

Missing Link in City Evangelism

#0588

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—May 29, 1970

I want to read you something interesting this evening, a May report given at the American Association for Cancer Research. This was a report from Sloan-Kettering's Dr. Ernst Wynder and Dietrich Hoffman.

Down in New York City's busy Herald Square, opposite Macy's department store, they had a large vacuum-like inhaler that took in the city air off the streets at the rate of 140 cubic meters a minute.

From the dirty residue that collected in the machine's filter, Dr. Wynder and Dr. Hoffman extracted the organic matter and painted it on the backs of mice. By the end of the 10 months, most of the animals had developed cancer of the skin. There are millions of people that are breathing that all the time, breathing that all the time.

A recent report from the United Nations World Health Organization suggests that as pernicious as the more publicized hazards of smog-filled air and refuse-laden water is the mental pollution of urban crowding and the noise hazards. These noise hazards range from insomnia and irritability to heart and blood-vessel disease. It's been proved that there's a relationship between noise and heart attacks.

"Well," somebody says, "I'm so glad we don't live in the cities. I'm glad I'm out of the cities, and I'd just as soon never see them again."

Turn please to my text, which is Luke 19:41. As Christians, we are followers of Christ, is that correct? My text says:

"And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it" Luke 19:41.

I have just spent two weeks in the largest city on the continent. And this verse has been very much in my mind during my time in New York City and ever since. I can't get it *off* my mind, friends. I know the smog is there. I know the air pollution is there. I know the noise is there. I know the traffic is there. I know that all kinds of problems are there. I want to talk to you about some of them tonight.

And I know that cities are to get out of. "Out of the cities" is the message God has given us to deliver. But it isn't enough to get out of the cities, friends. Our message is to *people*, and it is in the cities where people are, eight million of them within the city limits of New York City, and 20 million in the great metropolitan area.

And what does it say about Jesus as he looked at one of the great cities of His time? He wept over it.

“And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it” Luke 19:41.

In your minds tonight, will you with me draw near to the cities, take a look at them? We live within a 10-minute drive of one city. Measured by the cities that I have been in recently, it's a small city, but it's plenty big enough. But the Lord Jesus is carrying a burden for every one of these cities. Will you share it with Him? To do it, you must do what He did. You must come near in your consideration of the problem. You must come near.

You remember that that man that was left by the wayside beaten, wounded, robbed. A priest came by, but he was busy with the Lord's work. He went on his way to the temple. A Levite came by. He was busy too. But something stirred in his heart, and he did what? He looked on him. That's as far as he got. He passed by on the other side [a paraphrase of Luke 10:30–32].

And the easiest thing to do, my dear friends, is to get away from these great citadels of sin, these great cesspools of vice, get as far away as we can, and forget them. That's the easy thing to do. It isn't what the Good Samaritan did. It isn't what Jesus did. He came near and He *beheld* the city. He saw in it not just a group of buildings. He saw in it individuals, each one of whom is more precious than all the stars that shine in the firmament.

And if one soul is so precious that for that one soul Christ would have left heaven and come to earth, what shall we say of an aggregation of millions of people?

This was the Spirit that the Lord sought to stir up in the heart of Jonah, that ancient prophet. Jonah was called to city evangelism, but he went the other direction. You remember that, don't you? Took a ship, started west when God had told him to go east [a paraphrase of Jonah 1:1–3]. You remember where he landed and how he came out.

And finally, he got to Nineveh, that great city, and he began to give the message. And wonderful things happened, far out of proportion to what anybody would expect. The whole city turned to God. The mayor of the city issued a proclamation and all responded, and God spared the city.

But Jonah hadn't gotten hold of the love and the care and the burden that filled the heart of God. And the book of Jonah closes with Jonah sitting out there on the east side of the city, wondering what's going to become of him.

Oh, my friends, I pray that you and I tonight, as we consider the out-of-the-cities message, will learn how to meet the needs of these cities as we separate from their pollution. For may I tell you, one of the greatest reasons that God has called you and me out of the cities is that we may do an effective work in *reaching* the cities. Would you like to see how Jesus did city work?

Luke 21:37–38:

“And in the day time He was teaching in the temple...”
Luke 21:37.

