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Study Given by W. D. Frazee

In our last lesson, we noted the experience of Jesus in the home He grew up in. Today, we want to notice how He trained His disciples.

Turn to *Education*, page 84. Now here is a statement that you may have to look at for a while before you see what's in it. But one wonderful thing about dealing with inspired books is that we can believe what they say whether we comprehend it or not. We don't have to sit and wonder whether or not it's true and rationalize. We accept it. We believe it first, and then we begin to understand it. The third paragraph:

"In the training of His disciples the Saviour followed the system of education established at the beginning"
Education, page 84.

Now we've gone over this in previous lessons. What was the system of education established at the beginning? The home school, the family training program. To show that, that's what the prophet was speaking about when these words were pinned. Note the next sentence:

"The Twelve first chosen, with a few others who through ministry to their needs were from time to time connected with them, formed the family of Jesus" *Ibid.*

Did Jesus have a training home? Precisely. That's what He had. He had a training home. And that was the system of education that He established and carried forward.

"They were with Him in the house, at the table, in the closet, in the field" *Ibid.*

Notice that that companionship extended into the different activities of life. When the disciples ate, who was eating with them? Jesus. When they traveled, who were they traveling with? Jesus. They had worship together. They did their missionary labor together. They slept under the same olive trees. Did they pray together? Yes, what a companionship! What an opportunity for education!

To get the contrast, think of this. Imagine Jesus dismissing school at two or three or four in the afternoon and saying to His students, "I'll see you tomorrow at eight or nine in the morning." Certainly, we don't envision Him in that, do we? No. Does this mean it is wrong to have classes or regular hours for school? No. But we're dealing here with the ideal plan of education.

We'll come back to these pages here, but I want you to see some verses in the Bible that bear on this. Let's go to John 1 and see how Jesus began His work. This shows us the getting together of the first disciples:

"Again the next day after, John..."

This is John the Baptist.

..."stood, and two of his disciples..."

Those two were Andrew and John the evangelist.

"...and looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master..."

That is teacher.

"...where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day..." John 1:35-39.

What does it mean they "abode with Him?" They stayed with Him.

"It was about the tenth hour" John 1:39.

Four o'clock in the afternoon.

So with this began Jesus' home, His school, His training program. In the 40th verse, one of them went and got His brother; 43rd verse Jesus called another man, Phillip; 45th verse, Philip found his friend Nathaniel and brought him to Jesus. With these five, Jesus had the nucleus of His training home.

Now let's go to Matthew 4 and see an incident that happened a little later up by the Sea of Galilee:

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" Matthew 4:18.

So they came. Now, notice in His invitation, He said what? "Follow Me." If you're following somebody, you have to be close enough to see where they're going,

right? The word “follow” as used in the Bible, often means to go with. “The third angel followed them,” that means he went with the first and second angel. Jesus is saying to Simon and to Andrew, “Come and go with Me.” They left their ordinary employment, and came and stayed with Jesus, lived with Him.

Notice His purpose was to make them what? Fishers of men; make them soul winners. Is that our goal with our students? Our helpers shall become soul winners. We’re to lead them in that.

Luke 8. You sisters will be particularly interested in this one. Were there some women from time to time in that company? Yes, even names some of them.

“And it came to pass afterward, that He went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him” Luke 8:1.

There’s that expression again indicating companionship, fellowship, participation. And who was it that was with Him? The twelve. And, next word? What?

“...certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance” Luke 8:2–3.

That word ministered is a beautiful word. What does it suggest? Service. They were doing things for Jesus and His disciples. Did He pay them well for it? No, they paid. That’s right. Isn’t that what it says?

“...ministered unto him of their substance” Luke 8:3.

Unless you are doing a job that’s worth paying to do it, there should not be money enough in the world to pay you to do it. It’s a wonderful thing to have a mission in life that’s worth putting yourself, your time, your money, your thoughts, your efforts, your everything into. Isn’t it? Jesus inspired that kind of response, that kind of participation.

Now with those people that ministered unto Him of their substance, were they getting richer or poorer as time went on? Poorer in money. That’s what happened to the apostle Paul a bit later. He came to Christ a rich man, but he used everything he had. Nicodemus, reputed to be one of the richest men in Jerusalem, came forward in the crisis hour and identified himself with the young church, and poured out all his wealth in that. So these women who shared with Jesus and the disciples in the work of ministry were pouring in service and money—ministry of time, ministry of effort, ministry of wealth.

