

Homeheading 7 of 13

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Study Given by W. D. Frazee

Will you turn please to *Ministry of Healing*, page 355? Here is one of those marvelous paragraphs in the Spirit of Prophecy which stands out like a gem:

“Our time here is short. We can pass through this world but once; as we pass along, let us make the most of life. The work to which we are called does not require wealth or social position or great ability. It requires a kindly, self sacrificing spirit and a steadfast purpose. A lamp, however small, if kept steadily burning, may be the means of lighting many other lamps” *Ministry of Healing*, page 355.

You know one of the joys and compensation of getting some grey hair and even white hair is that you can look back on life and see where you’ve lighted some lamps and those have lighted others, and those have lighted others. It’s a wonderful satisfaction.

“Our sphere of influence may seem narrow, our ability small, our opportunities few, our acquirements limited...”
Ibid.

Now, will you read the rest of the sentence with me?

“...yet wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes” *Ibid.*

What is the potential in a Christian home rightly used? What does it say? Wonderful possibilities. Now inspiration doesn’t just throw words around. When this says wonderful possibilities, it means wonderful possibilities are ours through what? A faithful use of what? The opportunities of our own homes. This is what we’re seeking to learn better how to do.

You know many of you are new at this. Some of you haven’t even started yet. Folks that have been at it for years are perhaps most conscious of how short we come of the ideal. But the thing that keeps me going and keeps me cheered is this promise. You’ll find it in the little book, *In Heavenly Places*, page 191:

“Constantly God is laboring to make up man’s deficiencies” *In Heavenly Places*, page 221.

If He’s laboring all the time, constantly to make up my deficiencies, it must be

I give Him plenty to do. If He only had once a year to make up my deficiencies, that might be encouraging from the standpoint of my attainments or progress. But if He has to work at it all the time, that's rather deflating, isn't it? That's all right. The point is He's doing it. When we do the best we know to use what He has given us to His glory, He accepts it and makes up the deficiencies.

What's deficiency? What we lack. Yes, if I want to buy a book and it cost \$5.00, and I only have five cents, the deficiency is what? \$4.95. But if some kind friend makes it up, I get the book, don't I?

Does God really in this homeheading work or any other work He gives us to do, make up our deficiencies? Well, He says He does. As I said, this is what keeps me going.

Sometimes when I listen to a sermon that I've given, a tape recording, I think, "Why did that fellow say that? Why did he say it that way?"—sometimes when I hear him give the wrong reference. That, of course, is a little detail, but it's a detail. But, dear friends, God has chosen to take poor, weak men and women with all their weaknesses and faults and failings and inadequacy and use them. And you see, He's making up our deficiencies all the time. And so this says:

"Wonderful possibilities are ours through a faithful use of the opportunities of our own homes. If we will open our hearts and homes to the divine principles of life we shall become channels for currents of life giving power. From our homes will flow streams of healing, bringing life and beauty and fruitfulness where now are barrenness and dearth" *Ministry of Healing*, page 355.

What a picture! Isn't that what you want? That's I want and that's what we're going to have.

Now, turn to your book *Education*, please, page 85. We're looking a little more at this wonderful chapter, "An Illustration of His Methods." Whose methods? Jesus' methods. And we've learned that His plan of education was what plan? The home training plan, the family plan. That's what it says at the bottom of page 84:

"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" *Education*, page 84.

So He had a family, the twelve and certain others. We read about them in Luke 8:1–3, Susanna, and Mary, and several others. They all had a part at different times. That was what? What was it called here? The family of Jesus.

Now, the important thing is not the fact that certain people were there. It's what He did with them. What did He do with them? How would you sum it up in a

few words? He trained them, all right. How did He train them? Through companionship. That's right. Did they eat together? Did they work together? Did they study together? Did they pray together? That's the picture. They learned first by observation, and then by participation. They learned by watching what He did and then helping Him do it. That's what you and I are to do in these homes. Is that right? That's it.

And the great thing they got was not techniques, it was life. It wasn't just information, it was inspiration.

I was noting somewhere. I rather think this story is what we call apocryphal, but what it's illustrating is far too prevalent.

At one of the great universities, a professor needed to be away for a time, at least thought he did on something for a number of weeks. So he went to the Dean, and he arranged. He said, "Now, I've got to be gone on this trip, and I've put my lectures of my class on tape. So while I'm away, you can have it played each time." So that was worked out.

So it came to pass midway in the season that he was to be away, he chanced back on campus and decided that he'd drop in on the class and see how they were getting along. So he found his tape recording being played and a group of tape recorders sitting around taking it on tape, nobody sitting in the seats. It was from tape recorder to tape recorder.