Where was that? That was in the city, right in the heart of it.

“...and at night He went out, and abode in the mount that
is called the Mount of Olives...” Luke 21:37.

Where was that? That was in the country.

“And all the people came early in the morning to Him in
the temple, for to hear Him” Luke 21:38.

Jesus knew how to reach the people in the city, and He knew how to reach
God out there in the country and get new supplies of grace and strength and help to
carry back to the people in the city. Let us learn to follow His steps. What do you
say?

Enoch had a program you remember back there before the flood, as he dealt
with the great cities of the antediluvians. He wouldn't remain in those cities. They
were too polluted. I'm quite certain there wasn't the smoke and the air pollution we
have today, but the moral atmosphere was as polluted as what we have today. He
wasn't concerned about lung cancer and heart attacks. He was concerned that he
himself and his family, his children should be removed from those vicious influences
of sin, crime, and violence. So he lived way out in the hills. But he didn't stay out
there all the time as a hermit. From time to time, he'd go down to those cities and
give the message.

And then, what did he do? Ah, he brought somebody back with him. People
that responded, people that would listen, people that wanted to get out of the rat
race, that wanted to get away from the noise and the filth and the sin. He took them
out to his home in the hills. And there they shared with him the life of God.

We're told that some of them had been so long in sin that they could not
endure righteousness. After a time with Enoch, they made their way back to the
cesspool that they had left. But there were others, thank God, that persevered and
learned the way of righteousness. To such work, God is calling His people today.

I read:

“We must learn to labor from outpost centers...”
Review and Herald, July 5, 1906.

“We must learn to labor from outpost centers...” *Ibid.*

I like the way that's worded. It suggests that there is something here that we
might not know how to do at first. Because it says, we must what? “We must learn.”
But if God says we *must* learn it, then I say we *can* learn it. What do you say?

Medical Ministry, page 304:

“The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed”
Medical Ministry, page 304.

When will it be, friend? Will you have a part in it? I trust so.

“God calls for self-sacrificing men... Wake up the watchmen... We have no time to lose upon unimportant issues” *Ibid*.

I pray God, my dear friends, that this pulpit and this vesper hour shall never be occupied with anything less than items of first importance. There are 10,000 things that are occupying the minds of people today, some of them good people that we have no time for. A world is going down. Millions are being lost. Our business is to man the lifeboat. This is the work to which God has called us.

“And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it” Luke 19:41.

It takes a broken heart to reach a stony heart, my friends. Until we have wept with Jesus over the cities of our time, we’ll never be able to reach them.

“Ah,” somebody says, “do you think we’ll reach them all, all these people?”

I know full well, dear friends, that only a few out of earth’s teeming millions will respond to the grace of God. But I also know that neither you nor I know *who* the souls are that will respond.

And God spared Sodom until Lot was pulled out of it. There are Lots in Sodom today, and God is sending us as He sent His angel messengers to Sodom to pull the souls out before the fire falls.

Do you love people?

“Oh,” somebody says, “yes, I love my wife, I love my husband, I love my children.”

All these dear people in these cities, the people there from Europe, from Asia, from Africa, from every state in the union, from all the nations of earth, Jesus loves them all. Black and white, yellow and brown, all races, all languages, He loves them all. Am I correct? Do you believe that? Do you love them? I know it’s impossible for us to feel the throbbing love for the masses that we can for individuals. But we can pray that God will lay upon us a burden.

The servant of the Lord, during the last decades of her life, experienced this increasing burden. When she was 80 years old, she said that she wished that *she*

could go if she were a bit younger and labor in the cities because of the great concern that she had.

In fact, she said that there were times when the burden for these cities rested upon her heart in such a weighty way that it seemed that she might die because of the load upon her heart.

“Cities are more than steel and stone,
Or humming wheels and towers that drone,
Or busy shops and boulevards or parks,
Or homes with well-kept yards.

Cities are more than block-long stores
With neon signs and countless doors;
Cities have eyes of fire, with tears,
And hearts that flee the mocking years;

Ears that hear no sound of song,
Feet that stumble on streets of wrong.
Cities are full of children crying.
Cities are full of people dying.

