

Life Guard

#0456

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 10, 1979

“Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumb’ring on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses’ sister chided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.”
“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship” by George Atkins.

That’s what we want, isn’t it? The manna showering down from above.

Well, dear ones, I invite all of you who know the Lord to pray through this meeting that God will be very near to us. I just want to talk to you a little while about three kinds of people. They’re all here tonight, and everybody here is in one of these three classes. There are doubtless degrees in all three, but see which one you fit into. I won’t decide it. You’ll decide it. But I pray that the Spirit of discernment, the Spirit of wisdom, will be upon this congregation that God may indeed meet with us, and we may examine ourselves in the light of the cross.

You know, Jesus came from heaven to earth to seek and to save that which was lost. That’s what He came for. And we were singing a while ago, “He was the Shepherd going out and hunting the sheep.” This world was the one lost sheep that’s gone astray. And He couldn’t rest in heaven. He had to leave all the people that loved Him and come down to a world that *didn’t* love Him because His love went out most to those that needed Him the most. That’s why He came.

And He was seeking all the while to get some people that would share with Him in that burden for souls. That’s why He went to the tax-collecting booth and called Matthew, inviting Matthew to leave his good government job and come with Him to help win souls. Matthew did it. He went down to the Sea of Galilee, and there He called Peter and John and James and Andrew from their fishing boats, fishing nets, to be fishers of men.

And so, He gathered around Him a group of potential soul winners, but they needed an experience with Him. And the greatest experience that they needed to have was the experience of surrendering themselves so that God could use them.

Remember, after He'd been with them sometime, He began to open up to them what was ahead of Him. He told them about His trip to Jerusalem where He would be crucified, and He invited them to share in His cross-bearing.

And I would invite you to turn to Matthew the 16th chapter verses 24, 25, and 26. You'll see what Jesus said to those disciples that He had gathered around Him, and was teaching them the soul-winning business.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:24–26.

Would you sell your life if somebody would offer you a million dollars, a billion dollars, a trillion dollars, sell your life? Well, what would you do with the money if you didn't have life? This is the question Jesus poses:

"...What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
Matthew 16:26.

"What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Matthew 16:26.

But friends, most people are selling out for far less than *that* offer. Esau sold out for a mess of lentils, just a mess of pottage, one meal—lost his birthright, lost the blessing that could have been his. Jesus is trying to help His disciples in this verse understand the value of the soul. He tells us in these words that one soul is worth more than a whole world of property, houses, lands, money. And this—don't miss this—this is to guide us and influence us, not merely in accepting Christ ourselves but in helping others to accept Him. It's to help us decide how we're going to spend our lives, how we're going to spend our time, our money, our efforts.

"What would you give," Jesus says, "What would you give in exchange for your soul?" [a paraphrase of Matthew 16:26]. What would you give in exchange for the souls of others? How valuable is a soul?

"Ah," Jesus says, "it's worth more than the whole world, worth more than the whole world."

It's interesting the efforts that people will put forth to rescue somebody from drowning or from some other tragedy. Brave acts of heroism are performed. Men risk their lives, sometimes give their lives in the endeavor to rescue somebody from death. And it's right. People are valuable.

But friends, when this person is saved from drowning, he's only saved from death for a few years at the most. But here, you and I are given the precious

opportunity of joining with Christ in rescuing people for eternity. Think of it, rescuing people for eternity! To save them from sin! It's Christ that saves them, but He uses human hands to make the contact. It's human hands that pull them out of the water.

So, tonight I'd like to have us think of these three classes of people that I mentioned in opening our little study. Let's think of this boat. You can visualize the lifeboat. And here are people out in the water, struggling in the water. They're drowning, going down to death. That's one group. They're the ones that need to be rescued, aren't they? Yes.

All right. And then, there are people in the lifeboat that are coming to where those drowning ones are and reaching out and pulling them in. They're the lifeguards. They're spending their time pulling people out of those waters of death.

And then, there are those who have been pulled in out of the water and are in the boat. God intends, dear friends, that as fast as possible, everyone who is rescued shall become a life guard! May I repeat that? God intends that as fast as possible, everyone who is rescued shall become a life guard.

And so, tonight, everybody here is in one of those three classes. You're either lost, out in the waters of sin, going down to death. You may realize it to some extent, you may not. But I'll tell you this, dear friends, unless you have surrendered your life fully to Jesus Christ unless He is the Lord of your life, you are lost, you're lost. You may know it, as I say, you may not know it, but it's the truth.

