

# Look unto Jesus

#0597

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 25, 1983

I'm a very thankful man tonight. It's been a number of weeks since I was able to stand in this pulpit, and I know that I've had the prayers of many of you as I've gone through one of the worst spells of sickness in my life. God has stood by me. Thank you for your prayers, your wishes of love, and your practical help in many ways.

Also, another reason I'm thankful tonight, since I met with you before, I've had my 77<sup>th</sup> birthday. Don't you think I have something special to thank the Lord for? And again, I appreciate the good wishes expressed in various ways from many of you concerning this birthday. Yes, I'm a happy man and a blessed man, a fortunate man. In fact, I tell my wife she's married to the most fortunate man in all the world. And she doesn't argue with me about it, either.

Oh friends, isn't God wonderful? Isn't He really? He's wonderful.

Now, I have a little study for you tonight that comes out of the book of experience along with this wonderful book, the Bible. You know, God intended that the Bible should be our textbook, and the book of experience, our laboratory book in which each one of us writes down the things that we find work in our lives. So, I have some precious things to share with you.

Now, it happens that my opening text is the same text that Brother Roy Brown read at the beginning of the song service, so I'm going to ask him to read it again, Hebrews 12. He read two and three. I want you to read this time one and two.

Now, he's reading from one of the other translations, so some of the words may be a little different. It's the same thought, and you'll enjoy watching the trend of thought.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:1–2 (*New International Version*).

Where are our eyes to be fixed? On Jesus. What are we looking at? Are we looking at Jesus? Well, dear friends, if we'll look at Jesus, there's a lot of other things we'll miss. You see, just now I'm seeing dozens and scores of people, but

there are two men that I can't see at all. Do you know why? Because I'm looking in this direction.

Now, if I turn and look at them, then I can't see you. God has not put eyes in the back of our heads. And He intends that you and I shall keep our eyes fixed where? On Jesus, on Jesus. If we do this, dear ones, a lot of wonderful things can happen to us.

Isaiah 45:22, now you turn while Brother Johnson's turning to Isaiah 45:22 and see what happens when we look to Jesus.

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" Isaiah 45:22.

What will happen if we look to Jesus? We'll be saved. Saved from what? Saved from sin and saved from a lot of trouble, saved from worry, saved from many, many things, if we'll do what? Look to Jesus.

"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth..." Isaiah 45:22.

We have a beautiful example of this in Numbers the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter verses 8–9. You remember that when the children of Israel were going through the desert, every now and then, they had a spell of murmuring. Isn't it nice to see, isn't it wonderful, I should say, to see how patient God was with them through all their murmurings? Has He ever been patient with you when you murmured and complained? He has been with me, dear ones. Oh, I thank Him for it.

But He sometimes lets us suffer in order to teach us some lessons. And so, while He'd been protecting them from the serpents all through those wilderness wanderings, when they murmured and complained this time He let them suffer what was right there, some *real* trouble instead of imaginary trouble. And so, as they cried to Moses, he cried to the Lord.

Now, let's see what the Lord said:

"The LORD said to Moses, Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live. So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived" Numbers 21:8–9 (*New International Version*).

What happened when he looked? He lived. Suppose he didn't look. He died. Now, let's see what it means.

Don, read for me John, the Gospel of John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter verses 14–15. Jesus, at the midnight hour, is talking with the Jewish ruler, Nicodemus. He's explaining to him how conversion takes place. And I want you to notice how he goes back to this Old Testament example:

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” John 3:14–15.

Yes. As back there in the desert, God said, “Moses, make a serpent out of brass. Make something like what’s hurting the people, and put it up there on the pole. So, if they look, they will live” [a paraphrase of Numbers 21:8].

So, Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh, Romans 8:3–4, and was lifted up where? On the cross, in order that we might do what? Look, look and live. How are we saved? By looking at Jesus. Isn’t that simple?

Can you explain it? No. Can anybody explain how it was that when the people back there looked at that serpent on the pole that they were healed of the serpent bite? The only explanation is this. When they did what God told *them* to do, then God did what they asked Him to do. When they went ahead and looked, He performed the miracle and healed them of the serpent bite. So, if you and I will look at Jesus, a miracle will take place in our lives. Let’s look, what do you say? Keep looking.

