 Thessalonians the second chapter: Satan and his agents will work with all power and signs and lying wonders. There will be what is thought to be great religious interest. Mighty revivals and all over the world, people will turn to God, so they think, so they say. And in the name of Jesus, they will work many marvelous works. There will be false prophecy. There will be false miracles. There will be false revivals. This time is just ahead of us. We're even now entering into it, my dear friends.

I showed you last night the story in Newsweek of this month, of this wonderful healing of a nun over there in Naples, Italy. Where the spirit of the late Pope John, so they said, appeared and put his hand upon the stomach of this nun who had an open fistula draining, and she was cured immediately. The doctors came, x-rays were taken, her cancer was cured, she's alive and well today, and filling her place as a nun. The Catholic Church is wide open to the miracles of spiritualism.

One of the greatest Protestant preachers of New York City openly tells about the spiritualistic manifestations that he has witnessed, and the communications he has with some of his relatives. Another one of America's leading Protestant spokesmen has appeared on TV to champion this idea of communication with the dead.

So we are right into this great false revival with its miracles and its healings and all the rest. We're right on the edge of it. We're seeing some things; there'll be a lot more. But you and I, I trust, will wait through, not wade through, but wait through these false revivals, waiting for the true baptism of the Holy Spirit. We want the true latter rain which comes from the sanctuary; not this false spiritualistic manifestation by whatever name it's called, that comes not from Heaven, but from hell. It does not lead to obedience to the law of God. It leads rather to transgression of the law.

Now, tonight I want to study with you what precedes the Latter Rain. As the Latter Rain must precede the time of trouble, which fits us for translation, there is

something which must precede the Latter Rain. This too will be counterfeited. Let's study the true first; then we'll note something about the counterfeit.

Let's turn to Joel 2. A week ago tonight, we referred briefly to this, in view of the approaching day of God. The prophet says it is time to:

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion..."

And Zion, of course, in the time in which we live means what? The church.

"...and sound an alarm in My holy mountain... for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand..."

Now the 12th verse, note carefully every word.

"...Therefore also now, says the LORD, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repents him of the evil. Who knows if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him...?" Joel 2:1, 12-14.

We need that blessing. The blessing is the blessing of the Latter Rain, as the 23rd verse shows. It is the blessing of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as the 28th verse shows. Now, what is it that the church is to do before the Latter Rain can be poured out? It is to come to the Sanctuary and seek the Lord with all the heart, repent of sin, cleanse the camp, and make room for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This is the work that belongs to the church in this solemn hour. This is the work that must precede the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

For decades we have been in the time that God longs to pour out the Spirit in latter rain power. There's no question about that. It isn't something in Heaven that is delaying this. It isn't something in the world around us that is holding this back. Everything in Heaven and everything in the world around us is ready for the final, rapid movements that will usher in the day of God. There is just one thing that waits: The church of God, the people of God. It is a marvel to me, but it is the marvel of divine love that all Heaven waits while you and I go on in our usual vocations and avocations, as if this were an ordinary time. All Heaven is astir. The universe is looking on and waiting for the church of God to recognize that this is the Day of Atonement, not an ordinary time. This is the Day of Judgment, no ordinary hour. This is not the time to be busy with the usual things. It is the unusual which should occupy our attention at this time.

Note the verse again, the 12th verse: "Therefore also now, says the LORD, turn ye even to Me with all your heart." It has become fashionable to be lukewarm. It has become fashionable to be not very bad, but not too good. It has become fashionable to be in conformity. People would rather be dead than out of fashion. And that relates to more than dress. As the result, we move along in a Laodicean

condition while the One who gave His life for us knocks at the door and says, Will you not open and let Me in?

Until we do that, there is no way for the Latter Rain to fall. All our wishing and all our hoping and all our wondering why things don't happen will never bring it. We must repent and repent with all our heart. We must turn from the worldliness in pride, following fashion in dress, in education, in music, in reading, in association, in recreation, and in every other phase of life. We must accept these points which the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy have given us that change lives. We must, through earnest prayer, discover what is wrong with our lives, and put these things away. We must, by earnest prayer seek Jesus for His righteousness and receive it to the point where we cease to break the law of God. The Latter Rain is coming only upon those who obtain the victory over every besetment. Perhaps I should read that in plain words here in the book *Early Writings*.

"I saw that none could share the 'refreshing' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action" *Early Writings*, page 71.

Oh, that God may help us now to do that.

On this page, the prophet tells us she saw some waiting for the time of the Latter Rain and looking forward to that as the time when they would receive the preparation. This is all out of order. It won't happen that way. The time for the preparation for the Latter Rain is before the Latter Rain falls.

