

At Home with Jesus

#0701

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—June 19, 1964

John the 14th chapter, I suppose most of us when we think of the 14th chapter of John think of that wonderful promise in the first three verses. And it is indeed a thrilling, a heart-warming assurance:

“And if I go... I will...” John 14:3.

What?

“...I will come again” John 14:3.

Dear friends the coming of Jesus in glory is preceded by the coming that we shall study this evening, and we will read verses 12 and onward:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto My Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it. If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”
John 14:12–18.

Now, is this the coming of the third verse, where He speaks of coming after having prepared a place for us in the mansions above?

He says:

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again...” John 14:3.

Is this the same coming in the 18th verse?

“...I will come to you” John 14:18.

No, friends. This is a different coming. And we must experience the coming of the 18th verse if we're to know the joy of the coming of that third verse.

“I will not leave you comfortless...” John 14:18.

The margin says, “I will not leave you orphans.”

The disciples had been like children with Jesus. As a loving Father, He had cared for them, trained them, disciplined them, guided them. Now, He said, “I’m going away.”

But He said, “Don’t fear, don’t be discouraged, and don’t think you’re going to be left orphans. Even though I’m going away, I’m going to send you the Spirit, and in the Spirit, and through the Spirit, and by the Spirit I am coming to you.”

Nineteenth verse:

“Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you. He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him” John 14:19–21.

Now, you notice that the disciples had a hard time grasping how Jesus could leave them, go to the Father, and yet be with them.

“Judas saith unto Him...” John 14:22.

This wasn’t Judas Iscariot. It was the other Judas.

“...Lord, how is it...” John 14:22.

“...how is it that Thou wilt manifest Thyself unto us, and not unto the world?” John 14:22.

“How’s this going to be? You say You’re going away, and the world won’t see you anymore. But we’ll see You and know You, You’ll be with us, and yet the world won’t see you. How is that?”

Did they understand? No.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him” John 14:23–24.

What an intimate relationship. We’re told that John wrote this Gospel after he had received those wonderful revelations that he wrote in what we have in the last book of the New Testament, the Apocalypse or the Revelation. And these words seem strangely and sweetly like that wonderful appeal in the Laodicean message in the third chapter of Revelation:

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me” Revelation 3:20.

The figure is the same. The experience is the same. Jesus wants to live with us. And you notice He associates with Himself in this desire, His Father. He has already associated the Spirit. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit all desire to live with us, to “come in.”

How much closer this is than that wonderful fellowship that the twelve enjoyed with Jesus when He was in the flesh. This is something closer. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit all living within us.

The Revised Standard translates this last clause of the 23rd verse:

“...We will... make Our home with him” John 3:23
(*Revised Standard Version*).

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Where does Jesus live? Does He live in your heart? That’s His plan. That’s His desire, to live in your heart.

You know, we have an expression, an idiom in our English language of people being at home. What do we mean?

We say, “Make yourself right at home.”

Or somebody says, “Well, I feel at home here.”

Well, we all understand what that means, a feeling of belonging, of being wanted, of being accepted, of being at home, at home.

Now, that’s the way Jesus would like to feel, friends, in your heart. He wants to be at home. He’s coming not for a brief visit, not for a social call, not for a weekend. He wants to live with you from henceforth, forever. And by the Spirit this is made possible for everyone.

Now, notice the relationship between the Spirit and the Word, back to the 14th and 15th verses:

“If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it. If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” John 14:14–17.

Notice that the promise of the Spirit living in our hearts is dependent upon our entering into the willingness to keep His commandments.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever” John 14:15–16.

Just as Jesus and the Father are always in harmony, and we can never get the favor of one if we despise the other, so the Spirit, my friends, the Spirit is in perfect harmony with Father and the Son. And we can never receive the Spirit while we despise or neglect the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. The three are in perfect harmony, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

So, if we want the Spirit in our hearts, we must open our hearts to the Word of God, the law of God, the commandments of God, the testimony of our Lord.

“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter...” John 14:15–16.

Again in the 23rd verse:

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love Me, he will...” John 14:23.

What?

“...keep My words...” John 14:23.

Now, you notice in each of these expressions, the 15th:

“If ye love Me, keep My commandments” John 14:15.

In the 23rd:

“...If a man love me, he will keep My words...” John 14:23.

In each case, the obedience which Christ values is based upon and comes from what? Love. That’s the only obedience that’s worth a nickel to our Lord is the obedience that comes from love.

