

Time Alone with God

#0751

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—November 19, 1982

Isn't it wonderful to have a book that's got enough in it to keep us busy studying a million years? Let's turn tonight to begin our study to Joshua the 10th chapter.

You know, Paul tells us in Romans 15:4:

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" Romans 15:4.

Jesus said concerning the Old Testament Scriptures:

"...They testify of Me" John 5:39.

Of Jesus.

"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them [His disciples] in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" Luke 24:27.

So, here in this 10th chapter of Joshua, we have a wonderful story. Now, I suppose that all of you had heard the story of the long day when the sun stood still. Do you remember that one?

The Bible says:

"And there was no day like that before it or after it..."
Joshua 10:14.

God did it once to show He could do it, and He did it *only* once to show that it isn't necessary most of the time.

But that wonderful story of the sun standing still has a sequel that I thought was very interesting as I was reading it this week, verses 22–25 of the 10th chapter of Joshua. Let's get the picture.

You remember that when Joshua led the children of Israel across Jordan, they camped at Gilgal, conquered Jericho and Ai, and finally, they had a battle with five kings all at once, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. They all confederated together, these five kings, to fight against Israel, but God gave Israel the victory. That's the day the sun

stood still. But those five kings, they fled and went and hid in a cave, and it's that cave I want you to take a look at, and the five kings coming out.

We'll read verses 22–25. Now, listen, follow it with your eye and listen as Brother Cook reads it:

“Then said Joshua, Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings unto me out of the cave. And they did so, and brought forth those five kings unto him out of the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon. And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them. And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight” Joshua 10:22–25.

I think that's wonderful. What do you say? Just imagine, not merely one king nor two, but five kings. And the captains of the army of Israel went and put their feet on the necks of those kings. The kings had to take it, you understand, because Joshua, led by God, was in command, and he gave the children of Israel the victory over all those five kings.

And what was the lesson? Joshua said, “Listen, God's going to do that with you for *all* your enemies, for every one of them. So don't be afraid of them.”

And sounding down through the isles of time that message comes tonight, “Don't be afraid of your enemies. Put your feet on their necks. The God of peace shall bruise Satan under *your* feet shortly.”

The 91st Psalm says:

“Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder...” Psalm 91:13.

I think God wants us to be full of courage concerning meeting every temptation, every test. What do you say? God wants us to be victorious.

“The life of Christ's disciples is to be like His, a series of uninterrupted victories...” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 307.

Oh, it's wonderful to be a Christian.

But now, I want to note the secret of this. Turn back to Joshua the 5th chapter, verses 13–15. Before they ever started any of these military campaigns, we see Joshua out all by himself meditating, praying, seeking the Lord for guidance.

He's been a man of war himself for 40 years. He was the young general that led the army of Israel at Rephidim, you remember; discomfited Amalek. But he's not depending upon his military training or experience. He's not depending upon any past thing that happened. He's out alone with God, this military man, seeking the Lord for wisdom.

Notice where he gets his orders:

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with His sword drawn in His hand: and Joshua went unto Him, and said unto Him, Art Thou for us, or for our adversaries? And He said, Nay; but as Captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto Him, What saith my Lord unto His servant? And the Captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so" Joshua 5:13–15.

Then, in the sixth chapter, the next chapter, we hear the Captain of the Lord's host, Prince of the host, Michael, or Christ giving Joshua the explicit directions, the detailed orders concerning the military campaign that he would enter into.

It's a wonderful thing to be in touch with God, friends, in all we undertake. But we can receive it, whether we're little children or older people, we can receive those directions only as we take time like Joshua did to be alone with God, alone with God.

Now, you remember that for the last two Friday nights, we've been studying about the place, the program, the principles and the Person. The place is where God has put you. It may be in your home. It may be in the institution. Of course, you have a home there too, but what I mean is your work, whether in the store, or office, or whatever. Wherever God has put you, that's the place.

But the thing that makes the place of importance to the Christian is the program that's being carried on. I wouldn't want to live in the nicest place in the world if it was a gambling dive, would you? The program that is being carried on lends significance to the place.

But back of the program are principles. And as we studied the last two Friday nights, back of the principles is Who? The Person, Jesus Christ.