Let me illustrate it. Suppose we have some land out here that needs something done to it before the rain falls. Perhaps it needs to be seeded. Perhaps the ground needs to be prepared. Shall we wait until the rain falls in copious showers and then try to get out there and work with it, to put in the seed? You can see how foolish that would be. Let us in faith that the rain will fall do the preliminary work which God has given us. What do you say?

Now, I appreciate these "amens," but may I say, friends, the place to say Amen is every morning in our closets alone with God. And may I be very practical? The reason there is so little early morning communion with God is that the Devil has invented a hundred things to keep people up late at night, so that they're so sleepy-eyed in the morning that they have to wait until the last minute, and then run around to snatch a bite of breakfast, and off to work or school, or whatever they're doing. Do you know what I'm talking about?

The place to begin to change this is in the evening. Night is the time for sleep. It's not the time for midnight snacks. It's not the time for late parties. It's not the time to raid the icebox. It's not the time for ice cream and cake. It's not the time for viewing TV into the wee hours. Neither is it the time to catch up on all the things we couldn't get done in the daylight. Night is for sleep. That's what the Bible says. And if God could help us on this one thing of taking the evening to get close to God, and lay down the cares of the day; if at the family altar we could lay the evening sacrifice of confession and praise and at an early hour go to bed, some of us could

get up in the morning with a rest of soul, and a joy of heart that we long since missed. Let's get ready for the Latter Rain. Let's have time in the early morning to seek the Lord. Let's get to bed at an early hour so that we can awake refreshed and seek the Lord.

"Therefore also now, says the LORD, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning." You know that fasting is the health reform that God has given His people. We can't live on a complete fast in the absolute sense of no food. But we can if we'll take *Ministry of Healing* and the book *Counsels on Diet and Foods* and do what those books tell us, we can be on a continual fast seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. That's not my subject tonight, but if you want a reference on that, I'll give it to you.

Dear friends, the health reform isn't just to keep us from lung cancer and coronary attacks. The health reform is primarily to get our blood in shape so our brain can be in shape to think the thoughts of God. That's the great purpose of it. And we can defeat that not merely by eating the flesh of dead animals, but by filling up on all these artificial sweets that are flooding the stomachs and the bloodstream of American people filling their teeth with cavities, and their bloodstream with those things which raise the blood pressure, deposit cholesterol, and all the rest. God wants His people to come into line in these practical things of life.

My point is, if we'll get down on our knees in the early morning hour, and study the books that God has given us, we'll come into all this light. Then if instead of running around to find somebody who'll tell us that doesn't mean what it says, if we'll be just simple-minded enough there on our knees to say, "Lord, if there's something here you want to change in my life, give me the grace to do it. Give me the righteousness of Jesus that I may have power to meet the enemy, oh, friends you and I can soon be ready for the Latter Rain.

I'm not going to ask for a show of hands here tonight, but how many of you are having family worship? Remember, I'm not asking for a show of hands, I don't want to embarrass anybody. Those who have looked into the matter tell us that there are multitudes of homes among the professed people of God where there's no family altar. Father or mother, or both, are busy running the rat race trying to keep up with the Jones, and there isn't time for those moments of prayer with one another and with the children. Turn please to Jeremiah 3. Here, let us see what's the matter; why there's no latter rain. Here God compares His people as He often does to a woman. But here He speaks of the unfaithfulness of this woman. She's been opening her heart and her body to strangers. She's guilty of adultery. Ye adulterers and adulteresses know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?

"Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed. Wilt thou not from this time cry unto Me, My father, Thou art the guide of my youth?" Jeremiah 3:3-4.

I tell you friends, people don't have to be very old to remember a time when if a woman appeared in the fashions of today, they would have known what district of

the city she came from. But God help us, there's no shame left. This is why God says this is one of the reasons; we just read it here from the book. There's no latter rain. We may pray and we may plead, and we may study. But until we come into line, there will be no latter rain. And it'll take more than some tiny little turning from the world.

What did we read in Joel 2? Therefore now also says the Lord, turn ye even to me with what? All your heart. Listen, when we get good and sick of the world's diet, we will turn from it in total. When we get good and sick of the world's dress, we will turn from it entirely. When we get good and sick of the world's education, we will turn back to the fountains of living water, and receive our training in the original sources that God has given us, and so with every phase of life.

Our difficulty is that we have eaten green apples, and we're not very sick yet. We've eaten of the forbidden fruit, and we feel exhilarated. But the One who knows has come and is seeking us and calling us and bidding us to repent. "Therefore also now, says the LORD, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning." Will somebody do it? God help us to do it, friends. Now, this is what is going to bring the reformation. But let me make clear that we're not to wait for someone else. In the book *Selected Messages* Book 1, I read:

"Are we awake to the work that is going on in the Heavenly Sanctuary, or are we waiting for some compelling power to come upon the church before we shall arouse? Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come..."