John the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 32<sup>nd</sup> verse:

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” John 12:32 (*New International Version*).

Thank the Lord. Now, let’s see what He meant by that. The next verse:

“He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die” John 12:33 (*New International Version*).

What kind of death *did* He die? The death of the cross. That’s what He meant when He said:

“And I, if I be lifted up...” John 12:32.

And what did He say would happen?

He says, “I’m going to draw” [a paraphrase of John 12:32].

Oh, the magnetic power of Jesus on the cross. If we look, we’ll be drawn. If we look, we’ll be changed. If we look, something will happen to our hearts and minds.

Zechariah the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, and the 10<sup>th</sup> verse, here in this one of the Old Testament prophecies is hidden away one of the greatest Gospel jewels in all the Bible. Notice what happens when we look at Jesus on the cross. A wonderful experience can be ours:

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”  
Zechariah 12:10.

What happens if we look at Jesus on the cross? We do what? We mourn. What does that mean “to mourn”? What’s another word for it? Weep. And what’s the word that we use when we’re children? Cry. Did you ever cry?

Ah, dear ones, the sad thing is that most of our crying is because we’re getting a whipping, either literally or what it symbolizes. But Jesus is longing for us to come to the place where we sorrow not because of the whipping, but because of the transgression; not because of the results of sin, but because of sin itself.

What do you suppose will happen to us if we sorrow that way about sin? Why, we won’t go back to it, will we? No, no. Now, notice what it is that makes it.

“They shall look upon Me whom they have...”  
Zechariah 12:10.

What?

“...pierced...” Zechariah 12:10.

You mean we pierced Jesus? Yes. With what? Our sin. And the sin that causes Jesus to die, the thing that makes His heart break can never bring fun and joy and satisfaction to me when I realize it, can it? The power of sin is broken when we look at Jesus on the cross, dying to make it possible for Him to pardon.

Now, the next thing I want to notice is that we not only find sorrow by looking to Jesus (and we need to sorrow over sin, don’t we), but also we find joy and satisfaction.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Psalm the 5<sup>th</sup> verse, notice what happens when we look to Jesus:

“Those who look to Him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame” Psalms 34:5 (*New International Version*).

The King James says:

“They looked unto Him, and were...” Psalm 34:5.

What?

“...lightened...” Psalm 34:5.

I like this one that brother read, they're radiant, radiant.

A friend of mine has an evangelistic series that he calls "Radiant Living." What is it that makes the faces of God's children radiant? Looking to Jesus.

The moon is radiant when it's looking where? At the sun, when there's nothing between. And so, our faces can be radiant looking to Jesus.

The New English Bible translates it this way:

"Look towards Him and shine with joy..." Psalms 34:5  
(*New English Translation*).

"Look towards Him and shine with joy..." Psalm 34:5  
(*New English Translation*).

Wouldn't you like to repeat that one?

"Look towards Him and shine with joy..." Psalm 34:5  
(*New English Translation*).

"Well, I will just as soon as I get through all of these problems and troubles."

No, no, no.

"Look towards Him and shine with joy..." Psalm 34:(*New English Translation*).

Again, repeat it with me, will you?

"Look toward Him and shine with joy..." Psalm 34:5 (*New English Translation*).

Still another translation has it:

"Every face turned to Him grows brighter..." Psalm 34:5  
(unknown version).

Would you like that?

"Every face turned to Him grows brighter..." Psalm 34:5  
(unknown version).

So, if we want to shine with joy, with satisfaction, look away from our poor, sinful selves to Jesus.

"Ah but," somebody says, "Brother Frazee, you don't know how bad I am."

No, I don't know how bad you are, and don't tell me. For number one is you don't even know how bad you are. You're worse than you thought you were. That's right. So why look in that direction?

"When we look to man, trouble grows.  
When we look to Jesus, trouble goes."

"They looked unto Him, and were lightened..." Psalm 34:5.

