

Keys to the Kingdom

#0584

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

We're to value ourselves according to the price He has paid for us.

"The relations between God and each soul are as distinct and full as though there were not another soul upon the earth..." *Steps to Christ*, page 100.

Our text this evening is in Matthew the 16th chapter and the 19th verse, the first two lines. Jesus is talking to Peter, but He's talking to you, too. There's something here for you. I'm just as sure of it as can be. Listen, as Jesus speaks to Peter and to you:

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 16:19.

I'm interested in keys because of an experience that I had a few days ago. On the way here, I had the privilege of stopping in Fort Worth to visit with a dear friend of mine. And as we visited together, I gave him a set of my sermons on the sanctuary. And in the morning before I left, he mentioned that he would like to get a couple of sets of those to give to two minister friends of his and wondered if he might write Wildwood and get those. And I assured him he could.

But I said, "I have a few extra out in the car, so I'll go get them."

So, I went out and opened up my trunk and got the sets and handed them to him, and he was just ready to start off to make rounds at the hospital, and I was about to leave, coming on the east.

And after I had given him the sets and he turned to go to his car, he said, "Brother Frazee, if you'd just move your car a bit, then I can get my car out easier."

I said, "Very well."

And then, I found that my keys were in the trunk.

Now, I've heard of other people having that experience. Probably a number of you can sympathize with me. But there I was, and what a helpless feeling. You see, if you had the key, you could open the trunk and get the keys out. And if I could get the keys out, then I could open the car and get the ignition going, and the motor going and get out of his way. But there we were.

Well, he finally maneuvered and got out. He had to go on to the hospital. And his wife called the locksmith, and a few hours later and several dollars lighter, I

made my way. I got my keys. In fact, I have them here tonight. There they are. And you can imagine they are more precious to me than ever before.

But I've been thinking about it, how valuable keys are.

And Jesus says:

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 16:19.

All these keys are good for is to get into my trunk and get into my car and get it going. They're valuable. But oh, friends Jesus has made provision for you and me to have the keys of what? The kingdom of Heaven.

Wouldn't it be a shame to have them locked up so you couldn't get them? Wouldn't it be a shame to have them and not use them?

"The Gospel is a wonderful simplifier of life's problems"
Ministry of Healing, page 363.

As time goes on, I find that the Lord arranges more and more for me to spend time just sitting down with people, this one and that one, and helping them find the solution to their problem. It's a precious experience, friends. And I assure you that it isn't because of any wisdom that I have. But thank God, I have a bunch of keys, a bunch of keys. And if I can help people find the key to their problem, then I can leave the problem and the key with them and God.

And honestly, friend, that's the only sensible counseling. I tell you frankly, there's a world of human counseling today that is worse than nothing. And the better it works, the worse it is, because unless it leads men to know how weak and ineffective and ineffectual human counsel is, unless it leads men to Jesus Christ so that He places in their hands the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, I repeat, the better it works, the worse it is.

Oh, I wonder if there's somebody here tonight, you've tried this and you've tried that, you've listened to this person, you've listened to that one, and you still find yourself in a mess, ensnared, ensnared, in perplexity.

Listen, our text gives us the words of the great Physician, the great Evangelist, the great Teacher, the great Creator, "I will give *you* the keys of the kingdom of heaven" [a paraphrase of Matthew 16:19].

Where are they? What are they? How can we get them? I'm going to share with you tonight about just two of these keys. I won't say they're all the keys on the keyring, but I'll say this. If you learn how to use these two keys, you can open the trunk and get all the rest. And if you don't learn to use these two, all the rest you learn won't help you very much. So, we'll start with these two keys.

You notice He says "keys" plural:

“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...” Matthew 16:19.

In this wonderful, inspired commentary on the life and teachings of Jesus found in *Desire of Ages*, page 413, I read:

“‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’ are the words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are His, and are here included” *Desire of Ages*, page 413.

I said I was going to study two keys with you tonight. Really, it’s the whole keyring, isn’t it, because all the words of Scripture are the keys of the kingdom of Heaven. The special keys are the promises of God.

Peter says:

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” 2 Peter 1:4.

One promise or command of Scripture is worth more than the opinions of all the philosophers of this world, my friends, and it’d do more to solve human problems. What a pity, changing the figure, to hoard the chaff and miss the grain. What a pity!

“I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” [a paraphrase of Matthew 16:19].

And what are these keys?

“...The words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are the words of Christ, and are here included” *Desire of Ages*, page 413.