What time will never come? When the whole church is revived.

"...There are persons in the church who are not converted, and who will not unite in earnest, prevailing prayer. We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less. Iniquity abounds"
Selected Messages, Book 1, page 122.

You remember in our opening text, Jesus said because iniquity shall abound what'll happen to the love of many? The love of many will, what? Wax cold. Isn't that what's happening all around us? God wants us to gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.

Let me tell you, the only way you can get warm with cold water is to develop what our hydro-therapy friends call a reaction. That's what happens, doesn't it? Rub the body with cold water and it gets what? Warm. So as we come into contact with the worldliness, the pride, the extravagance, the criticism, the sin all about us in the world and even in the church, God wants us to develop not conformity, but what? Reaction. These are the survivors. All else will go down. Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Oh, God help us to be on our knees to get the preparatory early rain so we'll be ready for the Latter Rain. What do you say?

Now, this is the genuine revival and reformation which must come to God's people to fit them for the Latter Rain. But I want to ask you a question, and think this through with me: if the Devil is willing to counterfeit the second coming of Jesus in order to deceive people, and before that he's willing to counterfeit the glorious latter rain and loud cry in order to deceive people, don't you think he would be willing to counterfeit this work of reformation in the church in order to deceive people? That's exactly what he's doing friends. Let's think about it for a little bit. I want to give you some marks so you can tell what's true and what's counterfeit in this matter.

Now in the first place, before we see what these counterfeits are, let us see what methods they use. What method does a counterfeit always use? It pretends to be what? The genuine. It's strange we know that about money, but fail to recognize it many times when it comes to these so-called reform movements. When the Devil comes before Jesus appears, he's going to claim that he is Jesus. He's not going to come and say, I'm the Devil, who would he fool? He's going to come claiming to be Christ, and the whole world is going to accept him as Christ. And that's going to prove that he's right, isn't it? Not a bit of it. The remnant are going to say, "You're the Devil, we have no time for you. We'll not accept you. We're waiting for Jesus, the real Jesus. We know you, and we have no time for you."

And so, in these false revivals, as these great preachers of Babylon heal the sick and bring the thousands to the altar, are they going to say "We're the Devil's agents, we're conducting an effort to bring souls to his majesty Satan? Are they? No, not one of them friends. It will all be done in whose name? Jesus' name. They are claiming that they're the fulfillment of some of the very texts I've read tonight. They believe that these wonderful speaking in tongues and healing the sick are the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That's what they say, and I don't doubt many of them believe it. But they're deluded. And the remnant will not be deceived by that because they have Isaiah 8:20:

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20.

We know that the spirit they received did not come from the Most Holy Place. If it did, it would lead them into conformity to the law of God—obedience to the Ten Commandments. So in these counterfeit movements which claim to be the work to prepare the church for the Latter Rain there will be, there has been, there is today, there always will be the claim that this is it.

Now, let me give you a few examples. One of the great words which the Spirit of Prophecy uses in connection with this work that the church must experience is the work of reformation or reform. During, and shortly after, World War I, a movement arose in Germany which eventually developed into a group calling themselves the SDA Reform Church. For half a century now, they have been hammering away at the defects in the church, the sins in the church, the worldliness in the church, and attempting to call God's people to reform. They have the vocabulary of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. They claim to be the defenders of the truth. They claim to be the remnant of Revelation 12:17.

But how is it we know this is not the movement which will prepare the remnant church for the Latter Rain? How is it? It is not because of their claims. It is because the way they go at the thing is not the way that Heaven said to go at it. I want to read you a statement from *Testimonies to Ministers*. Look how clear this is. Sister White makes it simple and easy to understand:

“When men arise, claiming to have a message from God, but instead of warring against principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, they form a hollow square, and turn the weapons of warfare against the church militant, be afraid of them. They do not bear the divine credentials. God has not given them any such burden of labor. They would tear down that which God would restore by the Laodicean message... The Lord lays upon no man a message that will discourage and dishearten the church. He reproves, He rebukes, He chastens; but it is only that He may restore and approve at last” *Testimonies to Ministers*, pages 22–23.

There you have it, my dear friends, this makes it very simple. Whenever men come along claiming to have a message from God, this is one of the tests we should bring them to. Where are they directing their weapons? When they shoot, what direction do they fire? If they’re shooting at the church and its leadership, this says, “Be afraid of them.” I think that means exactly what it says.

There are people who boast of their ability to read anything, and it would not affect them. I say to you in simple words, don’t fool yourself. There were some things that even the prophet of God wouldn’t read. When Brother Canright left this movement and wrote a letter explaining his reasons, one of the brethren wanted to read it to Sister White. She said, “No.” She wrote Elder Canright and said, “If these are the things that have caused you to sell your birthright for a mess of pottage, I don’t want to run the risk of my mind being poisoned.”