"Look toward Him and shine with joy..." Psalm 34:5  
(*New International Version*).

Why? Because, listen what happens when we look to Jesus, John 1:29:

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1:29.

What's another word for "behold"? Look at, look to, consider, see. Behold whom? The Lamb of God. Who is the Lamb of God? And what happens as we look? What does He do, does this say? He takes away, bears away, carries away the sin of the world.

Is sin burdening your heart? Look to Jesus and He'll take it away. You want Him to, don't you? Is there anybody here who wants to hang onto the miserable old thing—the selfish, sinful heart? Oh, no. We want Him to take away our sins, don't we? And He does it as we look. As we look to Jesus dying on the cross, we see how bad sin is that caused His death, and we see how loving He is to give His life in order that He might forgive us.

Psalm 16:8–9, oh this is wonderful:

"I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad, and my tongue rejoices: my body also shall rest secure" Psalm 16:8–9 (unknown version).

And the 11<sup>th</sup> verse:

"You have made known to me the path of life. You will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalms 16:11 (unknown version).

Why, dear ones, all this is possible by setting the Lord where? Always before us. He's always ahead of the Christian. And as we fix our eyes on Him, He takes away the worries and the fears, and we find our joy looking to Him.

Someone has said that if you trust, you cannot worry and if you worry, you cannot trust. Which direction are we looking? I repeat, what we see depends upon what direction we're looking. We're looking tonight at whom? Jesus. Thank God.

Now, let's turn to Hebrews 7:25. If I'm interested in looking at Jesus, looking to Him, I'm interested in everything about Jesus from before this world was made on down through. But you'll agree with me that if I'm really interested in looking to Jesus, I want to know especially where He is now and what He's doing right now. What do you say?

I find that people that think a great deal of each other, they like to keep in touch with each other, by letter and where possible by quicker means like a long-distance telephone call. They like to know what the one they love is doing right now—right now, what he's doing.

What's Jesus doing? Hebrews 7:25:

"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" Hebrews 7:25.

What's He doing? He's making intercession. What does intercession mean? What's another word for intercession?

Will you all stand up a minute, please? Tell me, what does intercession mean? Praying, pleading. Thank you. You may be seated.

Jesus is at the right hand of God. He's in the sanctuary. He's at the mercy seat pleading for us. And to look to Him today, this hour, means not only to think of what He did in making the world 6,000 years ago, what He did dying on the cross 2,000 years ago, but what He's doing right now in holding up His wounded hands at the mercy seat and praying for us, interceding.

Now, I want Brother Johnson to read something wonderful from *Volume 6*, page 67, on how we're to use all this in winning souls. We're to have a living, active experience in looking to Jesus on the cross and at the mercy seat. And as we do this, we can help other people to experience it, too.

"Oh, Christ is able, Christ is willing, Christ is longing, to save all who will come unto Him! Talk to souls in peril and get them to behold Jesus upon the cross, dying to make it possible for Him to pardon" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 67.

Now notice, we're to talk to souls and get them to do what? Behold Jesus dying on the cross. That's why we have chapters in Matthew and Mark and Luke and John, as well as Isaiah 53 and the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm, dealing with the death of Jesus. So many precious verses in the Bible describe His suffering and death for us. And this is to be real and living.

As Paul wrote to the Galatians, he says:

“...Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you” Galatians 3:1.

So vividly did Paul describe the sufferings and death of Jesus that those Galatian converts actually, as it were, saw Him dying for them. This is the power and wisdom of God to gather souls, brethren, but we must know it in our own hearts.

“Talk to the sinner with your own heart overflowing with the tender, pitying love of Christ... As you look upon our Intercessor in heaven, let your heart be broken. Then, softened and subdued, you can address repenting sinners as one who realizes the power of redeeming love. Pray with these souls, by faith bringing them to the foot of the cross; carry their minds up with your mind, and fix the eye of faith where you look, upon Jesus the Sin Bearer” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 67.

What are the two great focal points that the eye is to be fixed upon? The cross, and the present intercession of Jesus in the Most Holy Place; the cross where He died for us, the sanctuary where He lives for us. It takes both, doesn't it?