Now as I say, that probably is just a little apocryphal. But what it's talking about is not. And that is that education today is far too much a conveying of information rather than life. They're experimenting with studying through TV and all kinds of things, tapes and all that. And certainly, you can get information that way. And a good teacher on closed-circuit TV can reach many more people than you and I are involved in today. But Jesus Who had all the treasures and resources of the universe at His command, chose to pick out individual people, not a million, not a thousand, a handful it would be called in most any school today, and train them by what? Personal association, the home training plan.

Now, dear people, I want to tell you something. You may know what I'm going to say. I mean you may already sense it; you may not. But whether you sense it or not, this is true. If the home training plan should ever die out at Wildwood, this program would eventually undergo a tremendous change. It is of the essence in this program.

Now some people may think that if we just had our students living in dormitories and eating at a cafeteria, we could save quite a bit of time. We could and use the time in trying to solve the problems that, that method would bring. And I'm not sure that even then the time would be ample. This is one of the most important stones in the foundation of our program.

Jesus considered it so important that this was the method, not merely one of several, He used, wasn't it? True He spoke to multitudes, but I wouldn't say that He

trained them in the sense we're studying. In fact, He used what He did with the multitudes as a training laboratory for these that were a part of His inner family. And God intends that in your home the activities there shall be a training laboratory. But remember, this is for people, not tape recorders. And it must come from a person, not a tape recorder. I have nothing against tape recorders. You know that. I use them all the time, both giving and receiving. But what we're talking about does not come out of a tape recorder.

I must tell you another story about tape recorders. Some of you may have heard this one. And this is not apocryphal. Elder Richards was telling this experience. There was a little girl who was at the age where she loved to have stories told her. And she loved to hear her daddy tell stories. If you have ever had a little girl of that age, you know what I'm talking about. "Tell me a story. Tell me a story."

And there was one story she loved to hear, and she wanted her daddy again and again to tell that story, and so he had to tell it. So he finally thought, "I'll put that on a tape recording." And she was old enough she could handle that.

So several nights later, she came back. And he said, "Well, what's the matter. You can hear that one."

"Daddy," she said, "tape recorders don't have laps."

Now, this is right on target; the story was incidental to the contact, right? He could have been saying eni, meni, mini, mo, and if she could sit on his lap, that would be music. And as someone has said, "Men and women are only children grown tall."

There is something in the companionship of Jesus with His disciples that spoke to the heart need and heart longing of every one of them. Some got more than others. Notice this on page 87. Who are mentioned here as those that pressed in to get more? Peter, James, and John.

"[They] sought every opportunity of coming into close contact with their Master, and their desire was granted. Of all the Twelve their relationship to Him was closest. John could be satisfied only with a still nearer intimacy, and this he obtained" *Ibid.*, page 87.

You see, when we go up here to the spring, if we take a gallon jug, we bring home how much? A gallon. If all we take is a quart bottle, why we bring home a quart. We could take a still bigger bucket than a gallon, and if we could carry it, we could bring it home. There's more up there.

Jesus had much more available than any of them or all of them together ever got. In fact, he told them the last night, "I have yet, many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." His love was revealed not only in what He said but in what He didn't say. We need that kind of help sometimes. We need the kind of love

that keeps from telling people everything we know or everything we think they need to know. But my point is, those who wanted more and sought more got more.

You'll not be able to give everybody in your home the same amount. This is not to be an excuse for partiality. Was Jesus guilty of partiality? No, He was willing to help all of them, but He helped them all as much as they'd let Him. That's what we need to do, to help people as far as they will let us.

Now, at the bottom of page 85, we have a summary description of the 12 apostles. I'm not going to read it. You can read it there. It names them all and some of their characteristics and shows how different they were. In fact, that first sentence says:

"In these first disciples was presented a...

What?

"...a marked diversity" *Ibid.*, page 85.

Did you ever wish that somebody wasn't so marked in their diversity? I remember I said to my mother one day, "After all, mother, people are individuals."

She said, "Yes, especially some of them."

Precisely, but in those 12 was presented a marked diversity. Some of them weren't even close together when they started. Some of them were way out in left field, as we would say, but others were in right field. Did Jesus know what He was doing? Does Jesus know what He's doing when He puts in your home people of marked diversity? Does He?

You folks that have children of your own, are they all alike? Have you ever seen a marked diversity even when they have the same inheritance? I shouldn't say the same inheritance, the same progenitors. The genes are different, aren't they? Oh, yes. But this is not a calamity. This is not something to lament. God help us. What would life be if there were just so many dominos, if you lost one, you could go to Sears and Roebuck and get another like it? What would life be? Thank God every individual is different.