I can read that to you here. I have it here. My point is this friends: if even the prophet of God was afraid to read some things, I wonder how it is that we’ve come to a time when it’s fashionable to read anything? It’s supposed to be an evidence of broad-mindedness. I repeat, don’t fool yourself. May I read this sentence again?

“When men arise, claiming to have a message from God, but instead of warring against principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, they form a hollow square, and turn the weapons of warfare against the church militant be afraid of them. They do not bear the divine credentials” *Ibid.*

That movement that I spoke of has been going on. Some years later, another movement arose in another part of the world field. It took as its special claim to attention, Righteousness by Faith—The Lord our Righteousness. Now, are those words all right? Yes. And remember, the Devil is never going to come into the

Seventh-day Adventist church with a message that says, "This is from the Devil, and is designed to fool you, and get you off the track." Oh, no, the Devil isn't going to do that. The Devil takes the very words, the very phrases that belong to the true work of preparing the church for the Latter Rain, and he uses those.

May I tell you two purposes he has? Oh, I hope it can be as plain as the noon-day sun, watch this point. The Devil has two purposes. One is he knows that thousands of our people are longing for true revival and reformation, longing for true Righteousness by Faith, longing for true reform, longing for a true awakening, and so when something comes along that uses these words and these verses, thousands say, Maybe this is it. But that's only half of the Devil's game, and it's the smaller half. And it's the most obvious half.

Do you know what the greatest purpose of the Devil is in every one of these off-shoot movements? It is to so prejudice our people against that which bears the name of reform or against that which bears the name, of Righteousness by Faith, or against that which bears the name of the sanctuary message, anything that he can do to get our people to the place where they're afraid of the real thing, the true thing. Ah, that suits him oh so much.

Do you see my point, friends? Do not be misled by his devices in either direction. If some movement chooses to call itself the SDA Reform Church, God help them. Let's pray for them. And let's go right ahead with our work of true reform within the framework of the organization that God has established. If some other movement in some other area chooses to take the name, The Lord Our Righteousness, and begins to champion that, but in a way to draw away from the church, let us not spend time arguing over that. But let us not be diverted one moment from our work of making ready a people prepared for the Lord, with true righteousness by faith within the framework of the organization that God has established. What do you say?

Need I add, or is it obvious? If there are those who choose to use the terms, The Awakening, or the sanctuary message, or coming to the open door of the Most Holy Place; if there are those who choose to use these terms in a way to criticize the church and its leadership, to draw away disciples after they let us pray for them, but let us not be diverted by them. Let us not for one moment miss the work God has given us to do. Let us come to the sanctuary in Heaven, let us come to that open door of the Most Holy Place, and let us get our inspiration on that not from mimeograph sheets. Not from printed documents that stir up criticism of the church.

Let us get it from the Bible, from the book, *Great Controversy*, from the book *Early Writings*, and let our hearts be stirred with a genuine love for the true sanctuary service of Jesus, our great High Priest. Let us not for one moment be afraid of these words of reform, even though the enemy uses them: Righteousness by Faith that the enemy might use in some diverting movement, or the Sanctuary, the work in the Most Holy Place. Let us not let the Devil pull us off on one side into some offshoot, or pull us on the other side into some complacent, lackadaisical Laodiceanism which says, "Don't talk to us about reform, that's fanaticism. Don't talk to me about righteousness by faith. Some people got clear out of the church by studying

righteousness by faith. Don't talk to me about awakening; let's sleep on. Don't talk to me about the sanctuary. People get extreme doing that."

Do you see friends? Do you see the dangers in both directions? And do you see how as last night we saw that we must be willing to go through the time when the false Christ appears, and wait for the true Christ. We must go through the time of the false revival in the world and in Babylon, and wait for the true latter rain, so we must be willing to wait for God's time to purify the church. We must not take things into our hands and begin to push and criticize. Before some man or set of men assumes the work of Elijah, let them tarry with the prophet in the mountains of Gilead until they get a love for the church such as Elijah had.

Volume 8, oh, listen carefully to these wonderful words:

"The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit. There will be no confusion, because all will be in harmony with the mind of the Spirit. The barriers separating believer from believer will be broken down, and God's servants will speak the same things"
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 8, page 251.

Do you see my dear friends that the burden of the true reformers, the true awakeners, the true heralds of the sanctuary message, the true exponents of righteousness by faith, their great burden will be the unity of the church—not the division of the church, not the scattering of the flock? By this sign you will know them. And I pray that God will anoint our eyes that we may see, our ears that we may hear, our hearts that we may understand, for we are in the most solemn hour of the history of the church.

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