But may I add, friends, the only love that’s worth anything is the love that is manifested in obedience.

For in another place, He says:

“And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” Luke 6:46.

“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men” Matthew 15:9.

So, only the love which is manifested in obedience is worth anything, and only the obedience which comes *from* love is worth anything. Love, true love will be manifested in obedience, for love seeks to please.

And so, Jesus says, “Do you love Me? Do you want to please Me? Ah,” He says, “just do what I say.”

Now, as I’ve been pondering over this matter, friends, I’ve come to think of it this way. Let me share these thoughts with you and see if you agree with me that there are certain well-defined and well-presented commandments of God that are designed to keep us from getting clear off the road to heaven. Those are briefly comprehended in the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments, as we call them.

For example, God says:

“Thou shall not kill” Exodus 20:16.

If a man commits murder, he’s clear off that highway to heaven.

“Thou shall not steal” Exodus 20:18.

If a man steals, he’s clear off that highway to heaven.

And so, we have other well-defined, clearly-explained commands that are like a great barrier between us and going over the precipice toward eternal ruin.

We might think of the two tables of the law as the two fences, one on either side of the highway. Here’s a fence over on this side to keep us from the precipice over here. Here’s the fence over here to keep us from the precipice over on this side.

By the way, is the path we travel cast up *high* above the world? Yes. Well then, if we get off the path, what are we going to do? We’re going to what? We’re going to fall, aren’t we?

I was studying that, you remember, the other evening, “Babylon is fallen,” of course. And if we’re where we belong, we’re not going to be looking up to it; we’d look down because it’s what? It’s fallen.

But now, the thing to keep us from falling is God’s Word, “Thou shall not,” “Thou shall not.” “Thou shall not worship images.” “Thou shall not do any work in the Sabbath.” “Thou shall not steal.” “Thou shall not commit adultery.” “Thou shall not covet.” All these “Thou shall not”s are barriers to keep us on the road, on the highway.

But my dear friends, I’d like to suggest to you this evening that within the confines of those commands that deal with those flagrant, outstanding

transgressions, within the limits of that, there are shall I say (please do not misunderstand me), shall I say closer restrictions for the heart that love has touched. And those restrictions are for those who want them. Those confining, guiding influences are for those who desire them.

And let me illustrate. What is back of this commandment, "Thou shall not kill"? Well, that's love, isn't it? All right. Love for God, Who made man; love for our fellow men because they're made in the image of God.

But my dear friends, when Jesus magnifies the law, He shows us that that commandment is broken even by what? Anger, yes.

"Whosoever hateth his brother is..." 1 John 3:15.

What?

"...a murderer..." 1 John 3:15.

But now, I'd like to come much closer than that. Dear friends, if love is the reason we do not kill, and if love is the reason that we do not even get angry, will not that love lead us to devote our lives to saving the lives of others?

Can we be content, if we love as Jesus loved, to merely pass along assured that we have neither murdered our brother nor even hated him? Will not love lead us to devote the life to service to others, as Jesus did? Was it not the Spirit of the Sixth Commandment that caused Jesus to leave heaven and come down to this world to give His life for His murderers, and to say:

"...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34.

Now, my point is the Holy Spirit will lead the heart that is willing to be led to what looks like a much narrower pathway than merely avoiding murder or even avoiding anger. It will lead to a sacrificial, self-sacrificing, self-denying way of life. What for?

"...Not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life..." Matthew 20:28.

What? For others.

"...a ransom for many..." Matthew 20:28.

Now, the Holy Spirit alone can interpret that to each heart. This fellowship that Jesus is trying to describe for us here is one in which there is communication between Jesus and us and between us and Jesus.

Think of it, Jesus has come into the heart now.

And we say in the early morning, “Oh Jesus, I’m so glad You’re still here with me in this little home of my heart. Now, what can I do for you today? What can I do to please you?”

And will Jesus merely say, “Oh, be sure you don’t kill anybody today. That’ll please Me. Don’t kill anybody. And don’t get angry with anybody. Now, aside from that, go ahead and do as you please”?

“If you want to get rich, or if you have any selfish plans you want to carry out, just do it, but be sure you don’t kill anybody, and don’t steal from anybody, and don’t hate anybody, but otherwise go your own sweet way.”

Is that what He says? Oh, no. Oh, no. In the silence of the heart that love has touched, Jesus begins to make the way narrower and narrower and narrower, doesn’t He? Yes. He begins to cut off extravagances here, indulgences there, on the right hand and on the left.