But now, don’t misunderstand. This is not some magic. It’s not some hocus-pocus. It isn’t to take the Bible and put it under our pillow and sleep on it because it will ward off evil. Oh, no. It isn’t just to read a little in the Bible every day because that’s a good religious duty, and then having fulfilled that duty, we go on about our work and meet our problems the best we can.

There is a science, my dear friend, in fitting a specific key to a particular lock. Do you agree with me?

You see, when I was caught the other day, having locked my keys inside the trunk by slamming the lid down with the keys inside, I thought, “I just wonder if my friend’s keys might open it.”

Now, you might say that’s a very foolish thing, but I’ll tell you, a drowning man will grasp at a straw, and I thought it would only take a second to try. And sure

enough, I tried every key on his ring, but there wasn't a one that would do it. One got in the lock a little way, but that was all there was to it.

No, it takes a specific key for a particular lock. In fact, that's what makes a key valuable, isn't it? Or would it be wonderful to have locks on all the cars and all the houses, that just one key would open all of them? Wouldn't you like to have a key like that? Or wouldn't you like to have a lock like that? No, none of you would buy that. I don't blame you.

My dear friends, one of the greatest values of Bible study is this, to become acquainted with the many keys that are found in this great keyring, the Word of God.

"Ah," somebody's ready to say, "that's my trouble. I just know so little about the Bible. And so, there's nothing I can do to solve my own problems or the problems of other people."

Wait a minute, my friend, just wait a minute. You know how many keys I possess? Not very many, frankly, but I can get in my car, the trunk and the door both, with the two keys here. And that's all that this needs to do is to furnish me that, right?

Brother Callahan, do you carry any keys? How many have you got? What? About eight. Well, that's more than I have.

Can he get in my car? I don't think so.

I want to tell you something, friends. The important thing in solving your problem and in helping somebody else solve their problem is not how *many* keys you have. It's in having the right key for that particular lock.

You know, I've thought about it. Suppose that this chapel were locked as it is most of the time. And we come down here, and we see a whole bunch of people standing in front of the door, and they're trying to get that door open. Somebody pulls at it. They can't get it open. Somebody pushes it, can't get it open. And we watch them and for half an hour that goes on, people suggesting this thing and that thing, and trying this and that. And nobody gets the door open.

And finally, down comes a little boy from up on the hill, and he says, "What are you all doing?"

"Well, we're trying to get in the chapel."

"Well," he says, "I can let you in."

"You? You mean when all these men here can't get in, you can get in?"

"Yes," he says, "I can let you in."

"Oh, no. You couldn't do it. You are only a boy."

“Well,” he says, “if you’d like me to, I’ll let you in.”

And so, he reaches in his pocket, and he pulls out this little piece of metal and sticks it in the door and click, he’s in, and we’re in. But friends, he only had one key. That’s all. That’s all it took. That’s all it took.

And there’s many a time, my dear friends, when what people need isn’t a long sermon or a great list of texts. They need *one key* that opens the lock of their particular problem. And that *one promise* is worth more than a whole lot of talk, or even a whole lot of Bible reading. Believe me, friends.

“Ah,” but somebody says, “that’s the thing. But how do you know which one?”

All right. That leads me to the other key. I told you I was going to give you two. You’ll find the other one mentioned in *Steps to Christ*, page 94:

“...Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence” *Steps to Christ*, pages 94–95.

Oh, think of it, friend. Riches? Oh yes, all kinds of them, but they’re locked up. Riches of wisdom, riches of power, riches of money, riches of guidance, riches of health, riches of life locked up in the great storehouse of Omnipotence.

How to get them? We must get in. And the Lord Himself has said:

“...I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...” Matthew 16:19.

“...Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence” *Steps to Christ*, pages 94–95.

Elijah got hold of these keys. Do you know why it was that there was no rain in that idol-worshipping kingdom of Israel for three years and a half? One man got hold of the keys, and he locked the door.

“Oh,” you say, “that’s terrible.”

No, it isn’t. It was just what God wanted. And this wasn’t some idea that got into Elijah’s head. Elijah read it in what God had had Moses write down, that if the people of God went into idolatry that He would shut Heaven and make it brass over their heads till the dust of their land would just fill the air [a paraphrase of Deuteronomy 28:28–29].

But time had gone on. Israel worshipped Baal. The streams ran the same as ever, and the rain came as ever until one man took that promise of God and used it, and shut heaven. It was just what Israel needed. It was bitter medicine, but it was needed.

But thank God, friends, the same key that shut the door opened it. You remember after that marvelous experience on Carmel when all Israel saw the fire fall and the sacrifice consumed, and the stones and the water all licked up with the flames, and they fell on their faces and said:

“The LORD He is the God...” 1 Kings 18:39.