And this is what Joshua recognized. He wasn't satisfied with mapping his own program. He went directly to the Captain of the Lord's host. You notice your margin for "captain" says "prince." This is the Prince of the host that Daniel speaks of in the 10th chapter, 11th chapter and 12th of his book. This is Christ, Michael, the One who is like God.

So, my point is that alone with Christ Joshua got his directions. And alone with Jesus, you and I can get our directions. And if we will, friends, everything else falls into place. The only way we'll know the place we belong is to have a personal experience with Jesus. The only way we'll fit into God's program in the place where we are is to be getting our orders alone with Jesus. The only way we'll understand the principles and appreciate them, and know how to apply them, is to be alone with Jesus.

I suppose there was never a time in human history when so many people were never alone, as at the present time. Always something happening with people, and if not, there's the radio blaring and a TV blaring at them all the time nearly—noise, people. And there's a time, dear friends, for contact with others. God never intended any of us to be hermits, be monks, retiring from contact with society, no. But He did intend that every one of us should have opportunity to be alone with Him, alone with Him.

Let's make this very personal just now. How much time have you been alone with Jesus this last week? I mean alone. Now, we're having a good time here tonight, and I know God's here, don't you? But friends, this is not alone with Jesus.

Family worship is a wonderful time. I hope you all are getting a blessing, husband and wife, father and mother, getting together with the children morning and evening and seeking the Lord. That's important. It's vital for the life of the home. But that's not alone with Jesus. Alone with Jesus is where you and Jesus are the only ones around.

That's where Joshua got his orders that made him successful in conquering Canaan. Christ Himself set us the example when He was here. You remember:

“The early morning often found Him in some secluded place, meditating, searching the Scriptures, or in prayer”
Ministry of Healing, page 52.

Read the beautiful description of it in *Ministry of Healing*, page 52, or in *Desire of Ages*, pages 89–90. Christ as a child, as a young man, long before He entered His public work, day by day He was alone with His Father. He, the Son of God, living in our human flesh, was successful only as and because He took time to be alone with His Father.

You see, there are some things that are communicated to us when we're alone with God that we can get no other way. We find in the Bible great principles and some applications. But friends, there are literally a hundred questions that come up every day that you'll not be able to turn to a verse in the Bible and find out what to do.

Some people think the Bible's kind of like an Ouija board. They want to know whether to go someplace or not. They pray and open the Bible, and whatever text they read, the eye falls on, if it says “go,” they go; if it says “not go,” they don't go.

That's not God's plan, dear friends. God has something infinitely better than that. He wants to teach us through His Word, alone with Him, great principles. That's what the Bible's about. But the application of those principles is to be by the Holy Spirit talking to our hearts in the secret place of prayer.

And if we will, as my dear old friend Elder Luther Warren used to say, if we'll just play fair with God, if we'll open up our hearts to Him, alone with Him, He'll help us to know how to apply the principles to the daily details of our program with Him. This is success, dear friends.

You know, I've thought about it. Over here at the sanitarium and hospital, I see nurses going around with various things on trays. Sometimes it's medication. Sometimes it may be a glass of water. What would you think if you saw a nurse hurrying down the hall with a tray with a couple of glasses on it and you noticed there's nothing in the glass?

You'd say, "What are you going to do?"

"Well, I have to take the water to these patients."

"Well, I don't see any water."

"Well, I was so busy I didn't have time to stop to get the water, but I've got to get there to the patient's room."

Well, you'd say, "That's absurd."

And it is. It doesn't happen in the Wildwood Sanitarium, I can assure you. But oh, my friends, I'm talking about something more important than any water out of a faucet or a spring, am I not? I'm talking about the Water of life. And God wants you and me to be carrying to the people in our homes, in our communities, in our business relations all day long the Water of life. But we've got to take time to fill up, fill up.

Turn to the 50th chapter of Isaiah, please, the 4th verse. Let's read it as Christ tells it prophetically in His own experience. Do you all have it now? Oh, this is a wonderful text. Many of you have memorized it. Those that haven't, I hope you will.

All together:

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak a word in season to him
that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He
wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned" Isaiah 50:4.