“Ah,” you say, “That’s the trouble.”

Yes, that *is* the trouble, that’s the trouble, the trouble with many a weary heart. And if all you think of it is a list of restrictions, “Thou shall not,” it *would* be very wearisome and burdensome.

But Jesus says:

“...If a man love Me, he will keep My words...” John 14:23.

“...If a man love Me, he will keep My words...” John 14:23.

Why, love delights to please. Love finds joy in that fellowship. And so, to the converted heart, the born-again heart, there is actual pleasure in the thought that, “Here is something that Jesus has asked me to give up for Him, so that I may more efficiently and effectually work for others.”

Isn’t that the real spirit of the Sixth Commandment, friends? Yes. Take every other one of the commandments and rejoice in the fact that the Holy Spirit will take that commandment and, as far as your life is concerned, will bring it to focus more and more upon an unselfish, sacrificial, self-denying experience.

Why, someone was calling my attention just this week to a most interesting discovery that someone had made in the Spirit of Prophecy about these picture idols that line the walls and cover the mantels and the pianos in many homes. Did you ever read about it in *Messages to Young People*, the photographs of friends and relatives and loved ones, faces, faces, faces, human faces?

But when the Spirit of Prophecy deals with that subject, do you know what the text is?

“Thou shalt have no other gods before Me” Exodus 20:3.

Well, where'd that come from? Well, that's the First Commandment of the Decalogue, isn't it?

Now, listen. It isn't for me to go into somebody's home and pull the picture off the piano or off the mantel, is it? No. It isn't even for me to go into that house and start talking to them about it. But do you know, dear ones, somewhere along the line (could be the first week, could be the first year, it could be after 10 years or 20), but somewhere along the line, the same Spirit that inspired the Lord's messenger to write that down, to write an article about it in the *Review and Herald* that's printed in *Messages to Young People*, that same Spirit is going to be talking to that human heart about that. Is that right?

And *then* is the time for the response of love to say, "Oh Jesus, I'm so glad You're impressing my heart about that, for I want the people who come into my home to see no man but Jesus only. In other words, I want the things in and around my house, and yard, and in my life to be of such a nature that attention will be directed to Jesus, the Creator, rather than the creature. Do you see, friends?

"Ah," you say, "That's a little thing."

Well, if you think that's a little thing, that's with you, friends. You study it. But my subject tonight is not pictures. My subject is not getting angry. My subject is not any of these details. My subject is the coming of Jesus to the heart before He comes to this earth in power and great glory. He comes to the heart that is open.

He comes and says, "I want to abide with you. If you love Me, let Me in. If you love Me, keep My commandments. If you love Me, keep My words."

And remember, there are these great outstanding commandments which I was about to say nobody can misunderstand or misapply. People surely shouldn't, those great commandments like, "Thou shall not kill, "Thou shall not steal," "Thou shall not commit adultery," "Thou shall not bear false witness."

But ah, remember, between the confines of those prohibitions there is a still narrower road, which you must not define for others, which you must make no attempt to outline for others, but which the Light of the world will illuminate for you as you walk in the light of the His suggestions. Love above will seek the response of love below. Love in the heart of Jesus will seek the reflection of love in your human heart.

And oh, happy is the one that has learned to say moment by moment, "Dear Lord, what is it You want me to do?"

And ah, friends, let the answer be very simple to the question, "How will I know?"

Let the answer be very simple. It is this. Do what you think will please Him, do what you think will please Him.

In the book *Acts of the Apostles*, page 283 and running over to 284, we have one of those marvelous statements that opens up a great room full of blessing.

Listen:

“If the followers of Christ were but earnest seekers after wisdom, they would be led into rich fields of truth as yet wholly unknown to them” *Acts of the Apostles*, page 283.

Note, it’s our privilege to get into fields, rich fields, as yet wholly unknown to us. How are we going to do it?

Listen:

“He who will give himself fully to God will be guided by the divine hand. He may be lowly and apparently ungifted; yet if with a loving, trusting heart he obeys every intimation of God’s will, his powers will be purified, ennobled, energized, and his capabilities will be increased” *Ibid.*

Now, what is that “if”?

“If with a loving, trusting heart he...” *Ibid.*

Does what?

“...he obeys...” *Ibid.*

What?