They went home just shouting the praises of God and His prophet. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel, and after that long, hard, busy day, he got down with his face between his knees and began to use the key to open the treasure house of Heaven [a paraphrase of 1 Kings 18:42]. Do you remember?

And he prayed once. And he said to his servant, “Go up, look over toward the Mediterranean and see if you see anything” [a paraphrase of 1 Kings 18:43].

And he came back, and he said what?

“I don’t see a thing” [a paraphrase of 1 Kings 18:43].

Second time, Elijah got down and he tried the key again. You know, there are some locks that open hard. Brother Dull and I were working on one today, weren’t we, brother? Yes. We had the key, but that didn’t mean it opened just, “Click,” like that.

And this time, Elijah’s key, he kept working it and working it and working it. And finally, after seven times, what happens? The lock opened, the lock opened. And before morning broke, the land of Israel was deluged with the first rain they’d had in three years and a half.

What had happened? One man down on his knees had opened the reservoir of Heaven. But he’d used a key.

“...Prayer is the key...” *Steps to Christ*, pages 94–95.

“...Prayer is the key...” *Ibid.*

But now notice the wording of it. This is so precise and meaningful:

“...Prayer is the key in the hand of faith...” *Ibid.*

Back to our chapel door here, suppose we have the right key, and we lay it in front of the door. How long will it have to lie there before the door opens? Never would.

Suppose we do better than that. Suppose we take a piece of scotch tape and paste it right there on the door right over the lock. How long will the magic take to work on that one? What? It won’t work? Well, it’s the right key, isn’t it? Yes.

Now, let’s come a little closer. Suppose we put it in the lock, actually put it in the lock, and let it sit there. If it sits there long enough, what’s going to happen to the

door? What? Nothing? Well, we put it in. What does the hand have to do when the key has been put in the lock? What does the hand have to do? Turn it. Everything depends upon that.

“...Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse...” *Ibid.*

I wonder what that means. Turn to Mark 11:24, and we’ll get it here in plain language:

“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray...” Mark 11:24.

What?

“...believe that ye...” Mark 11:24.

What?

“...believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” Mark 11:24.

Dear folks, somebody here tonight is going to learn for the first time how to get your prayers answered. A lot of you know already. But I’m talking to somebody that needs to know how. Dear friend, you that have prayed and don’t get your prayers answered, are you using the key?

Now, interestingly enough, there’s a science in this. You know, there are weapons in the United States’ possession today that are so full of power that the nation has safeguarded it by making it necessary for two keys to be inserted in order for those weapons to be unleashed. You’ve heard about it, haven’t you? Okay.

And listen, prayer and the Word of God, these two keys need to be used together often. And there’s many a problem that you can never solve with the promise alone or with prayer alone. It takes the two together in the hand of faith.

Now, let me explain simply how it works. We’re told in Romans the 10th chapter:

“...Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by....” Romans 10:17.

What?

“...the Word of God” Romans 10:17.

The Word of God then, gives us faith as we read it.

“...Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse...” *Steps to Christ*, pages 94–95.

So, I come to a problem. I study the Word of God. I ask God to help me to find the key that will fit my problem or the problem of the one I'm trying to help. He directs me to that. We read the promise. But now watch. Down on our knees, we must claim that particular promise, and then turn the key. What does that mean? What does Jesus say?

"...When ye pray..." Mark 11:24.

Do what?

"...believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"
Mark 11:24.

One of the most interesting things in my life is to watch people go through the experience of learning to do that. Some people can learn fast. Other people, actually, their joints are arthritic, and they're hard to move.

They have so long thought of prayer as saying, "Lord, I want. Lord, I wish. Lord, I hope. Lord, I desire."

But to actually there on their knees say, "Lord, I believe, and I thank You for it," seems impossible.

But this is what Jesus says to do, and He even tells you when to do it. What does He say?

"When you pray..." Mark 11:24.

Isn't that what it says?

"When you pray..." Mark 11:24.

Not next week; not tomorrow. But *when* you pray do what?

"...Believe that ye receive..." Mark 11:24.

Right then. This is turning the key in the lock. This is what opens the door. Oh, my dear friend, do it. Do it in simple faith.

Now, here's a promise to help you to know what key to use, which promise in a given situation. Turn over to Isaiah the 50th chapter and the 4th verse. Here's a wonderful little key. It opens up the room where the key board is where all the keys are hanging. You watch:

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know..." Isaiah 50:4.

What?