Isn't that beautiful? Wouldn't it be wonderful to always say the right thing at the right time? That's wisdom, isn't it? Listen, friends, no amount of study, no amount of education can give you that. If you'd memorize the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation, that wouldn't be enough. The important thing is not how

many keys you have in your pocket, but whether you have the right key to open the door that you need to open. Am I right?

What would you think of a doctor over here at the hospital that his patients would come and he'd gather a group of them together and start reciting Gray's Anatomy. Just go all through it and tell all about the origin and insertion of the different muscles, the names of the different bones, and how they fit together. Ah, dear friends, he needs to know that, but oh, he needs the wisdom to know how to apply the knowledge he has gained to the needs of that particular patient. Am I right? Thank God we have Christian physicians like that at Wildwood.

But listen, no amount (don't miss this), no amount of training in anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, hydrotherapy and all the rest can take the place of a moment-by-moment contact with the great Physician. And thank God our doctors and nurses know that.

"The man who is closely connected with the Great Physician of soul and body has the resources of heaven and earth at his command, and he can work with a wisdom, an unerring precision, that the godless man cannot possess" *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5, page 448.*

And I pray that in all our experiences, whether we're carpenters, bricklayers, cooks, housewives, bookkeepers, Bible teachers, nurses, whatever we're doing, we shall have this precious experience of being able to take the knowledge we've gained from study, and apply it under the direction of the Holy Spirit to the needs of the particular problem we're facing, right? Well, where do we get it?

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned..." Isaiah 50:4.

He's given it to me. It's a gift, friends. Knowledge you may learn by studying books, but wisdom is a gift of God.

"The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary..." Isaiah 50:4.

So many weary ones around, aren't there, dear ones? Oh, for the right word. God will give it. When and how? Back of all the experiences at 11 o'clock in the morning, or 4:00 in the afternoon is this time with Jesus in the morning.

"...He wakeneth morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned" Isaiah 50:4.

Alone, alone with Jesus. What sweet communion there, alone with Jesus.

"How long," do you say?

I can't tell you how long, dear friends. I'll tell you this. A half a loaf is better than none, isn't it? You'd think so if you were hungry, wouldn't you?

“A moment in the morning ere the cares of day begin,
Ere the heart's wide door is open for the world to enter in;
Ah, then alone with Jesus in the silence of the morn,
In heavenly, sweet communion let your duty day be born.”
[Author unknown.]

Alone with Jesus, alone with Jesus.

“A moment in the morning, a moment if no more,
It is better than an hour when the trying day is o'er.
'Tis the gentle dew from heaven, the manna for the day;
If you fail to gather early, alas it melts away.
So in the blush of morning take the proffered hand of love,
And walk in heaven's pathway and the peacefulness thereof.”
[Author unknown.]

Let's do it, friends. What do you say?

But now, perhaps I ought to let you in on a secret. Do you know why more people don't do it?

“Well,” you say, “it's because they're busy.”

Yes, that's one reason, but there's another reason. Very few people (and I speak very frankly, for I think you want me to be honest), very few people are willing for God to tell them anything and decide beforehand that they'll do it. And there are things that God wants to give you, my dear friend, that He'll never give you unless He has your signature, committing yourself before He does it.

You know, when a man is about to have a serious operation, there's something that the authorities are very careful about. What does he have to sign before he goes into surgery? He has to sign a release, doesn't he? He has to give his written consent to the doctor taking out his appendix or his gallbladder or whatever.

Are you willing to make that kind of a commitment to Jesus Christ? If you aren't, dear ones, there's some surgery He'll never do. God is not about to catch you and tie you down and *make* you give up this idol, and that idol, and the other idol, never, never, never. There are things that God wants to do in your life and mine that He can do only when we're alone with Him and have settled this question—that He can have anything He wants, anything He wants.

Test after test is to be met. Idol after idol is to be pointed out and given up. Happy is the man that has learned that that's God's way of working, and who says as Joshua did to the Prince of the host:

“...What saith my Lord unto his servant?” Joshua 5:14.

Are you willing to give it up?

Or will you start to argue with yourself or with a still small voice, “Oh, I don’t think that’s so bad. I don’t think I need to give that up?”

