

I Will Give You Rest

#0518

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 23, 1976

“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light”
Matthew 11:28–30.

I have a great desire to see everybody in this program experiencing this to the full. There is nothing we can do evangelistically, or educationally, or medically, or any other way that will accomplish as much for God as this—you and I demonstrating in our own experience that Jesus’ way is a good way. It makes people happy. It takes them out of the rat race, where only some can win. (And even if they do, they’re still rats.) And puts them in the Christian race, where *everybody* can win. And they don’t need to develop ulcers or high blood pressure in the process.

We have a great many things to accomplish here, but this is the greatest, this is the greatest—to let Jesus demonstrate the beauty of His way.

Now, you notice He says:

“My yoke is...” Matthew 11:30.

What?

“...easy...” Matthew 11:30.

Is it? Now notice, He doesn’t say, “My rocking chair is easy.”

He says:

“My...” Matthew 11:30.

...*what* is easy? A yoke. What is a yoke? Why, it’s the instrument of work, the instrument of labor. So, God intends that you and I shall find directly in the work, in the program, the rest and the peace, the joy and the satisfaction that He offers. We have either tasted and found this is true, or we haven’t tasted yet.

Right here at this point, let me say if I can help any of you personally, to help you find somebody that *will* help you on this, I’m far more interested in this than almost anything I know of. Because it would be too bad to be here at Wildwood for three months, or three years, or thirty years, and not find this wellspring of life, this satisfaction that comes through yoking up with Jesus in service.

You remember in an earlier study a week or two ago, I gave the illustration of riding along the freeway. We were going along 55 miles an hour. But what's a lot of the traffic doing? It's passing us.

And unless we understand the principle, we're liable to think, "Well, my, everybody's leaving us behind. We've got to step on the gas."

Do we have to step on the gas just because everybody else on the road is nearly breaking the speed limit? Do we? No. Well now, there are two things we can do. One is to step on the gas and go ahead and break the speed limit too and contribute to the accidents as well as the law-breaking. But the other is to just champ at the bit, as we say, and be restless because we're being passed. Either one of those things is not very satisfying.

Jesus says:

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will..." Matthew 11:28.

Do what?

"...I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" Matthew 11:28–30.

Now, with this I'd like to put Ecclesiastes the 9th chapter and the 10th verse. And before I read that, I want to read a statement in the book *Evangelism*, page 656:

"In order to make a success in this work you must do one thing at a time, concentrate your powers upon that one work" *Evangelism*, page 656.

Now, this was written to two missionaries who were leaving America to go and open up the work in Africa, pioneer missionaries there. And they were told about the importance of concentrating.

"In order to make a success in this work you must do one thing at a time, concentrate your powers upon that one work" *Ibid*.

Now, we're going to read that in this text that I asked you to turn to. What's the first word? "Whatsoever." What's the third word? "Hand." All right, all together now:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." Ecclesiastes 9:10.

That's enough. The rest of the verse gives us the reason. No chance to do it after you die. We all believe that when a man dies, his work's done on this planet, correct? He can't come back via the spiritualistic séance and make up what he missed, no. So, because of that, the wise man says:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..."

Ecclesiastes 9:10.

I wonder why he said, "Whatever your *hand* finds to do." Anybody have a thought on that? [Several voices from the audience speak.] How far can you reach with your hand? How far can you reach with your eyes? Which reaches farther? Better use our eyes then, hadn't we?

Turn to Proverbs 17:24. Is that an interesting text? Does it fit in right here? Now, what did Solomon talk about over there in Ecclesiastes 9:10? The hand. And what did the same man writing by the same spirit talk about here in Proverbs? The eyes.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..."

Ecclesiastes 9:10.

"...But the eyes of a fool..." Proverbs 17:24.

That is, a foolish man. Are where?

"...are in the ends of the earth" Proverbs 17:24.

That's right. Now, what did he mean by that? Prone to wander, prone to look upon all the things that *might* be done, that *could* be done, that I think *ought* to be done, either by other people or me.

