

# Cut All Ropes

#0661

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—July 25, 1959

All that my soul has tried  
Left but a dismal void;  
Jesus has satisfied;  
Jesus is mine.  
—Fade, Fade, Each Earthly Joy  
By: Mrs. Catherine J. Bonar

Does Jesus satisfy, dear ones? Well, I shall simply say this, if He doesn't satisfy, it's because we've tried a mixture of Jesus and the world, and that can never satisfy. Never in all the world, never.

But do you know that is exactly what the great enemy has been tempting men with for six thousand years? The idea that it is all very well to be religious and eat of the tree of life, but why not have some of the tree of knowledge of good and evil along with it? Why be so narrow when one can have all that the world offers and Heaven too? And there are great religious movements in the world today that are dedicated to the idea of giving men what they want of the charms and pleasures and follies of this world, and at the same time offering them Heaven in the next life. I fear somebody is getting short-changed.

Now, let us turn to the study of the text in John 15 verses 17 and onward, which we read together as our scripture reading:

"These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you"  
John 15:17–19.

Of course, that's not up to date, is it? That was written back there nineteen hundred years ago, and times have changed. The world has become civilized. This is a Christian nation. And so today, a person who follows Jesus doesn't need to be hated by the world. In fact, if he is, there must be something wrong with him.

Isn't that correct? No, it isn't correct. These words are just as true as when Jesus spoke them, my friends.

"...If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you" John 15:18.

And it's never been sorry for it and sent its apologies. The world crucified our Lord nineteen hundred years ago, and every day they are crucifying Him afresh as they trample underfoot His law, resist His appeals, and go their own way—the way of folly and transgression. And every attempt to compromise, every attempt even to call an armistice between the two sides of this war, is based upon either an utter ignorance of the issues or willful ignoring of what one knows.

No, there can be no concord between Christ and Satan. There can be no middle ground of meeting between right and wrong. The world, having passed under the leadership of the great apostate, is committed to rebellion against the Lord of the universe. And if you and I choose to uplift the banner of Christ in our hearts and lives, we make ourselves a target for the guns of the enemy.

“... If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord” John 15:19–20.

No, we are not greater than our Lord, friends. Sometimes some of us seem more skillful in avoiding persecution than He was. But nobody ever bought peace with the Devil except by compromise. Never. And nobody will today.

I read something very interesting a few days ago. I was looking for something else, and I happened onto this. It has been running through my mind. It's in *Volume 5*, page 433. It was written to dear Brother and Sister P. I don't know what their names were. Doubtless, they are long since dead and buried. But I think a large number of their descendants must be around today. In fact, this sounds so up-to-date that to me, it is one more mark of inspiration. It's a comment on this text we have just read. Now listen:

“‘If the world hates you,’ said Christ, ‘ye know that it hated Me before it hated you.’ You have entertained the opinion that the reason why the world is so much opposed to us as a people is that we are too unsocial, too plain in our dress, and too strict in regard to amusements, withdrawing ourselves from them too much in practice as well as in precept. You have thought that if we would be less exclusive and would mingle more with the world, their opinions and impressions of us would be greatly modified. But no greater mistake could affect the human mind” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 433.

This was very interesting to me, friends. I knew that there was danger along this line. But I must say that reading this passage alerted my mind more than it had been before. And especially when I came to this tremendous statement that this idea is one of the greatest mistakes, in fact, no greater mistake could affect the human mind. What idea? The idea that the trouble with this movement is too exclusive, too unsocial, too plain in dress, and too strict in regard to amusements. And I suppose that if we were to dig back and do a little research into the 1880s when

this was written, we'd be amazed at how much stricter the standards on all these matters were than some folks even know about today. That's probably true. What do you think?

But be that as I may, my point is this, you can see from what I've read that the way to true success in soul-winning doesn't lie down that road. That's the point I want you to see.

And then the servant of God quotes the words of Jesus:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also" John 15:19–20.

