

Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

#0739

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 15, 1958

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

Well now, friends, I just want us to meditate for a few minutes on this. Shall we enter into this experience? Shall we?

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

I'd like to have us think of some of the things we need to give up, if this is to be our experience.

In the first place, dear friends, we'll have to give up feeling sorry for ourselves. If any of us are troubled with that, that's one thing to give up.

You know, I've thought about it as I've been meditating on this verse. If there was anybody that might from a human standpoint have a right to feel sorry for Himself, it was Jesus that night, don't you think so? Think of it. There He was sitting with those disciples, and how their strife grieved Him. And He knew that right ahead was the betrayal, and the denial, and Gethsemane, and Calvary, and all the rest. He might have been quite mournful. But He sat there with His own heart at peace and with His heart drawn out for those disciples.

And let me tell you, dear ones, the cure, the prevention for feeling sorry for ourselves is to be burdened and interested about others. That's the way it was with Jesus' heart. He was thinking about *them* all the while, those disciples, and because He was thinking about them, oh His heart went out in this beautiful message that we've just been listening to:

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

And so, I say to you tonight, if there are any of you that have been feeling sorry for yourself about anything, any point, any subject, it may be some big thing, it may be some tiny little insignificant thing, whatever it is, brother, sister, give it up, give it up, give it up.

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

And then, there is this thing of ambition for place and position. Now, those disciples were troubled with that as they came into the upper room that evening. And you remember that there was a strife among them, Luke says, as to which

should be the greatest. Think of it, after three years and a half with Jesus, still striving about which one should be the greatest.

And did it trouble them? Sure, it always troubles people. Whenever there's a race to be first, somebody's troubled. Whenever there's an ambition to get the highest place, somebody's troubled.

"Well," somebody may say, "I don't want the highest place, but I want someplace."

Yes, yes. James and John didn't want the highest place. They were willing for Jesus to have the highest place. But what did they want? They wanted next. Yes. And you know, sometimes in a work of this kind we're perfectly willing for somebody else to be the highest, but we *would* like to have someplace, and it troubles us, it troubles us.

"Let not your heart be troubled..." John 14:1.

Just leave that all with Jesus. You don't need any place. You don't. You don't need any place. If there's any place that God needs *you*, He'll put you there. But you don't need any place. Why, what God is looking for is people that are willing to be anything or nothing, if only souls may be won to Christ.

And that's what happened in the upper room before Pentecost. The disciples got to the place where they shrunk in their own estimation. And they were just glad and willing for anybody else to fill the places and positions. That's what caused all doubt and strife, all worry and fear to take wings and flee away.

"Let not your heart be troubled..." John 14:1.

Oh, remember, you don't need a place. You don't need a position. And if Jesus has a need that He wants you to fill, it's up to Him to put you there, and He'll do it. Oh, how lovingly and sweetly He works out His providences to bring us to the work He wants us to do. And He longs to have us without worry or fear.

Well, there are many things that fret the people of this world, my friends. But somehow it seems to me this week as I've been thinking about it that God is so happy to have us perfectly at rest.

Let me read you this from *Steps to Christ*, page 122:

"Jesus is our friend; all heaven is interested in our welfare. We should not allow the perplexities and worries of everyday life to fret the mind and cloud the brow. If we do, we shall always have something to vex and annoy"
Steps to Christ, page 122.

Isn't that interesting, friends? Why, if we could make a list tonight of all the things that perplex us, that worry us, that disturb us, that fret us, we could make a list of them, put them up here on the blackboard, and then if God by His miraculous

power should right this moment take away every one of them so we could wipe the board clean and say, "There's nothing left," we'd go out of here singing. But you know, before another sun would set, something would come up. Do you know it? Yes, something would come up.

And we'd say, "Oh, I thought the sky was going to be clear, but there's another cloud."

What's the answer?

"Let not your heart be troubled..." John 14:1.

But if it *is* troubled, who let it be troubled? You did.

But He says, "Don't let it. Don't let it."

"But oh Lord, how can I help it?"

Jesus is our friend.

"...Ye believe in God, believe also in Me" John 14:1.

That's the answer, friend, to every fret, every trouble.

"There is an Eye that never sleeps
Beneath the wing of night;
There is an Ear that never shuts
When sink the beams of light.

There is an Arm that never tires
When human strength gives way;
There is a Love that never fails
When earthly loves decay.

That eye unseen o'erwatcheth all,
That arm upholds the sky;
That ear doth hear the sparrows call,
That love is ever nigh."

"There Is an Eye that Never Sleeps," by James Cowden Wallace (adapted).

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me" John 14:1.