Dear friends, right here on this campus, there's a lot more I see to do than I can get to. And other people are helping me every day find more to do. Praise the Lord. But I need wisdom to do that which my *hand* finds to do. We'll need wisdom.

And I must not waste time lamenting the fact that I'm not bigger than I am, and that there are not more hours in my day. What my *hand* finds to do, I'm to do *it* with what? My might.

When I'm sitting down talking with a soul that needs help, I must be able to give that soul, while I'm talking to that soul, all I have. Is that right? Well, when the time comes to quit then, I must quit and go to something else because there's somebody else needs help. That's what our physicians have to do, our nurses have to do, our parents have to do, our teachers, every one of us, that's what we have to learn.

And the beautiful thing is that as we give God all we have in the particular job we're doing at the moment, He's looking after the hundred and one other things that we can't get to. I find it so again and again. I find that things that I had written down on my notebook that I feel I just *want* to get to (and maybe some other people think I

ought to), and something comes up I can't control, and I don't get to it—I find sometimes that later on God has solved that problem through somebody else that did it a lot better than I could have done it. Isn't that cheering?

Now, some of those problems we'll have to look at in eternity and see there how God solved them.

Now, let me read these verses again:

“Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you...” Matthew 11:28.

What?

“...rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me...”
Matthew 11:28–29.

And you'll find rest.

“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...”
Ecclesiastes 9:10.

“In order to make a success in this work you must do one thing at a time, concentrate your powers upon that one work”
Evangelism, page 656.

And so, you and I are learning something that the world knows little about today. We are learning the science of being led by the Spirit and happy in doing what we can the best we can and leaving the rest with God. They don't know anything about it. They get frustrated because they can't compass all they'd like to. And that's one reason people turn to drugs or burn the midnight oil, burn the candle at both ends.

Jesus wants you and me to be a demonstration of the peace and the rest that come as we take Christ's yoke and do our best.

Now, a little while ago, some papers were passed out. You heard the message on it read, and you've looked it over. This is not primarily a commitment of yourself to some human being or some group of people. It's primarily a commitment of yourself to the Master in a particular field of service. To sign this intelligently means two things and only two things.

First, it means that you have committed your life to Christ, to be His and to be His servant, to go anywhere He wants you, as long as you live. I assume all of you have made that commitment and settled it.

But the second thing that's involved in this is that, having made that commitment to Christ, you have come to the place where you believe that the particular place He wants you to serve, for the time being at least, is in this program here at Wildwood. That's what that means. And having made the commitment to

Christ to do anything He wants anywhere He wants, and having arrived at the conclusion in your own mind that the Lord wants you here, you make this commitment on this paper.

When the time comes, whether it be soon or later, that you come to the conclusion that God wants you somewhere else, then the same dedication that caused you to make the commitment here will lead you to make it somewhere else, as God directs.

In the book *Evangelism*, page 648, I read:

“Freedom of choice is given to every soul, but after a man has enlisted, he is required to be as true as steel, come life or come death” *Evangelism*, page 648.

This, dear ones, is an army. It’s an army made up of volunteers, but that doesn’t make it less an army. Do you know the difference between an army and a mob? An army is organized, an army is under direction, an army moves under command, and an army moves unitedly. A mob is something else. This is an army. Oh, I’m so glad to be in God’s army, aren’t you? The armies in heaven follow Jesus, and His army on earth follows Him.

Here is a little section, a regiment, a company of God’s great army. And if this is where God has assigned me, and I have enlisted in this particular regiment, then I want to serve Him just as faithfully, even more faithfully, than the soldiers in the federal army serve their commanders.

“Freedom of choice is given to every soul, but after a man has enlisted he is required to be as true as steel, come life or come death” *Ibid.*

When Sister White was writing to Elder Burden about the plans for southern California and urging him to seek for properties with buildings already on them where sanitarium work could be carried forward, he finally located under her guidance and prodding the beautiful property at Loma Linda.

And when the purchase of it was being considered, she wrote to him and others on May 24, 1905, as follows:

“We received your letter today” *Loma Linda Messages*, page 95.