“...For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” Acts 4:12.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” John 3:16.

To believe in Jesus is more than a mere assent to the fact that He was born and died and rose again and went to heaven. The Devil knows all about that. To believe in Jesus in the meaning of the Gospel is to accept Him with all our hearts. It's the response of faith to heaven's offer.

It's to say, “Lord Jesus, as You gave everything for me, I give everything for You.”

And so, my dear friend, have you given your heart to Jesus? If you haven't, oh I hope you will tonight. Men and angels are joining in reaching out the hand of loving invitation and of help. Christ offers you all power in heaven and in earth.

“...As many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God...” John 1:12.

Won't you do it? Won't you give your heart to Jesus right now?

There, as you sit in the pew, say, “Yes, Lord Jesus. I want to be rescued. I don’t want to drown in these waters of sin and death. I want to yield my life to Christ.”

Thank God, friends, for the appeal of the Holy Spirit to our hearts.

Then, there are those here in this audience tonight that are actively engaged in pulling people out of the water for God, actively engaged in soul-winning. I wonder how many there are here tonight (I’m not asking you to raise your hands) that know that you have some people that you are working for, perhaps a little territory that you feel responsible for, just as you have a little garden in your home where you grow carrots and lettuce and string beans and tomatoes.

So, you have some homes that you visit, some people on your prayer list, some people that your heart is burdened for. Perhaps, some of them may be at a distance, and you correspond with them by letter, but you pray about them. And as you lay upon your bed at night, perhaps, those names, as well as during the day, go through your mind, and you pray to God for them.

Perhaps it’s a father and mother praying for their children, or children praying for their parents, brothers, and sisters praying for lost ones. Dear ones, it’s a blessed work to share with Jesus in soul-winning burden.

But I wonder, oh I wonder, I wonder if there’s somebody here tonight that’s been pulled out of the waters of sin and you’re in the boat, but that’s all. You’re just in the boat. It’s a wonderful thing, friends, to be rescued. But God never intended that anybody should be simply rescued and stop there. He wants you to be resuscitated, revived, and join in rescuing others.

In fact, friends, unless you do, you won’t be long in the boat, you won’t be long in the boat. You’ll slip out back into the waters, just as sure as can be. The only way to stay in the boat of salvation is to join with Christ actively, in helping to reach others and win them to the Lord.

As my mind has been greatly impressed with what I’ve just been studying with you in recent days while I’ve been away, the Lord brought to my mind something that was in my files. And when I came home, I looked it up. It’s a dream that the prophet to the remnant had back many, many years ago, long before any of us were born. I want to read this dream to you, as Ellen White related it at a camp meeting:

“Some years ago I had a dream. I dreamed we were out upon the water. There were several in the boat besides myself, and there were other boats about us. The other boats were watching to see what course our boat would take. We had, every one of us, oars, and were rowing with all our might. While we were thus urging our boat along, I saw two or three of the other boats capsize, and the persons thrown from them began to sink. They had no power to save themselves or to get hold of the boat again.

“I said, ‘Let us put about the boat and pick up these souls.’ The answer was, ‘Let them come to the boat; they can see the boat; let them come to us.’ I looked and saw them sinking and rising and struggling for life. I said, ‘We must put the boat about and pick them up.’ The answer again was, ‘Let them come to the boat, and then we will pull them in.’ After waiting a few minutes more, I said, ‘Give me the oars,’ and I began to row with all my might. Said I: ‘Help me; we must go to those individuals and save them where they are.’

“With that, the others took hold of the oars again and rowed with me to get to these individuals. ‘Now,’ said I, ‘take hold of me.’ Then I would reach down, even to the bottom, it seemed to me, exerting all my strength, and would pull one out of the water. Others followed the example. This we did repeatedly, taking them to the shore and leaving them there for others to work over, as some of them were nearly lifeless. Said I: ‘Work over them; every one will live.’ Then we would cry out to those in the boats, ‘reach down your arms to them, and bring them up.’

“I then went to examine those who had been brought to the shore, and as I turned them over to look at their faces I recognized the face of my brother, my sister, and my near friends. I kneeled down, and such thanksgiving as I raised to heaven that God had given us strength to save them, I cannot express.