Now with that Bible statement, let’s go back to *Education*, page 84, the last

paragraph:

“In the training of His disciples the Saviour followed...”

What”

“...the system of education established at the beginning”
Education, page 84.

What plan was this? Family training plan, home education plan.

“The Twelve first chosen, with a few others who through ministry to their needs were from time to time connected with them, formed the family of Jesus” *Ibid.*

There you see it from Luke 8. Susanna, Mary Magdalene, and some of the others along with Peter and John and James and Andrew, formed the family of Jesus.

“They were with Him in the house, at the table, in the closet, in the field. They accompanied Him on His journeys, shared His trials and hardships, and, as much as in them was, entered into His work”
Ibid., page 85.

What does the expression suggest? “as much as in them was” They couldn’t enter in fully. Now, your students may never be able to enter in fully with you, but they are to be encouraged to enter in as much as they can. Jesus didn’t discourage them because they couldn’t understand everything He said or do everything He did. He let them understand all they could, and He let them do all they could. That’s what we are to do. Now let’s go back to the beginning of this chapter:

“The most complete illustration of Christ’s methods as a teacher is found in His training of the twelve first disciples” *Ibid.*, page 84.

The way Jesus trained the twelve is a what? An illustration. What kind of an illustration? A complete illustration. And what’s in front of the complete? Most complete. It’s a complete illustration of His methods as a what? As a teacher.

Now, He taught the multitudes, but He taught the twelve in a very special way, and this is the most complete illustration of His methods.

“Upon these men were to rest weighty responsibilities”
Ibid.

Let me interject this question. Are you conscious, dear ones, that as you sit at the table with two or three or half a dozen students, as you meet at worship or mingle in the work program, that you are carrying on the Savior’s methods of

education? This was the method Christ used.

He didn't establish a seminary, a university, a college, a high school, anything else that men would call an educational institution, and yet He was carrying on the divine plan of education. There was no record of semester hours. There was no grade sheet, not that these are wrong. I'm simply pointing out that the essentials of Christian education, the optimum (Listen!) are revealed in the life and work and training program of Jesus. And that is what you and I have the privilege of entering into.

"Upon these men were to rest weighty responsibilities. He had chosen them as men whom He could imbue with His Spirit, and who could be fitted to carry forward His work on earth when He should leave it. To them, above all others, He gave..."

What?

"...the advantage of His own companionship..."

Was that an advantage?

"...the advantage of His own companionship" *Ibid.*

Did John think it was an advantage? Oh, yes. How do we see him? What's he doing? Pressing close to Jesus, getting just as close as he can. Judas did too, on the other side, for another reason. There's more than one motive to move people. But Jesus gave these twelve the advantage, above all others, of His what? —His own companionship.

Now my question: Is it an advantage to your students to have your companionship? Well, if it isn't, don't take on the responsibility. We would think it a very sad situation if some students were assigned to your home, and they did not get any food on the table for breakfast and none for dinner. How many days would that go on? Not many. But Jesus, although He sometimes had little food, physical food, to share, always had manna from heaven to share with them.

"...the advantage of His own companionship" *Ibid.*

Now, somebody here this evening hour is going to come face to face with this question, "Oh, Lord, what have I got to impart? What have I got to share?" Blessed are they which hunger and thirst, for they shall be filled. Our trouble is we aim so low sometimes that we hit what we aim at.

There's no limit to what we can receive from Christ. Where did He get it? He got it from His Father. He not only had that background of 30 years preliminary training, gathering lessons from nature, and the Bible, and useful work, daily experience, but day by day, where did He get the present help He needed? In prayer, in communion with His Father.

I wonder if we sometimes cherish the thought that if we were where we ought to be and were what we should be, we'd have everything working out day by day without feeling weak and unready and ill-prepared, and insufficient. But Jesus never got to the point where He could go on without a fresh recharging of the battery. He never learned so much that He didn't need to go to His Father in prayer and receive that fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. Is that true? Therefore our frustrations, our perplexities, our meeting situations that are beyond us, all this should send us to the same place it sent Jesus, to our knees. And we can get just the same help He got, can't we? Oh, yes.