"Jesus is our friend; all heaven is interested in our welfare. We should not allow the perplexities and worries of everyday life to fret the mind and cloud the brow. If we do we shall always have something to vex and annoy"
Steps to Christ, page 122.

What do you say, friend? It seems to me tonight God is calling us to a still higher plateau, a higher spiritual elevation. One in which there are troubles all about us, but our hearts are not troubled.

Now, notice:

“We should not indulge a solicitude that only frets and wears us, but does not help us to bear trials. You may be perplexed in business; your prospects may grow darker and darker...” *Ibid.*

And this may be true with other things besides business. It may be in health, in matters of life and death. It may be in plans to do the Master’s work, something you’re trying to do for God.

Listen, whatever the problem, listen:

“You may be perplexed... your prospects may grow darker and darker, and you may be threatened with loss; but do not become discouraged; cast your care upon God, and remain calm and cheerful. Pray for wisdom to manage your affairs with discretion, and thus prevent loss and disaster. Do all you can on your part to bring about favorable results. Jesus has promised His aid, but not apart from our effort. When, relying upon our Helper, you have done all you can, accept the result cheerfully” *Ibid.*

Isn’t that nice? Why, Brother Ronald, down there in the garden, suppose some kind of worm, or bug, invading army, comes in there, and it looks like they’re going to take the whole tomato crop, could that happen? Yes. I know what Brother Boyd’s going to do. He’s going to pray. Some of the rest of us would join him in prayer. Will we do anything else? Yes. We’ll work. We’ll do everything we can think of to avoid that loss.

But through it all:

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

God doesn’t want us to just wring our hands and come before His altar and say, “Lord, we’ve just got to have that tomato crop saved.”

No, no. We can be earnest in our prayers, but do you know what God appreciates, friends? He appreciates it when we trust Him enough to show that we believe that He loves us better than we love ourselves and that He’s perfectly capable of taking care of us. He appreciates that.

You know, I was thinking about it today. Some people are like the heathen in some countries. Do you know there are people in some countries that take the gods out of the temple and whip them sometimes because they don’t give them what they want? Yes. That’s right.

“You haven’t been hearing us. You haven’t been doing what we ask.”

So they take them out and whip them—the gods out of the temple.

Of course, it doesn’t hurt them any, the kind of gods that they whip. But friends, it hurts our Father in heaven when we whip Him. And every doubt whips Him. Every expression of doubt wounds His soul. He loves us. He wants us to be happy.

He says:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me” John 14:1.

“I’m looking after you. I’m strong, I’m wise, and I love you.”

“Let not your heart be troubled...” John 14:1.

Oh friends, if He says, “Let not your heart be troubled,” there’s something we can *do* about it. Let’s do it. What do you say? Let’s look heavenward in faith. But I’ll tell you this, there’s no way to enter into this as long as we want our own way and are determined to have it, never, never, never.

“It is the love of self that destroys our peace”
Mount of Blessing, page 16.

It’s our suspicions and doubts about others that wound and grieve us. It’s wanting our way and wanting position. Those are the things that weigh us down.

Tonight, friends, let’s just come as little children to our loving Father and say, “Dear Lord, I’m going to do just what you’ve asked me to do. I’m not going to let my heart be troubled. I *do* believe in You. I believe in the Father. I believe in the Son Jesus Christ. I believe in the blessed Spirit that comforts and saves.”

Shall we bow our heads?

Blessed Lord, we accept Thy sweet message of love and comfort. And by Thy grace, we shall not let our hearts be troubled. And when the things that might vex and fret come, may it be our happy lot to meet them bravely with peace on the inside.

We ask it in Jesus’ name. Amen.

We’ll spend a few moments in testimony. Let those who speak now speak briefly so that several may take part.

[Testimony meeting followed.]

“O Thou Whose bounty fills my cup

With ev'ry blessing meet!
I give Thee thanks for ev'ry drop,
The bitter and the sweet.

I praise Thee for the desert road,
And for the river-side;
For all Thy goodness hath bestowed,
And all Thy grace denied.”
“O Thou Whose Bounty Fills My Cup,” by Jane F. Crewdson.

Now, as we close this service, I suppose that every heart is filled with praise, and I trust with the spirit of glad surrender to the will of God. And I want to give you an opportunity by standing to express thanksgiving to God and a full, unreserved surrender. If that is in our hearts tonight and we choose to express it by standing, I know it'll bring joy to our Father's heart.

“Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #694.

As we go from this service, let us remember to pray for each of the meetings to be held tomorrow morning in the various branches and here. And then, we shall meet here tomorrow evening at 6:15 around the table of the Lord.

You are dismissed, and may God bless each one.

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