“I do not know whether this means that these were my natural brothers and sisters; I think it means those connected to us by still closer ties in the church. Said Jesus, ‘Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is My brother, and My sister, and mother.’

“I want to say, brethren and sisters, that we must labor for the wandering where they are. You need not expect those who have the chilling influence of the world upon them to manifest anxiety for their own souls. We must manifest it for them.

“Do you appreciate salvation? ...If you do, God help you to deny yourselves, and make this sacrifice for your fellow men” *Manuscript Releases*, Volume 18, pages 283–284.

So, this evening hour my dear friends, where are you in these three classes? Are you out in the waters lost and know it? Come to Jesus tonight. Give yourself to Him, and He'll save you.

Are you actively engaged in pulling people out of sin? Do you have a prayer list? Are you praying every day for certain definite souls? Do you have some

people that you're visiting, or writing to, or in other ways are working to bring them to Christ?

Or, are you in that class that has been rescued but have never entered into rescuing others? You've just been satisfied to fill a place in the pew, perhaps give some money. But your time, your efforts are largely for self.

Now, let me say it isn't always selfishness that keeps us. Sometimes it's a sense of weakness, inexperience, helplessness. We think we can't do much. I'll tell you, friends, how much you can do without Jesus. If I'd put it on the blackboard, do you know what it would be? A big zero.

"...Without Me ye can do nothing" John 15:5.

And that's just as true of the greatest evangelist in this country, my friends. Without Jesus, he can do nothing. You can't do any more without Jesus. But oh, with Jesus, everyone, everyone can have a part!

Do you remember those two men that were possessed of demons there screaming and tearing themselves in those tombs by the Sea of Galilee? And Jesus and His disciples came upon them in the early morning. They ran, tearing down the beach to meet the disciples and Jesus. Christ held up His hand and calmed them, cast the devils out, they went into the swine. The men were freed.

And soon, the transformation was evident to all. Clothed and in their right minds sitting at the feet of Jesus, they were drinking in His words and praising Him for deliverance. But the people that had lost the swine, asked Jesus to leave, and He was very courteous. He left. And what did those two men want to do? They wanted to go with Him. You can't blame them, can you? You can't blame them. But what did Jesus say?

"Oh," He said, "Go home to your own house and to your friends and tell them and show them what great things God has done for you."

And they became soul winners that very day, my friends, that very day. Read it as Mark and Luke both tell the story, the wonderful story of the blessed results that they got through simply witnessing what Jesus had done for them.

We must never think that soul-winning is dependent on learning a long list of facts. It's true that we need to know more and more of the Word of God, and that will *always* be true. But my friends, if you have learned—don't miss this—if you have learned enough to give yourself to Jesus, you know enough to help somebody else to give their hearts to Jesus.

In fact, if you'll believe me, you may be able to help some soul easier (for them) than somebody that knows 10 times more than you do. That's right. God has given to each person the ability to reach some people that nobody else can reach.

And so, this evening I have an appeal for all three classes. I appeal earnestly to those who have not given their hearts to God or who once did and have lost the way.

Come to Jesus tonight, dear friends. Give Him your hearts. Seek Him with all your souls.

I appeal to those who are now engaged in soul-winning. Seek God for more power. Don't you want more power to win souls? Ah friends, the more you're working, the more you sense the need for new power from on high. And this is what Jesus taught His disciples to pray when He left them that ascension day.

He said, "Now, I want you to go back to Jerusalem and go up to that upper room and remain there and seek the Lord in prayer until you are endued with power from on high.

Did they do it? Did it work? Did God answer? Ah, let us pray for a second Pentecost. What do you say?

And you, dear ones, bless your hearts, who have simply been occupying a place in the boat, but have not been engaged in pulling anybody else in, won't you ask Jesus tonight for an experience that will put you in the ranks of the rescuers, not simply being rescued yourself, but rescue others? Won't you do that?

Won't somebody here tonight say, "Yes, yes dear Lord. You've rescued me. I'm going to let You use me to rescue somebody else."

"Christ accepts, oh, so gladly! every human agency that is surrendered to Him" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9*, page 30.

Now, there's one common denominator in all these three classes, and that is this, dear friends. The proper response from all three of these is in prayer to Christ.

The lost one needs to pray to Jesus, "Lord, save me."