“To them above all others He gave the advantage of His own companionship. Through personal association He impressed Himself upon these chosen co-laborers” *Ibid.*

What's the verb here? Impressed. You've seen a seal such as a notary public puts on a document. What are the two things necessary to get that seal onto the paper? What's necessary to get that seal from the metal unto the paper? Pressure, no, not heat. That's with some materials, but not with paper. Think before the pressure—Contact. Contact between the thing to be impressed upon, and the thing that is to be changed, impressed. Unless the paper is brought in contact with the seal, nothing happens. But to merely lay the paper on the seal or under the seal, nothing happens. There has to be contact and pressure.

God often allows circumstances that will bring us close together with those that we seek to benefit, praying together, searching the promises together, looking at problems together. All these are the means God uses to bring not only contact but pressure. But unless we have something to impart, the impression that they get through contact with us will not be what Heaven desires. On this point, dear friends, may I urge you to be very careful that you do not give your human opinion on matters where divine instruction is available?

Now, one of the great risks, let's face it, that Wildwood runs whenever anybody is put in as a homehead is that, that homehead will start doing things in that home like they are used to doing. Well, you say, “Of course, sure they would.” Dear ones, measure things by the pattern, whether it's diet, or dress, or music, or reading, or association, or counseling, or courtship and marriage, recreation, amusement, literature, education. Be extremely cautious about giving your opinion.

Suppose some student comes and says, “I'm thinking of doing such and such.” And without thinking, you say, “Well, I think that's a good idea.” It may not be a good idea at all. Well, you say, “Everybody does that.”—Almost everybody.

“Straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” Matthew 7:14.

“...wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” Matthew 7:13.

There are literally hundreds of things, current, commonplace among members of the remnant church today that are positively condemned in the Spirit of Prophecy. Hundreds of them that are just taken for granted by everybody except a few extremists.

Do you know what's in the books on diet, on dress, on music, on reading, on association, on courtship, on recreation, amusement, entertainment, concerts? Do you know what's written on all this? If you do, don't contradict what's in the books and if you don't, find out before you venture your opinion. This is the only way that we can impress upon our students the image of the divine.

Jesus knew the truth. He lived the truth. He was the truth. So as His disciples came in contact with Him, they received that impression.

“Through personal association He impressed Himself upon these chosen co-laborers. ‘The Life was manifested,’ says John the beloved, ‘and we have seen it, and bear witness.’ 1 John 1:2” *Education*, page 84.

Now comes this wonderful paragraph. Will you read it with me?

“Only by such communion, the communion of mind with mind and heart with heart, of the human with the divine, can be communicated that vitalizing energy which it is the work of true education to impart. It is only life that begets life” *Ibid*.

You notice the limiting word that is repeated twice here. What is it? Only.

“Only by such communion... can be communicated that vitalizing energy...”

And what is this only way?

“...the communication of mind with mind and heart with heart, of the human with the divine... It is only life that begets life” *Ibid*.

You remember that experience where Elisha was up at Carmel, and this woman who had miraculously been given a son through his ministry and prayers came bringing in the sad news that her son had died. And you remember, He sent his servant, his personal attendant, Gehazi, with Elisha's staff, and told him to put that on the child. But the woman wouldn't go. She stayed right there and said, “I won't leave unless you go with me.”

On the way to the woman's home, they found Gehazi coming with his report, dutifully submitted. He said, “I did what you told me, and nothing happened.” Well, what more could anybody do? What was it Gehazi lacked? He lacked life.

So Elisha went in and shut the door. As he prayed, the Bible says, you remember there that he did what? He stretched himself upon that boy, mouth to mouth, hand to hand, body to body—what a picture of contact! And God used that. Obviously, without the miracle-working power of God, no artificial respiration could have brought the dead boy back. He had been dead for several hours. But God used that as He often uses simple things to teach a lesson. The lesson this is talking about:

“It is only life that begets life” *Ibid.*

God breathed into the lifeless form of Adam the breath of life, and man became a living soul. And so here was the prophet there with that boy imparting life. This is a picture of the privilege that you and I have as we come into contact with souls. We’re to come so close to them that we share the life of God with them.

This is why, dear students, dear fellow teachers, there are certain phases of teaching work, homeheading work, religious work, soul-winning work, that belong to men in working for men, and to women in working with women. Now, don’t misunderstand me. There are some things men can do for everybody, men and women. There are some things that women can do for everybody, men and women. But there are some things, dear friends, in what we’re reading on this page that call for a fellowship so close, that needs a fellowship so close, that the better it is, the worse it is if it’s a man with a woman or a woman with a man. The more it succeeds, the more dangerous it is.