“...how to speak a word in season to him that is weary...”
Isaiah 50:4.

In other words, the right word, at the right time. God is ready to teach us that. The rest of the verse says:

“...He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

Wouldn't it be wonderful, friends, to have the right word at the right time for the right man all the way through the day? Well, you can. It's your privilege. You were born for that. Why settle for anything less?

Friend, if my name is Philip and I am back there in Samaria, the most important thing in the world isn't for me to go on with a big city effort. It's to get going on the road to Gaza and be down there at the crossroads when that man comes driving from Jerusalem in his chariot. And for a while, I'm privileged to take *one verse* of Scripture and use that as the *key* to unlock his problem. Isn't that wonderful? Can you think of anything more glorious than that?

Listen. Do you know what makes people so confused today? They're looking all around them and seeing so much happening, and more happening all the time. Friends, it can get very perplexing, especially if you join in that rat race. There's just one thing that counts. I repeat, to be at the right place at the right time with the right word to the right man. Oh, will you do that?

Jesus says, “I'll give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” [a paraphrase of Matthew 16:19].

And then, if you see somebody else doing some wonderful thing, you say, “That's all right.”

Will you allow me a personal testimony, friends? And I mean this from the bottom of my heart. The glory is all my heavenly Father's. But I've been so busy these last three weeks that I haven't had the opportunity to keep up with the moon men, either going or coming. That's a fact.

Now, I don't mean that I'm criticizing anybody who *has* had the time. That isn't what I'm talking about. This is what I want to say. The experiences that God has given me these last three weeks have been so precious to me that honestly, if somebody had offered me a trip to the moon and back and *guaranteed* a safe trip, I wouldn't have gone. I would rather be where I've been in the weeks of prayer I've held and the other meetings, and in sitting down with souls and helping them find the key that opens up the lock of their problem.

Going to the moon? Why friends, it's so *little* in comparison. I wouldn't have missed it.

You can have an experience that you wouldn't trade for anything in this universe. Some of you are having it. You all *can*. It's yours.

But I want to tell you one thing, friend. You can't have that and all the rest too. Oh, no. You can't have that and go to the moon and all the rest. Oh, no. There is something so precious about finding what you're born for and doing that, that everything else, let somebody else have it. You have found the pearl of great price.

All right. Now, let's see what we have tonight. What does our text say? All together:

“...I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...” Matthew 16:19.

Once again:

“...I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...” Matthew 16:19.

Now, what's the first key we looked at? The Bible, the Word of God, a whole string of keys. All right. What's the other key? Prayer. But prayer is the key in the *hand* of faith. And the way the *hand* of faith claims the promise is to say what?

“I believe.”

When? When you pray, when you pray. Put the key in the lock. Take the promise of God that meets a given situation. Claim it. Meet the conditions, and say, “Lord, I thank Thee that You've heard me. I know You have because your Word is pledged. You cannot lie.”

Oh friends, I thank God for the simplicity of faith. What do you say?

All right. I'd like to hear from some of you. I believe the brethren have the traveling mikes ready. We'd just as well have three or four on their feet at once.

Now, listen. I don't want to hear tonight what anybody wants. I presume you all want a lot of things. It's that time of year. But listen. I want to hear the testimony of somebody that has tried some of these keys, and you know they work. And let's all listen. It could well be, friends, that what somebody is going to say in the audience tonight will help *you* as much as all that I have told you. Listen carefully to these witnesses.

[Testimony meeting follows]

[The following comments were made by Elder Frazee during the testimony meeting.]

You know, that's a wonderful promise, brother, that Jeremiah 33:3. It's one of the favorite keys in my collection. And listen. I'll tell you what that's for. Now, that won't work with every lock. I'll just be frank with you. You know the only lock that works with? It's when people don't know what to do. That's all it's meant to fit.

If you know what to do, don't try to use that key because it won't fit at all. You know the key when you know what to do? John 13:17:

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them"
John 13:17.

Those two keys together will take care of a lot of situations.

...In other words, dear folks, don't forget what I said about just sticking the key up there *by* the lock. Or even putting it in and letting it sit there. There's no magic to this. It's faith science. God's told us simply how to do this, friends, hasn't He?

"...Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock
heaven's storehouse..." *Steps to Christ*, pages 94–95.

Faith doesn't just say, "Oh, Lord, I wish" this and that.

Faith reads the Word of God, opens the Bible, and says to God, "Here is your promise."

Faith says, "Lord, I accept it, and I meet the conditions."

Faith says, "Lord, I believe the promise, and I thank Thee for the fulfillment."

This is turning the key.

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