Ah, dear ones, you’ll never know the sweetness of life with Jesus unless you’re willing for God to do surgery on you. He won’t take away anything that you really need. Cancers, sometimes the best cure for them is to be cut out, isn’t it? Let God cut out the cancers. What do you say? He’s a good Surgeon. He won’t take out any more tissue than He needs to, but He’ll prolong our lives and get us ready for immortality at His second coming.

Won’t you read that verse again, please? I want you all to read it again all together:

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned,
that I should know how to speak a word in season to him
that is weary: He wakeneth morning by morning, He
wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” Isaiah 50:4.

Will we listen? Will we respond? When God puts His finger on something, will we say, “Yes Lord, if you want to take that out of my life, it’s okay. I’ve settled that already.”

That’s what it means to come to the cross.

Jesus said:

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and
take up his cross, and follow Me” Matthew 16:24.

Luke puts it in Luke 9:23 that Jesus said “daily”—“Every day.” That’s what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:31:

“...I die daily” 1 Corinthians 15:31.

Every day, Paul met with Jesus, and every day Jesus talked with Paul about some sacrifices He wanted him to make. It isn’t just at the beginning of the Christian life that the will is to be given up. Every day it’s to be done.

The needs are often in very practical things, in diet, in dress, in music, in reading, in association, in conversation, in the way a man treats his wife, or a woman treats her husband. In the way parents talk to their children, or children to their parents; in the attitudes of brothers and sisters in the home, in the church, friends in the community. In all these things, God wants to make changes in our lives.

God knows we need some changes. Don’t we, friends? How would you like to have eternal life be like your last ten years? Take ten years and multiply it by ten million and have it just the same. Wouldn’t you want something better?

Why friends, those of us who've known the Lord the most are so glad that we can be changed, continually changed, and become more and more like the Savior. I'm so glad that God has us now in this workshop.

Now, you take this matter of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a great test for many people. In fact, Jesus made it a test.

He said, "It's a sign between you and me" (Ezekiel 20:12,20).

"It's a sign that I can sanctify you."

Do you know what "sanctify" mean? Means to make holy, but it means more than that. It's to set apart for a holy use. When Aaron and his sons were set apart for the priesthood, God used the word "sanctify."

"Sanctify Aaron and his sons for the work of the priesthood" [a paraphrase of Exodus 28:41].

So God took a day; He took one day out of the seven, a specific day, the last day of the week, and said, "I have set apart that day."

"That day which would have been otherwise just an ordinary day, I have sanctified it. I've put My presence in it. I've made it holy. I've made it different from the other days."

Is the Sabbath different? Well, why has God sanctified the Sabbath? To teach you and me that He wants to do the same thing with *us*. He wants to set *us* apart. God wants us to have a vision of something beyond keeping up with the Joneses around us, satisfying our peers. We want to satisfy Jesus, don't we? We're members of the royal family. God doesn't want our diet, our dress, our music, our reading, our association, our amusements, our recreation like the common herd. God wants every one of the common herd to leave the common life and adopt the royal way of life. What do you say?

But is that a bondage, or is it a release from bondage? It's a release. Do you know? You will learn it, my dear ones, in the secret place of prayer. You will learn it alone with God. And whether it's accepting the Sabbath, or accepting health habits, or changes in adornment, or your music, or your reading, or anything in life, never rest satisfied (don't miss this), never rest satisfied to do it just because you see somebody else doing it. Don't rest satisfied to do it merely because you read it in a book, even the Bible.

Now, I want to be reverend, and I don't want to be misunderstood. I say to you, get the joy of going alone with God and letting God apply the principles of the Bible to your problems. Know the joy of doing what you're doing because you've had an experience with God, alone with Him. Do you see what I'm getting at? Then, friends, nobody can move you.

It's going to be something when the boycott comes. People can't buy or sell unless they have the mark of the beast. It's going to be wonderful to have people that have already settled it in their hearts that they'd rather starve loving God than eat disobeying Him. They'd rather die knowing the love of Jesus than live on forever doubting that love. It's a wonderful thing.

But you don't get that experience just in an instant. That experience is grown, it's developed. The only way to get acquainted with Jesus is to get acquainted with Him. That takes time every day, every day.