Cities are more than stone, steel towers,
Proudly proclaiming this time of ours.
Cities are men for whom Christ cried.
Cities are souls for whom He died.”
[Unknown author]

Now, the most important thing in any rescue operation is to report to the designated leader and get directions. Whether it's fighting in a forest fire or going into some disaster area, we need a plan well administered.

And God is not waiting for some bright mind to think up some new ideas of how to deal with these colossal problems. Through inspiration, He has given His people the blueprint. And it involves some very simple things, as all God's plans do. It involves a union of the medical and the evangelistic branches of work. It involves a cooperation between rural outposts and city “inposts,” if I may use such a word. And when these plans are fully realized and fully carried out, we're going to see some precious results, dear friends. I want to talk to you about these things tonight because one way or another, you can all have a part in it.

“Well,” you say, “what can I do about it? I'm not about to move down into the heart of some great city and take my family down there where the smoke is thick.”

No, and God doesn't want you to. But friends, everybody here (and don't miss what I'm saying), everybody here can have a part in what I'm talking about. The rescue team needs so many members on it that if you can't do one part of it, you can do something else.

Let me give you one simple illustration of something that's just happened within the last few days. One of our dear ministers, a personal friend of mine who is in charge of the metropolitan evangelism in one of the largest cities of the Atlantic seaboard, a few days ago got in touch with our hospital and sanitarium administration here and arranged for a man to come down here and spend some time. This man had been through some five-day plan work, and that helps a lot of people. But this man was a four-and-a-half-pack-a-day cigarette smoker. And he needed more help than he'd gotten so far.

And so, our minister friend from a thousand miles away got in touch with Wildwood and said, "Can you take this man?"

This man is connected with a big publishing company in this great city. He came down here and spent 10 days. He went into our health conditioning program here. He was out on the trails with some of you folks that are sitting here tonight. He had treatments in this sanitarium administered by some of you that are sitting here tonight. He was blessed in other ways by different ones of you. And thank God, he went home without any cigarettes.

But that isn't all. Thank God, through the book of nature, he got better acquainted with the God of nature. He's a man who's a member of the biggest church in the world, calling itself Christian, but he didn't have faith in the Bible. He'd lost that.

So, this man that I'm telling you about, not only through the blessing of God, got over the cigarette habit, but he went home with a clearer view of the message that nature has to bring.

Do you begin to see, as I tell you this little story, of how a little place like this, a way out in the hills, can have a part in reaching some of the greatest cities of this country? It takes more than going down into the city and contacting people. It takes that. There must be some rescue stations where people can come and breathe the fresh, pure air, not only with more oxygen but with more spirituality in it. It takes God to reach the needs of human souls, my friends.

Now, while I was in New York City, I had the privilege of addressing a meeting of the ministers of New York City, studying with them some of God's plans on how to reach that great metropolis. This summer, I'm to have a similar privilege with the ministers of the great metropolitan area of Philadelphia.

I can tell you what I told the folks in New York City and what I'm *going* to tell the ministers in Philadelphia. I'm not going to try to tell them all about how to do the work there. That's a big subject. I'm going to tell them about one simple thing that is most vital, and I want all of you tonight here to get interested in it, and I want *some* of you here tonight to hear God's call to dedicate your life to it.

And when I tell you about it, you're going to say, "Well, that's so simple anybody could do that."

Well, are *you* anybody? But may I tell you, it may be so simple that anybody ought to be able to do it, but it's the missing link in this whole program. It's the missing link in this whole program. And I don't care how many fenders or seats or steering wheels or even engines you have. There's something about an automobile that seems to need a battery, or else we don't go. Am I correct?

And I'm going to describe to you tonight something that is just as important in this program as a battery is in an automobile. It is the simple work of taking people out on a trail, a path, and showing them the things of nature. Getting them interested in the birds, the flowers, the trees so that they want to keep coming back and walking more and more, and thereby getting the physical benefit of exercise, sunlight and fresh air.

But more than that, while they're out there, you begin to lead their minds from nature to God. You begin to point out to them spiritual lessons that God has helped you find from this flower, that bird, this tree, that rock. And you begin to draw out from *them* lessons that God begins to put into their hearts taught by the Holy Spirit.