Oh, I'm so glad that God has thought enough of us to warn us of these dangers, aren't you? And so this morning, I trust that every heart here can join in that song that was breathed to us from the lips of these young women a few moments ago:

Fade, fade, each earthly joy;  
Jesus is mine.  
Break ev'ry tender tie;  
Jesus is mine.

And I tell you, oh I tell you; you cannot have both. You cannot have both. And the best news I know is this, if you really get Him, you'll be so glad that you don't have to have both. That's right. All you need to do to lose all taste from this world is to get far enough away from it, that's all. And get close enough to Jesus. And the very reason that Jesus says, "If you are going to have Me, you must break with the world," is this, everything in this world spoils the taste for the things of God.

Let's turn to first John the second chapter and let the Bible tell us what the trouble with this world is:

"I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known Him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" 1 John 2:14–15.

Is this old-fashioned? Yes. Is it up to date? Yes. It is as old as the controversy between truth and error. And oh friends, it will be true as long as sin exists. Only when sin and sinners are destroyed in the lake of fire will there be one unified program without one note to break the harmony. Then every creature in

Heaven and earth and all through the universe will unite in praise to God. But until then, there is a war on.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world....” 1 John 2:15–16.

And here He sums it up, under three heads. Here it is, the whole thing:

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” 1 John 2:16.

Tell me, if you were to take out of the moving picture theater all that is comprehended in that 16<sup>th</sup> verse, how much would you have left? If you take out the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye and the pride of life, how much would you have left? Not enough to keep Hollywood in business, I can tell you that. And if you were to take out of the TV programs all the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye and the pride of life, how much would you have left? Not enough to make it worthwhile to pay to put up these TV stations and pay the men to operate them. The thing that makes sin pay off is that it is attractive to the natural heart.

Ah, but somebody says, “But Brother Frazee, you will never make friends and influence people talking that way. Oh, no. You will scare people away. You must somehow help people to see how to get at least a certain amount of the pleasures and entertainments and amusements of this world and at the same time be religious.”

I say that there are enough men talking that Gospel. They don’t need me to do it. But oh the blessed Jesus is longing for somebody to echo the cry from His heart:

“...If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me” Luke 9:23.

Yes, the cross of self-denial.

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” 1 John 2:16–17.

The things of this world are temporal, transitory, fleeting.

Years ago, before anybody ever got the idea of rockets and jets and some of these modern inventions, they had something that many people thought was wonderful. And that was the balloon. And in a balloon, you could get at least a little way up there in the air and look out all over everything. It must have been wonderful

to those first baby space travelers to take those balloon trips. They are still used in some places for certain purposes.

Well, were you ever up in a balloon? I guess not. I've never been, but I've seen them. But there is this much that I know about a balloon, friends. I know that if you want to start toward Heaven, you have to cut the ropes that tie the balloon down to earth. And I know, if you really go, you don't just cut half of them or three-quarters of them. That balloon may wobble and sway back and forth as rope after rope is loosened or cut, but it never starts toward Heaven until the last one is cut. Am I right?

Do you really want to go to Heaven? Do you really want to have fellowship with Christ here and hereafter? Then why hang on to the sin of this world, the folly of this world, the indulgence of this world, the pride of this world, the transgression of this world? Why not get going where we're going? What do you say, friends? All that is in the world is not of the Father but is of the world. These things are weights that hold us down to keep us back from that trip which would fill our hearts with joy and thrill our souls with wonder.

Fade, fade, each earthly joy;  
Jesus is mine.  
Break ev'ry tender tie;  
Jesus is mine.

Ah, but somebody says, "You take what little pleasure I get out of life; you'd take it all away."

Probably. So, that you could get some real pleasures that really satisfy.

Elder MacGuire, a dear friend of mine who has traveled around the world a number of times in the service of the Lord, was telling us of an experience that he had on an ocean liner one day. The ship was several days out to sea. He'd gotten acquainted with various ones on the ship.