“...every intimation of God’s will...” *Ibid.*

What’s an intimation? Well, it’s something a little different than “Thou shall not kill,” “Thou shall not steal,” isn’t it, friends? That’s not an intimation. That’s a plain, direct, unqualified command, right? It ought to be. It’s to keep us from going over the precipice. But oh, for the *loving* heart, there’s something far within those prohibitions that deal with the outward flagrant transgressions. And therein lies the beauty of this.

And let me tell you something, friends. The child of God who will stay in that narrow beam of light, doing not merely what is required but what He thinks will please the Master in the very best way, my dear friends, he’ll never get anywhere near that precipice where he might fall over to eternal ruin. There’s the protection of this thing.

To state it in another way, the man that goes over that precipice, whether as a murderer, an adulterer, a thief, a liar, *long* before he ever goes over that precipice in outward, flagrant transgression, he has been violating his conscience in the details of Christian living. Mark it down; it’s always so. There’s no exception to that, my

friends. The precipice is no temptation for the earnest, true Christian who is living in the light of this precious experience we're studying here in Christ's words in John 14:

"...If a man love Me, he will..." John 14:23.

What?

"...keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him"
John 14:23.

"We'll make Our home with him."

And oh, how sweet it is to love those intimations of His will. You know, friends, when we have somebody with us that we love, we like to please them, don't we?

My mind goes back over 30 years ago; my wife and I were first married. We went some weeks after on a little trip. Among other places, we visited a relative of ours, an aunt.

And I remember the next morning (she let us sleep as late as we wanted to), and she came in, and she said, "What would you like for breakfast? What would you like for breakfast?"

Well, I just said rather lightly, "Strawberries and cream."

She said, "All right, you shall have strawberries and cream."

Well, I had no idea we'd have any strawberries and cream but bless her heart, she went out and got strawberries and cream. Why? Well, she just wanted to do something to please us. Do you see what I mean, friends?

Now, that wasn't a requirement that she had to do that. Far from it, but she loved to do it. We were there just for that morning; she wanted to do something to please us.

My dear friends, if Jesus comes into our hearts and we love Him and love to please Him, He won't have to just say, "You *must* do this; you must *not* do that."

It will be the great longing of our heart every morning to find out how we can best please Him, won't it?

And this is summed up so beautifully in Ephesians the 5th chapter and the 10th verse, as the Twentieth Century translates it:

"Always be trying to find out what best pleases the Lord"
Ephesians 5:10 (*Twentieth Century Translation*).

“Always be trying to find out what best pleases the Lord”
Ephesians 5:10 (*Twentieth Century Translation*).

And this is the yoke which is easy, and this is the burden that is light. And the paradox of it is this, friends. Although it's narrower than mere outward conformity to these clear prohibitions, it is also sweeter and less burdensome than merely to conform to those outward restrictions.

“...My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” Matthew 11:30.

All right. Now, I'd like to hear from you this vesper hour. Let us thank God for His love. And I would like to know your heart's response to what we've listened to from the words of Jesus in this 14th chapter of John tonight.

Has He come into your heart? Do you find that He does give you intimations of His will, not to use to club others with, or even necessarily to instruct others, but to guide in the details of your own life?

And do you find that as you accept those intimations and through love to Him seek to please Him in those ways, that it brings joy rather than worry to your heart? What is your witness?

[Testimony meeting followed.]

[Comments made by Elder Frazee during testimony meeting.]

If what the Christian religion says is so, is so, if what people sing about, “Jesus is the sweetest name I know,” and all that sort of thing, then wouldn't it be true, friends, if that is so, that the more of Jesus we get in our lives, the happier we'd be? Wouldn't that be true? Wouldn't that be true? Why not make that practical?

...All right. Another thought on this. This is another thing that can keep the soul relaxed. Now, picture that highway again. Here are these great walls or guard rails on either side, “Thou shall not go over the precipice here,” “Thou shall not go over the precipice there.” And we know that in between those is this narrower road of personal guidance in the individual life.

But ah, friends, we can't always be quite so certain exactly where the line is here, can we? That worries some people. They want everything as plain as the Ten Commandments.

Don't let that worry you, friends. Just seek to please Him, and remember *this*. You're not going over the precipice unless you go through that wall on either side, see? In other words, God has set up these guard rails on either side to make it safe for you to walk this highway of loving fellowship.

And if you *should* make a little mistake in exactly understanding His best will, a little to the right or a little to the left, you're not going over the precipice as long as you stay within the restrictions of the plainly revealed, “Thou shall not.” Isn't that right?