Also, out there on those trails as you get acquainted with them, and they get acquainted with nature and with God, you kneel down with them when the time is ripe and pray with them out there under a tree, or at Inspiration Point, or by the spring, or somewhere else. You pray with them about their problems and help them to find in Christ the answer to their needs.

You have in your little book that you carry in your pocket, or in this little notebook up here in the skull, you have a list of promises, and you use those promises from the Word of God to help them find out how to pray. That's it, that's it.

You say, "Is that all there is to it?"

Well, you can go on from there and add some more for the rest of your life. But my dear friends, there are so many people who can do so many other things but can't do what I just said. They can't do what I just said. They either don't know how to walk period, or else they don't know very much about nature, or else they don't know how to make nature interesting, or else they don't know how to draw spiritual lessons from it, or else they don't know how to pray, or else they don't know how to love others and pray with them about their problems. And it takes *all* of what I've just said to make the picture. This is the missing link, this is the missing link.

Now, I don't know all that God has for me to do in the coming months, but I know this, brethren and sisters. There is no greater burden that God has laid upon my heart in all my life than the burden that is upon me at the present time to help in training some people who can do what I have just described. This is one of the greatest burdens of my life.

Some of you are already in this. Some of you are in it up to your loins. Some of you are only in it up to your knees. Some of you have just got your feet wet in it, and some of you are standing on the bank looking at it. Wherever you are, I invite you, as the angel did to Ezekiel, come in deeper, come in deeper. Learn how to do what Jesus did.

Ministry of Healing, page 51:

“The Savior’s life on earth was a life of communion with nature and with God. In this communion He revealed for us the secret of a life of power” *Ministry of Healing*, page 51.

The secret? Yes. Of what? A life of power. What does it take to get away from tobacco? It takes power, a greater power than the pull of nicotine. What does it take to get away from alcohol and drugs of all kinds? What does it take? It takes power, more power than the pull of all those chemical compounds.

What does it take to help people with broken homes, divided homes, no homes? What does it take to deliver people from the restlessness that leads the thousands—oh, I saw them just a few nights ago, my friends, literally thousands of people milling up and down the street, Fifth Avenue, Broadway, and there in what they call the village where the hippies and others like them are, just thousands of people milling up and down, up and down.

Some of them think they know where they’re going. Others know they don’t know where they’re going. And then, down there in the Bowery, in Skid Row—and I wasn’t going on a sightseeing expedition. These are the sights and sounds that I witnessed on my way to and from the Manhattan Seventh-day Adventist Church, where I was holding meetings, right down in the heart of New York City.

There in the Bowery on Skid Row, you see some of these poor wrecks of humanity dead drunk lying in the doorways, or maybe just out on the sidewalks. If it’s raining, they lie there still, poor souls.

But I feel just as sorry for the rich, who ride in their chauffeured limousines all taken up with the mania for money or the rush for pleasure.

How are we going to reach them? It takes power. It’s going to take people that have hold of God, and God is to be found, friends, by the lake, on the mountainside, under the trees, in the fields, God can be contacted.

You say, “Can’t He be contacted down there in the cities?”

God will go *with* those that He selects and appoints to go down into the cities and try to pull people out. But may I read a bit more? This time I’m going to read from the book *Evangelism*, pages 76–77:

“It is God’s design that our people should locate outside the cities, and from these outposts warn the cities, and raise in them memorials for God”
Evangelism, pages 76–77.

I thank God for the work dear Elder Jackson is doing. He was with us, you remember, in our program here at Wildwood. He’s now the pastor of the church in

Manhattan right down there in the heart of New York City. He's contacting these people that need help so much. But he needs a place where some of those people can be sent.

He went with me to see a possible location, an hour's drive from New York City. But workers must be trained for this kind of work. He wants to send people here, some to get help on these habits, some young people to get trained in this program. Are you with him in it? Will you help?

Page 77:

"We must make wise plans to warn the cities, and at the same time live where we can shield our children and ourselves from the contaminating and demoralizing influences so prevalent in these places" *Ibid.*, page 76.

"The cities are filled with temptation. We should plan our work in such a way as to keep our young people as far as possible from this contamination" *Ibid.*, page 77.