And a friend that he had made on the ship, a friend of a few days, saw him standing there on the deck and invited him to come in and take a drink at the bar there on the ship. Brother MacGuire smiled at him and said, "No, thank you. I don't drink."

"You don't?"

So, by and by as they were chatting there, he pulled out a cigar and offered him a cigar. Again, Elder MacGuire smiled and said, "No, thank you. I don't smoke."

"You don't smoke and you don't drink. Well, what pleasure do you get out of life anyway?"

Isn't that interesting? "What pleasure do you get out of life anyway?"

And as Elder MacGuire was telling us, he said, "That man didn't know that I got more real pleasure out of a drink of pure water than he did out of the whiskey. And he didn't realize that I got more real pleasure out of a good clean mouth than he got out of that stinking cigar. He didn't know that."

But is it the truth? Yes, any man who has tried both and tried God's way of life to the full, after he has tried the fleeting, silly, indulgent things of this world knows that the exchange we make as we give up these things of this world and take Jesus is not a sacrifice. Not at all, friends.

The very reason that God wants us to give up some of these things is that they get in the way of the things of greater joy. That's what John is talking about.

Turn over to the book of Acts. I want you to see an interesting story. Do you remember Ananias and Sapphira? You remember in the fourth chapter of Acts, the disciples back there in a time of great emergency when the world was hating them because they were so close to God. Many were thrown out of work, many were thrown out of their homes, their own families repudiated them. The result was that those that had property, that is, houses and land, sold it and laid it at the apostle's feet (Acts 4:35).

Well, now here we have an exception. In that group of loving, dear sweet Christians who were sacrificing their all for Jesus and one another, there was a man and his wife whose names have been handed down to us loaded with infamy, Ananias and Sapphira. Do you know what the matter is with them? Let's look:

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price..." Acts 5:1-2.

You remember what happened. Lying about it, they met their instant death at the hands of God as they lied to the church, to Peter, to the Holy Ghost. Now, the part that I want you to notice is that first line of that second verse. They did what? They kept back part of the price. They kept back part of the prices. God wasn't pleased with that.

The balloon wobbled. Some of the ropes were cut, but not all of them, not all of them.

You know, in the days when I was a boy, it used to cost a nickel to ride on the bus. Not very many buses you can ride on for a nickel anymore. Then they began to add pennies. You would have to put in a nickel and a penny, and then a nickel and two pennies, a nickel and more.

Now, suppose I get on one of those buses. I look at my purse, and I have some money, but I hate to spend it all. Suppose all I have is a nickel and two pennies, and that's what the bus fare is. I'm just a boy, and I think, "My, my, I wish I didn't have to spend all that, and really I'm only going a few blocks. And so I put in a nickel and think, "My, my, I've done a wonderful lot, I've paid more than half the regular fare, and I'll just save those two pennies." And I stand there

What does the bus driver say? “Two more pennies, please.”

Oh, but I say, “I’ve already given you more than half of it, and this is all I have. You wouldn’t take the last cent I have, would you? How far does this bus go?”

“Well, it goes up here three miles.”

“Well, suppose I only ride half the way. Can’t I go half the way for five cents?”

Can’t I? No. What is the matter? I am trying to do what? What Ananias did, keep back, what? Part of the price. Can I do it and ride? No, no. But millions are trying it today, my friends.

Do you have any pennies in your pocket that belong in that little box where the money goes to ride on the bus? Have you got any? Have you something that belongs in the full surrender to Jesus that’s in the secret closet of your heart?

This brother and sister P that I was reading you about in *Volume 5*, on the next page the Lord’s messenger said:

“Brother and Sister P, while you have been making a profession of Christianity you have been keeping back part of the price” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 434.

Oh, I’m so glad, friends, that it’s our privilege to make the full surrender.

Now, I come to what is the greatest reason why. The greatest reason why it is utterly impossible to get Christ and the world together on this thing, and the greatest reason why you and I will want, if we understand it, to go all the way with Jesus. The world crucified our Lord. And when the world sticks out its hand to us in professed friendship, in offered fellowship, there’s blood on that hand. It is the blood of Jesus, the Son of God.