The one who is actively engaged in soul-winning needs to pray, "Lord, give me more power so that I can be more effective in my soul-winning."

And the one who has been rescued but is not active in soul-winning needs to pray with all his soul, "Lord, stir my heart and give me what it takes to make me a rescuer of others."

So, thank God for this spirit of prayer. God has promised to pour it upon us if we open our hearts to receive it.

"Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray;
This is my heart-cry, day unto day;
I long to know Thy will and Thy way;
Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.

Power in prayer, Lord, power in prayer;
Here 'mid earth's sin and sorrow and care;
Men lost and dying, souls in despair;

O give me power, power in prayer!"
"Teach Me to Pray" by Albert Simpson Reitz, first and second stanzas (without refrain).

["Teach Me to Pray" was sung.]

Is there somebody here tonight that has already here tonight made a decision about something that God has talked to your heart about? May I see your hands? Thank the Lord.

Now, expression deepens impression, and I want to invite you if you've made a decision of some kind tonight, to come up here and state it in your own words. Confess Jesus and express your determination to do the thing that He's impressed your heart to do.

I hope there's somebody here tonight that is accepting Jesus either for the first time or because you've lost contact with Him and you're giving yourself to Him fully. Come up and say so in your own words, and let us pray for and with you.

I hope there's somebody here tonight that has made a decision to seek God earnestly in behalf of the ones that you have been working with.

And oh, I hope, I hope there are a number who have made the decision to get out of the easy chair, reclining situation, and join in active burden and service for souls.

I hope, oh, I hope there are a number that are going to say, "Thank God, if Jesus left heaven for me, I'm going to let Him use me to win souls."

Come, dear ones, several of you can be sitting here on these front seats, and we'll have one after the other speaking for Jesus tonight. Remember, our testimony meeting tonight is for these who are making some decision tonight, and you express it in your own words.

[Testimony meeting follows]

[Comments made by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

Remember, dear ones, prayer, prayer is the means of responding. As we plead with God for souls, God will lay a burden upon us and teach us how.

Ellen White, her name was Harmon when she was a girl, when she was only a teenager there in Portland, Maine, the Lord burdened her heart, and she prayed for a list. You can read it in *Volume 1*, page 33, a wonderful experience, one after the other—a teenage girl praying for young companions, some of whom were older than she was.

Some of them thought she was foolish to be so burdened for them when they had no interest themselves. But she prayed *for* them, and she prayed *with* them. She prayed with them, and she prayed for them, and God gave her results.

Have a prayer list. Go over it day by day. Plead with God to teach you how to be a soul-winner. He's in the business.

...Yes, my sister, and listen. I just want to say this to you and to the many others in the congregation. While you work for others that are near you, God will work for your loved ones at a distance. Now, of course, you can do things for them by letter and sending them literature. But God wants you to lay hold of people that you can talk to and that you can reach personally, as well as those at a distance.

...Don't you know the Lord's happy tonight to have all these responses?

[Congregation sings "Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart.]

Now, we're going to have prayer together as we close. I trust that this week will be a very practical carrying out of the decisions we've made tonight. If we do what we've decided to do tonight, we're going to be praying day by day for some definite people, aren't we? And as we pray, God will impress us on what to do. It may be to write a letter, it may be to make a visit, it may be to go give a Bible study, it may be to lend a book, may be to make a telephone call. Let us covenant with God that we *will* pray to Him about souls and accept the burdens He lays on us and do what His Spirit inspires us to do. Shall we do that, friends?

Next Friday night, I want you to come praying, and some of you, it could be you, my friend, are going to bring somebody with you next Friday night that isn't here tonight—some neighbor, some friend, some relative, somebody that lives nearby, somebody at a distance. It's worth coming to at a distance, isn't it, friends? We're going to have a great blessing here next Friday night. And I want you to get the joy of praying and working to bring somebody with you next Friday night.

Let us kneel together.

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts as the holy hours have come that we enter into Thy Sabbath rest, the joy of fellowship with Thee. Tonight Thou hast spoken to our hearts, and we've responded. We're placing our lives in Thy hands to be used in any way. We choose to set aside our plans that Thy plans may be carried out.

And dear Lord, Thou hast laid some souls on our hearts tonight. Keep us interceding for them and make this week a precious week of fellowship with Thee day by day. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

You're dismissed. God bless you every one.

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W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org