"The cities are to be worked from outposts. Said the messenger of God, 'Shall not the cities be warned? Yes, not by God's people living in them, but by their visiting them, to warn them of what is coming upon the earth.' As God's commandment-keeping people, we must leave the cities. As did Enoch, we must work in the cities, but not dwell in them" *Ibid.*

Now, to accomplish a program such as we're studying tonight calls for teamwork. For many decades, inspiration has called us to organize companies of workers, ministers and physicians, nurses and Bible workers, colporteurs, health food workers, other lines of workers teaming together as a medical-evangelistic company to reach these cities.

But we've also been plainly told that such companies should have a rural base from which to operate.

May I read you something in *Medical Ministry*, page 308? It was sent 60 years ago to the leaders of this denomination:

"We need a sanitarium and a school in the vicinity of New York City, and the longer the delay in the securing of these, the more difficult it will become" *Medical Ministry*, page 308.

We read this just a few days ago, as the ministers of New York City were assembled together. They agreed with me that it was more difficult. They agreed with me in harmony with this that it would be *still* more difficult if we waited.

There happened to be a real estate man sitting there. It was just by providence. He had some business to conduct with the pastor of the Brooklyn

church, who was the chairman of the meeting. And both this pastor and I felt it was a real providence that this real estate man was there. He's a friend of the church. He was very much impressed by what he heard.

I'm thankful, friends, that he was there. I want you to pray that God will help in locating centers of this kind near New York City, near Philadelphia, and near other great cities. Will you pray for that?

But in the meantime, will you join with me in more earnest prayers that God will make this training center all that it ought to be in fitting people to do this kind of work? Will you do that?

And meanwhile, we have plenty of city work to do right where we are, don't we? But in our recognition of that, we must not lose sight of these great metropolitan areas.

"We need a sanitarium and a school in the vicinity of New York City, and the longer the delay in the securing of these, the more difficult it will become. It would be well to secure a place as a home for our mission workers outside the city. It is of great importance that they have the advantages of pure water, free from all contamination. For this reason, it is often well to consider the advantages of locations among the hills. And there should be some land where fruit and vegetables might be raised for the benefit of the workers. Let it be a mission in as healthful a place as possible, and let there be connected with it a small sanitarium" *Medical Ministry*, page 308.

Now, listen to the next paragraph, and don't miss this:

"Such a home would be a welcome retreat for our workers, where they may be away from the bustle and confusion of the city" *Ibid.*

"...the bustle and confusion of the city" *Ibid.*

And this was in 1910. Can you imagine the bustle and confusion in the city in 1910? Even then, it was something to get away from for workers so that they could get their spiritual battery recharged and go back and try to help people.

Now, the next sentence, and this is the one, oh, I hope several people will get hold of tonight.

"The exercise called for in climbing hills is often a great benefit to our ministers, physicians, or other workers who are in danger of failing to take sufficient exercise" *Ibid.*

I just had a long-distance call last night from a dear minister friend of mine. He's younger than I am. He's already had two heart attacks. He's got to retire and go on sustentation.

Oh friend, as I told the workers at Eden Valley just a few weeks ago, all the talking about walking will not take the place of walking, and it won't. I'm so glad there's more walking going on now on these 500 acres than ever before in the history of Wildwood.

But listen friends, remember what walking is for. It isn't just to keep you from getting a heart attack. That's a fringe benefit. The great purpose of walking is to get your soul in tune with heaven.

So, may I go through a list of questions again? First, do you know how to walk? Do you walk? Do you love to walk? Second, do you know how to make nature interesting? Is a walk for you just a gymnastic exercise to put in so many minutes or so many miles? Or is a walk the means of getting to the lake, or the mountain, the field, the trees, this particular bird nest, or that particular opening flower? Is a walk, in your mind and in your experience, mixed with nature so that it's all one experience?

And this next is most important. In all of that, is the thought of God running like a golden thread through the whole thing?

It isn't something that you put in at the end, say, "Oh, yes, that's right. I must put a little salt in for flavor, so let's have a little prayer and repeat a bible verse."