But oh, never let *that* fact, which I just stated and it *is* a fact, never let it keep you from longing day by day to know the clearest intimations of His best will for you, and reveling in the thought that He has a special plan for your individual life and that nothing can satisfy you so much as to please Him fully.

Who else, now, has a word of witness...

“Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in My soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

[Refrain] Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #318, first stanza.

As we close this service tonight, is there anyone that wishes to make a surrender to Jesus? You see, we do not know the heart; only Jesus knows the heart. It could be that everyone has come here tonight fully surrendered to the Master. How glad we would be.

It might be that someone is here tonight who has *never* surrendered fully to Him, but tonight you'd like to open your heart to Him. Why not do it tonight?

It may be that there is someone here who *has* surrendered to Him in the past, but tonight you see that like Peter, you've been following Him afar off, and you'd like to press in to a close fellowship with Him in a *full* surrender. Not merely to keep within the framework of the “Thou shall not”s but to press into the center of His will, to know and do His very choicest purposes for you.

If there's someone like that, would you like to indicate that response, that decision just by standing, and we'll remember you in prayer. The Holy Spirit will speak to hearts. Just remain standing a moment, men.

Is there somebody else that the Spirit speaks to tonight? It's a wonderful thing to hear His voice and open the door. Sometimes I think of it that there's more than one room to the heart, and it may be that tonight we've discovered some room that has been locked against the Spirit's presence, the Spirit's directions. But tonight we want every room open.

Is there still another that says, “Yes, Christ has spoken to my heart tonight; there's something He wants that I haven't yet given Him, but tonight I'm going to give it to Him.”

All the way with Jesus.

“I will follow Thee, my Savior,
Wheresoe'er my lot may be.
Where Thou goest I will follow;

Yes, my Lord, I'll follow Thee.

[Refrain] I will follow Thee, my Savior,
Thou didst shed Thy blood for me;
And though all men should forsake Thee,
By Thy grace I'll follow Thee."
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #623, first stanza.

And remember, dear ones, as we reach out the hand to go with Him, remember His hand is already stretched out to ours. And it's the nail-pierced hand. It cost Him everything to stretch out that hand to us—no question about his taking ours.

"...Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"
John 6:37.

To change the figure and come back to what we were reading, as we hear that knock and open the door, we need have no concern as to whether or not He comes in, no fear, no worry, I mean. For ah, dear friends, again, that hand that knocks is nail-scarred. He's paid a tremendous price that He might come to the door of our hearts and knock. And surely, as the door is opened, He will come in. He *does* come in. He comes in right now—no question about it.

Is there another one that says, "Yes, this call is for me, and my heart responds. I will open the door. I *will* open the door. I will let Jesus have that which He has talked to my soul about. I will yield all, all, all"?

And dear ones, remember, when you give all, it's your privilege to take all. When you surrender all, it's your privilege to receive all. When you give all you have, it's your privilege to accept all that He has. That's the Gospel.

Shall we kneel together with these?

Heavenly Father, as we're soon to enter into the holy Sabbath hours, we thank Thee that we've heard the voice of One Who says:

"Come unto Me...and I will give you..." Matthew 11:28.

Sabbath.

"...I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28.

Rest from the worry and the fear, rest from the burdens, rest from the strife. Oh, Lord, tonight we choose to turn away from worry over what people think of us, and to concern ourselves only with what Thou dost think of us.

We know, Lord, we're unworthy as far as what we've done, but we know we're precious because we belong to Thee. And tonight, we're yielding all to Thee—every room of the heart, every activity of the life, every desire of the soul.

We surrender all, dear Savior. We give up not merely the bad things, but the good things, not merely the world's way but our own way. We give it all up to Thee. And we choose that from henceforth there shall be but one purpose, Thy will, in its sweetest, fullest, strictest limits.

Oh, Jesus, make us happy in this special relationship. Make us glad in knowing that Thou art in our hearts:

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy...” Titus 3:5.

As we see Thy love revealed on Calvary, we yield to that love, and we thank Thee that Thou wilt hold us back.

Bless these who've stood for Thee tonight and just now reveal Thy love to them in a very special way. With them, bless us all and may we through the holy hours of this Sabbath love Thee as we've never loved Thee before, and please Thee as we've never pleased Thee before.

We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

You're dismissed. Next Friday, we'll have vesper service here again at six-thirty. God bless you each and all through the Sabbath.

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