She was in Washington, D. C., at that time.

“I wish to say that I cannot ask the Conference to invest in a sanitarium at Redlands” *Ibid.*

That was the Loma Linda property.

“They have enough responsibilities to carry without taking upon them others. If you in Los Angeles will do your best, we will do our best. If you will do nothing, say so, and we will do nothing” *Ibid.*

Now, I pondered over that. That’s a very interesting expression.

Even the prophet of God, and the Lord Jesus Christ back of her, waited for some human being to say, “Okay, I’m with you. I’ll put my hand to the work and go ahead.”

And the prophet says, “If you do that, say so, and we’ll be with you to hold up your hands and help you raise the money. But if you won’t, say so, and we won’t do anything.”

God has been waiting for this movement on some matters for over 130 years, my friends. And He waits for you and me. Oh, there are things that can be done if I’d give God all I have that won’t get done today, nor tomorrow, nor next week if I have some selfish plans that I want to carry out.

God and angels and God’s servants are waiting while I make up my mind, you see.

“If you in Los Angeles will do your best, we will do our best. If you will do nothing, say so, and we will do nothing” *Ibid.*

What a challenge! Thank God, Elder Burden said, “We’ll do it.”

And that’s why that beautiful hill became the property of our people. Well, I thank God all the marvelous things didn’t happen 70 years ago. What do you say? They’re happening all around us. You heard the good news Friday night that it looks like the lights are green on the New Hampshire property, and within a matter of days or weeks, God willing, the property will be ours.

I hope you all will pray very earnestly, as I suggested Friday night, that the Lord will bring in the money so that no mortgages will have to be made and so that no money will have to be borrowed from a bank or a lending institution. For 34 years, we’ve been carrying on the work on this hill, and we have never yet gone to the bank and borrowed a dollar.

Friends of the work have sometimes loaned us money, either without interest or with a moderate rate of interest, but it’s all been in the family of God. And I’d love to keep up the record, if that’s God’s will. But I’m not going to get ulcers over it, dear friends. No, no. I’m going to do my best.

I called a friend of mine that lives a thousand miles away the other morning, and I thought he might help us, and I told him the story. And I think he’s going to send us a little. And if you have friends that you think might like to either give some money for this New Hampshire providence or loan some either with interest or at a

moderate interest, why feel free to just write them in a personal way and tell them about the providence. If you need more information, either Brother Wilson or I can give it to you. This is a wonderful time to be in, dear friends.

But I didn't read this to talk about New Hampshire. That's just an up-to-date example of it. I read it because every one of us here is dealing with wonderful opportunities that depend upon making decisions as to what God wants us to do. And then putting all we have into that to get it done.

The thing that wears people out, dear friends, is trying to do too many things at once. Some of you have heard me tell, and I will repeat it, and I don't do it just to make you smile, although you might smile. But I want you to think. And if you think hard enough, you might not even smile, but you can smile if you want to.

I saw a cartoon years ago of a lady who obviously was not underweight, sitting in a doctor's office getting a consultation on her obesity. And the doctor had just given her a diet list.

And she sat there looking at it, and then she looked up and said, "Now Doctor, do I take this diet before or after my regular meals"?

And I have said that to say this. If in any sense you try to take the program here at Wildwood and add it to all the things you've been trying to do before you came here, the yoke won't be easy, and the burden won't be light. No, no. The man who enlists in the army leaves behind at home a world of things. Correct? He gets *one* thing done, the thing he enlisted for.

Oh friends, if you and I can *do* the thing we've enlisted for, it will be worth missing a lot of other things. What do you say? If any of you need help on these matters of how to live on 24 hours a day, go first of all to God and pray earnestly to Him. Then, if you don't get all the help you need, pick out somebody that you think is demonstrating it in the peace and rest that they have in their lives and counsel with them.

Let's keep at this, friends, until every one of us can say deep down in our hearts, "We have found the easy yoke."

Not the easy rocking chair, but the easy yoke.

God bless you all. You're dismissed.

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