No, no, friends. We don't have to add God to nature. He's at work in nature. It's His lesson book. He's there. But it takes the seeing eye to discern His handiwork.

So, do you walk? Do you love to walk? Do you love nature? Are you interested in it? Can you get other people interested in it? Can you tell them about this lesson, and that lesson, and the other in nature?

And friends, do not think that the answer is to buy some encyclopedia of nature and learn to rattle off all the names. Why friends, I could bring you a telephone book this thick from New York City, and if you had the mind to do it you could commit to memory the names of millions of people. And neither you nor New York City would be a bit better off.

What we need is not to have an encyclopedia of facts stored up here in these heads. That's incidental. Oh, what we need is this love for God as he is revealed in the beauties of the sunrise and the sunset, the opening bud, the springing grass, the lofty trees, and all these other objects in nature, so that in our intercourse with people we can awaken in them an appreciation for these things.

Well, I'm so glad, friends, that we can have a part in the city work and do it the way Enoch did it. Do it the way Jesus did it. And remember, as I've said, for every one of you, there's a place on the team. You who do not live on the campus, you

who live out in the community, I beseech you, I challenge you, make your home a place where God dwells, and where you can invite people to come out in the country and learn to enjoy nature.

If you're not already doing it, start inviting people out from Chattanooga. Invite them to come out with you on Sabbath or for Sunday dinner. Take them over the hills and through the fields. Let them breathe the fresh, pure air. Let them enjoy contact with the birds, the flowers, the trees. It'll do something for them. It'll do something for you if you share what you have. The blessing will multiply as you share it with others.

Now, what I've said so far is for everybody. I have one little thing to say for just a few people here tonight. You just might happen to be the one I'm talking to. I'm leaving it to the Spirit of God to impress hearts.

But if there's somebody here tonight that hears the call to this type of city work, the type I've described tonight, and you'd like to be trained for it so that you would be available to be assigned to this type of ministry, I invite you to think and pray over it. And if the conviction deepens and ripens into a resolution, I invite you to just write out your expression and give it to me. You can either hand it to me personally or leave it for me at the office.

As I've already told you, along with the other burdens that God has given me, there is laid on my heart a great longing to develop a core, a streamlined company of workers who are fitted to do the type of work that I have described tonight in reaching the cities from outpost centers. If God lays the burden on your heart, do as I have described.

But remember what I've said for everybody. Learn to walk. Learn to make nature the thing that you walk for. Learn to make it interesting. Learn to share it with others. Learn to get spiritual lessons from it. Learn to pray out there in nature, and get others to pray with you. And thus, you can make your home an Enoch's outpost. You can do today what Jesus did for the cities of His time.

May we kneel in prayer together?

Heavenly Father, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight that Thou art coming soon. That these cesspools of sin are going to be cleaned up. That these Sodoms are going to be destroyed by fire, as were the cities of the plain thousands of years ago.

But oh, my Father, with Abraham we plead that Thou wilt not destroy the righteous with the wicked. We pray that Thou wilt send forth Thine angel messengers and pull souls out of the citadels of sin before the fire falls.

And yet Lord, even as we pray, we hear the sound from heaven:

“...Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us...”
Isaiah 6:8.

Oh, that in hearts here tonight there might be stirred the response:

“...Here am I; send me” Isaiah 6:8.

Help us to get what Isaiah got, the cleansing of the coal of fire. Oh, forbid that we should run without a message; that we should go merely because we’re scatter-brained and restless. Grant that we shall tarry till we be endued with power from on high and learn how to do effectively and effectually that which this world has long been waiting for.

Oh, grant that young people here tonight, and older ones, shall hear the call and shall determine to learn thoroughly the simple things that so many needy souls are in need of.

Here on our knees, we dedicate our lives to Thee to the unfinished task. Bless these dear fathers and mothers on the campus and off the campus. Help them as they train their children. Bless those who are in rural locations that they may not pull the city into their homes with these awful scenes of crime and violence and vice that are available on TV.

Deliver us, Lord, from pulling Egypt, Sodom, and Babylon into our homes, we pray. Help us rather in the quiet places to learn the lessons of rest and peace and love. And then, Lord, help us to reach out and share these blessings with others, and still others.

We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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