Suppose Caiaphas should come down the street and offer to take you into his home and make a pal of you. Would you like to have Caiaphas as your best friend? Suppose Judas Iscariot would offer to go into a partnership with you. Would you like to get into that kind of program? What about some of the others who were guilty of the blood of Jesus? Is that the kind you want for close friends?

Nay world, I turn away,  
Though thou seemest fair and good:  
That friendly outstretched hand of thine  
Is stained with Jesus’ blood.  
~By Margaret Mauro

And so this morning, the cross of Christ stands, and will forever stand, as the barrier between the true Christian on the one hand and the world on the other.

Don't misunderstand me. We love the people of this world. Jesus loves them. We will do anything in the world for them. We would die for them. Jesus died for them. But remember, in dying for them, He gave Himself up to be murdered by them, not to be entertained by them. There's quite a difference. There's quite a difference.

How does the world look to you? A lost sheep to be saved? Or does it look like a lot of fun that you'd like to get as much as you can from it on the way to Heaven? It all depends on whether you are converted or not.

Now, let's go back to John the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter and note those words again:

"These things I command you, that ye love one another. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" John 15:17–19.

I come now to something different. Some of the people that have been saying in their hearts, "Amen" to everything I've said so far, will you listen very carefully just now. It's this, let us be sure that the thing that draws the world's opposition is what we do that is like Jesus, and not what we do that is made up of our own selfish peculiarities.

Do you remember that Christ said in the Sermon on the Mount:

"Blessed are they which are persecuted for..." Matthew 5:10.

For what? For righteousness' sake, righteousness' sake.

There are people who are persecuted just for the sake of their selfish peculiarities, their own will, and their own way. But that kind of persecution will never bring any blessing, my friend. I repeat, let us be sure that the thing that we suffer for in living apart, and away and different from the world is what Jesus said and not our own personal ideas. Is that important?

Now, one more thing. And again, I hope all the folks who said, "Amen," before will listen carefully. While the Gospel of Jesus often awakens opposition from a sin-loving world, is not that all the more reason why we should study to present it in the most attractive and winsome way? God forbid that we should take the Lord Jesus Christ, over whom so many in this world stumble because of His high standards and His close requirements, God forbid that we should take that and add to it a bungling manner of presentation that makes still more stumble over it and still more reject Him. The very fact that there are so few that will recognize the Pearl of great price calls for the most expert salesmanship on our part. What do you say? That's a challenge to us this morning, my friends.



We should not be content, we who have known the joy of Jesus to say, “Well, I found it, and if other people don’t have sense enough to take it, too bad for them.” Oh, let us study how with a tact born of divine love to present to men in the most attractive way the treasures of divine truth. And if we will humble ourselves before God and be kind and courteous and tenderhearted and pitiful, there will be a hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.

That’s far different than lowering the standard to get an increase of numbers. That’s far different from fraternizing with the world in order to secure popularity. Oh, let us lift the standard, but do it in love. Let us hold to the truth, but do it in love. Let us present to men the law of God without one change of jot or tittle, but let’s do it in a loving, winsome way. Because He who gave this truth gave His life with it that men might know His love. And if you and I will share that life of service and that sacrifice, we too will win everyone who can be won as He did.

Shall we bow our heads? Our loving Savior, we thank Thee this morning that the treasures and pleasures of this world fade into nothing when viewed in the light of the cross of Calvary. As we see the love of our Lord in giving Himself for us, we want to make Him happy by letting Him have all there is of us.

As we see the hate of a sinful world that nailed Him to the cross and laughed at His agony, we want no part of it, our Lord. We pray Thee that this morning Thou will spoil sin for us. Take from our hearts the last vestige of response to the temptations of sin, and put within our souls a love for Thee that will lead us to lift the standard, and then go out to seek lost men and point them to the place of true pleasure—life with God. We ask it in Jesus’ name, amen.

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