So thank God we have men that can do this closest intimate work with men, and that we have women who can do this close intimate fellowship work with women. And as I say, let me repeat it, so I’m not misunderstood. I don’t mean men can’t do anything in helping women to know the truth. I don’t mean that a woman must never be of any service to a man. Just now, we’re not trying to study where the lines are. We are pointing out that there are lines.

And the biggest thing I want to impress is not so much what we should not do. I’m pointing out an area that very few people ever enter into, men with men or women with women. Our contacts are so casual; very few deep impressions are made.

Jesus, the Son of the Infinite God, while He ministered to the multitude, fed the thousands upon thousands, limited His closest work to a few individuals. Didn’t He? Even among the twelve, did He not have a closer inner circle? Peter, James, and John. Now, some of the others didn’t like it, but it was necessary to accomplish what He’d come to do.

And so while you maintain, as you carry on your work, an attitude to help anybody and everybody that you can, keep praying that the Lord will give you the Peter or James or John or Mary or Susanna that you can get close to and can get close to you. That you can make the impression on them that God has laid on you either directly or through some other human being.

Oh, I thank God, dear friends, for the training the Lord arranged in my life with my parents when I was young, the certain chosen agents that He used in my teens and twenties and later. All of that puts me in debt. The only way I know to even keep up the interest on the debt is to keep passing on.

But you're different from anybody else that was ever born. The way you do it will be different from anybody else. And the person you can help, you can help better than anybody else on this planet can. If the apostle Peter should come along, he couldn't do as good a job with somebody as you can do. If Mary, the mother of Jesus, should be raised from the grave and come here on this campus, there are some people she could help, but there's some girl, my sisters, on this campus that you could help better than Mary of Nazareth could help. Don't forget it. But you've to get life in order to impart it.

Jesus got it through seasons of prayer and communion, pleading with His Father. He studied God's Word and nature. And then He shared it with His disciples.

Now, will you read with me again that wonderful paragraph, that second one on page 84? All together:

"Only by such communion, the communion of mind with mind and heart with heart, of the human with the divine, can be communicated that vitalizing energy which it is the work of true education to impart. It is only life that begets life" *Ibid.*

So you and I are not to be just a tape recording, repeating what we have heard. We are to be a river of life, imparting that stream that flows from the throne of God.

Now look again at this paragraph with which we began our lesson. It's going to mean more now than ever before:

"In the training of His disciples the Saviour followed the system of education established at the beginning. The Twelve first chosen, with a few others who through ministry to their needs were from time to time connected with them, formed the family of Jesus" *Ibid.*

Did Jesus have a family? This says He did. Some people would poke fun at that, or frown at the idea, "Family, family, what a family!" But inspiration calls it the family of Jesus. And if our ideas do not grasp what this is talking about, we need to have our minds changed, don't we?

"...the family of Jesus. They were with Him in the house, at the table, in the closet, in the field. They accompanied Him on His journeys, shared His trials and hardships,

and, as much as in them was, entered into His work.

“Sometimes He taught them as they sat together on the mountainside, sometimes beside the sea, or from the fisherman’s boat, sometimes as they walked by the way” *Ibid.*, pages 84–85.

Did Jesus teach as He walked? Yes. Sometimes sitting, sometimes walking.

“Whenever He spoke to the multitude, the disciples formed the inner circle” *Ibid.*

Isn’t that a beautiful picture? Think of the 5,000 gathered to hear the words of Christ, and later to be fed. Where would you find the disciples? In the inner circle.

Oh, dear ones, press close to anybody that can help you learn something and can give you more life. And then in turn, encourage the pressing close of those you are trying to help.

“Whenever He spoke to the multitude, the disciples formed the inner circle. They pressed close beside Him, that they might lose nothing of His instruction” *Ibid.*

Figuratively, were they taking notes? Yes, they did it up here. Their minds were better Xerox machines than ours are. We have the help of printing, and paper, and ink.

“They pressed close beside Him, that they might lose nothing of His instruction. They were attentive listeners, eager to understand the truths they were to teach in all lands and to all ages” *Ibid.*

What a fellowship! What an experience! And you and I are given the great privilege of carrying on today a similar ministry. As much as in them was, they entered into His work. As much as in us lies, we are going to do it, aren’t we friends? Praise God.

And I give you this promise:

“Constantly God is laboring to make up man’s deficiencies” *Review and Herald*, December 1, 1904.

Whereas you and I add, God will multiply. As we bring our barley loaves, He’ll use what we have to meet the need.

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