I don't know what your program is, dear ones. Jesus has a way of life for you. If you've never known the blessing of what we're studying tonight of being alone with Jesus and getting your orders from Him, won't you begin tonight? If you've known it, your heart responds to what I've said, and your only answer is, "I want more of it." Am I correct?

But listen, no matter how much we've had, we want more, and no matter how little we've had, we can begin where we are, can't we? Alone with Jesus, alone with Jesus.

I wonder if there's anybody here tonight that needs to make a decision. You feel that God has spoken to your heart, and there's some decision you need to make. I'm not telling you of the decision to make. I'm letting the Holy Spirit speak to your heart.

But if you see that Jesus wants you to make some changes in your life, and by His grace and in response to His appeal, you're going to make them, I want somebody like that to just stand because I want to pray for you. Just remain standing there with a bowed head and let God speak to your heart.

"My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."
Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #321, first stanza.

Let us kneel in prayer.

Our Father, we think it's wonderful that You've not only put us in a place and given us a program and taught us principles, but we're so glad that Thou hast enabled us and given us the privilege of becoming acquainted with a Person, Thine Own precious self, to know Thee as a loving Father, a kind Savior, a wise Guide, a Redeemer.

We thank You that You have given Jesus to die for us, to live for us, to live in us and with us. And this evening, Lord, as we make these decisions under the leading of Thy Holy Spirit, we're praying that Thou wilt keep us close to Thyself. Our only hope is that Thou wilt keep us by Thy loving hand, and I know Thou wilt, for that hand that is stretched out to save, is scarred with the nails of Calvary.

I know Thou hast graven our names upon those hands, and Thou will save us, Lord. Bless each one. We thank Thee in Jesus' name, amen.

Be seated, please.

“What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear;
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.”

Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, #499, first stanza.

Ah, dear ones, He's a wonderful Friend. And remember, He loves you as if you were the only child He ever had. He's interested in you, as though you were the only person on this planet. He's perfectly willing to guide your life, as if that were all He had to do.

I think that's wonderful, don't you?

How many of us would like to tell Him we appreciate it. May I see your hands? Thank God, every one of you.

All right, dear ones, we're going home now, and we're going to have a blessing alone with God before we go to sleep, aren't we? Just a little practical detail, how can a person that has a roommate be alone with God? Is that a practical detail?

Most people have a roommate, married perhaps, or students, usually, they have more than one in a room. But how can a person be alone with God? Well, of course, Christ as a young man He found His time to be alone with His Father out under the trees, in the hillside or in the fields often. But that may not be practical with some of us when it's raining, for instance, or snowing.

We need to be so anxious (don't miss this, friends). What I'm about to say is the most important thing for somebody here tonight; it could be you. Listen. We need to be so anxious to get this experience that we'll get it no matter what it costs.

Suppose that the only way you could do something that had to be done to save your life was to do it with other people around. Would you still do it? Some people like to do certain things all by themselves. I'll tell you, dear ones, when we get in jail, and we have several people in the jail compartment with us, we'll still do certain things that are ordinarily done in private, won't we?

My point is this, friends. Settle it in your mind that you're going to be alone with God even if there are people around.

You say, "How can that be?"

Let me show you. Come on, Steve. Now, here we are with 200 people in this room, more or less. Can I say something to this man that nobody but he will hear? Did he get the message? How many of you know what I said to him? No, you don't. Why not? Well, I whispered to him.

Listen, friends, if the only way you can be alone with God is to get on your side of the bed and kneel down with your Bible and talk to God and let God talk to you, shut in with Him, God will help you to feel the security and the aloneness with Him, even if there are other people around.

J. Hudson Taylor, the pioneer missionary to China many years ago, it was so important with Him to be alone with God that when he was traveling on those Chinese boats long before the advent of modern inventions, he found that when for days and nights, day after day and night after night, he was with these Chinese coolies there, what did he do? The Lord awakened him in the morning and while they were sleeping, surrounded by these Chinese coolies, he knelt there on the deck of the ship and had his time alone with God.

Ah, dear ones, whatever it cost, let's be alone with God some time during the 24 hours. What do you say? God bless you every one, give you a wonderful Sabbath. If I can help any of you, come up and talk with us.

You're dismissed.

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