And all that is to be made real and living and vivid. It's not to be made complex. It's not something to get all mixed up in theological problems over. It's something to be made as simple as A-B-C, dear friends. Jesus died for me on Calvary; He lives for me in the sanctuary. His heart was broken by sin there. He's presenting His merits this evening, tonight, at the mercy seat in my behalf. And I'm to see that so vividly that I can help others to see it.

Now, notice what will happen:

“Get them to look away from their poor, sinful selves to the Saviour, and the victory is won” *Ibid.*

Oh, think of it.

“Get them to look away from their poor, sinful selves to the Saviour, and the victory is won” *Ibid.*

Wouldn't you like to try to repeat that?

“Get them to look away from their poor, sinful selves to the Saviour, and the victory is won” *Ibid.*

Again:

“Get them to look away from their poor, sinful selves to the Saviour, and the victory is won” *Ibid.*

Will it happen? Will it happen tonight if you and I'll look? Thank God. Ah, dear ones, we don't have to wait for anything to do this. We don't have to wait until



we get the dishes washed. I'm not talking about the literal dishes. They got all washed before Sabbath, didn't they? But I wonder if we have any problems at home between husband and wife, between parents and children, or between neighbors, or brothers and sisters in the church. We do not have to wait till we get all that adjusted before we can look to Jesus.

The truth of the matter is we need to look to Him right where we are in our needs, and He'll help us get all those problems solved, won't He?

"Get them to look away from their poor, sinful selves to the Saviour, and the victory is won" *Ibid.*

Thank the Lord.

Romans the fifth chapter and the first verse:

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"  
Romans 5:1 (*New International Version*).

Thank the Lord. We have what? We have peace. As we see Jesus dying for us and we look up to where He's interceding for us, we get the help He wants us to have.

Hebrews 4:16:

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" Hebrews 4:16.

I praise God that it's real, don't you? Now, I wonder, is there anybody here tonight that would like to look to Jesus, anybody that would like to look away from yourself, look away from others? Some of us, our biggest problem is ourselves; some of us have our minds fixed on others. But friends, our own faults or the faults of others will never bring us courage. Where will we find courage? Looking where? To Jesus. He died for me. I'll live for Him.

Perhaps we'd like to just kneel where we are right now and look to Jesus, spend a few moments in quiet, shutting out everything else and just looking to Jesus, meditating on His love, and talking to Him. He'll be so glad.

Let's kneel, all who would like to.

Lord, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight that Jesus is real, that He really loves us, and that we can turn our eyes away from all the things that worry, that confuse and dishearten us, the faults of others, our own failures and mistakes. We can bring them all, as if they were in a great bundle, and leave them at the foot of the cross. And we can look up, as we do this moment, and see the Prince of Life giving His life that we might be redeemed.

Oh, let those blood drops fall from Thy wounded head and hands and feet, and drop upon us that we may indeed be cleansed from sin, that our worries and fears may be left with Thee, and that we may go free in Jesus, justified by faith, accepting the life that was given for us. I pray that Thou will bless each one here tonight with this wonderful blessing, for Jesus' sake, amen.

“Jesus, keep me near the cross;  
There a precious fountain,  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calvary's mountain.

Refrain:  
In the cross, in the cross,  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find,  
Rest beyond the river.”  
*Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #312, first stanza.*

Now, I wish we could have a score of people press their way up here to the front, and each one give just one sentence of testimony, praising God. Don't tell us how bad you are; tell us how good He is. Don't tell us your experience; tell about Jesus tonight, talking about Him. We're looking to Him. What do you see in Christ? Come and share with us.

[Testimony meeting follows]

[Elder Frazee] Where is the man, the woman, the boy, or the girl that was meant to be right here now to speak? Press in.

[Testimony meeting continued]

“Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.”  
*Seventh-Day Adventist Hymnal, #190, Refrain.*

And may the peace of God abide in every heart as we keep looking to Jesus.

You're dismissed. Have a wonderful Sabbath. Help somebody else to look to Jesus.

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