Now, let's see what Christ did with these. We've been looking at John 17 in our lesson last time. And I wish you would look at that chapter again while we glean another thought from it.

We noted the fact that the Father gave Him a work, the Father gave Him some people; the Father gave Him the words to give to them. But now let us notice what He was praying for especially:

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in

them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee” John 17:9–11.

Read with me:

“Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are”
John 17:11.

That they may be what? One. If He wanted them to be one, why did He take such diverse material? Why not take people that were on the same wavelength? Let me tell you, of those 12, there wasn’t a bit of putty in the bunch. They were hardheaded, opinionated, self-seeking. Each one wanted to be first. Well, you wouldn’t want people like that around, would you? People like that never come here, do they?

Jesus selected those people with all their individualities, their idiosyncrasies, their peculiarities, their traits of strength and weakness, and He sat Himself the apparently impossible goal of bringing them to what? To unity. What kind of unity? Look at that verse:

“...that they may be...”

What?

“...one as we are...” John 17:11.

Who is “We”? God the Father and God the Son. And He keeps going over it in the latter part of the chapter beginning with the 20th verse. In fact, He reaches on down to include you and me and everybody in your home:

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe...”
John 17:20–21.

It’s a wonderful thing to take a group of people and watch as the principles of the Word of God presented in the family worship, shared around the table, and lived out in the life in the home, gradually draw that group together, now melting, now chipping away. It takes chisels sometimes, but some things can be done only with melting. But whatever it takes, the Word of God keeps operating, and the life of God keeps operating, and they’re to become what? One.

Now go back to *Education*, page 86. Oh, what a wonderful sentence we’re about to look at here; the first sentence of this paragraph that begins on this page. All together:

“In order successfully to carry forward the work to which

they had been called, these disciples, differing so widely in natural characteristics, in training, and in habits of life, needed to come into unity of feeling, thought, and action”
Education, page 86.

To do their work successfully, they had to do what? Come into unity. Do you know that there are people that think that the only way you can carry work forward successfully is for everybody to live by themselves where they won't get in one another's road, won't get in one another's hair.

And please don't misunderstand me. I'm not suggesting that the only way Christ's prayer can be answered is for 20 people, or even 10, to be under one roof. That isn't what I'm getting at. But did Jesus set for Himself a goal in His case with the ones He was working with of doing that very thing? Yes.

Now let's go to Acts 2:1. What day is this text talking about? The day of Pentecost. Fifty days after the crucifixion and resurrection, here is the day of Pentecost. Where does it find the disciples? In one place. In what condition does it find them? Of one accord.

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting” Acts 2:2.

What made that sound? The Holy Spirit coming upon them in mighty power such as the world before that had never witnessed. Is it coming again? What do we call it? The Latter Rain.

Now let us look at what preceded that. Acts 1:4–5, just before Jesus went back to Heaven:

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, said he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” Acts 1:4–5.

They were to wait for what? The promise of the Father. What was the promise of the Father? The Holy Spirit. Now notice how they went at it. They were doing what He told them to do.

“And when they were come in...”

Back from the ascension.

“...they went up into an upper room, where abode...”

What does abode mean? Lived, dwelt, resided.

“...they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all...”

Did what?

“...continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brethren” Acts 1:13–14.

The 15th verse indicates that at least some of the meetings there were how many together? What does that say, the 15th verse? 120. The nucleus at least, we don't know how many more, maybe all of them (I don't know how big the room was) were there together, at least the eleven and some of these others that are mentioned, for 10 days, and they continued with one accord in what? Prayer and supplication. And it was 10 days of that brought them to what? Pentecost.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if, in your home, the Spirit of God should be poured out as it was there? That was not a meeting at the temple. That was a meeting in that upper room where they had sought the Lord in prayer and supplication until they had become, what? One. The prayer of Jesus was being answered.

Now, don't think that they suddenly became perfect. No. But I'll tell you, they did have some wonderful experiences. Before that day was over, the day of Pentecost, they had a 10 percent increase in church membership, didn't they? What? How many were added? 3,000. They started with 120 that morning, and they had 3,120 that night.

Can you think of the great administrative problems that were at once thrust upon them? But there was more than that. Many of those people were thrown out of home, house, ostracized by the Jewish church and their family. They had a big problem right away to start to feed people. Look at the second chapter of Acts, talking about the same experience and the results of it:

“And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house...”

The margin says at home.

“...did eat their meat...”

Their food.

“...with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” Acts 2:44–47.

If we could have a baptism once a month or once a week, wouldn't that be tremendous? But they had them, at that time, every day. It took that to take care of the inflow of converts. But along with them came their problems. Some of them had to be fed.

Notice the spirit that Jesus had engendered by His loving ministry, and by sharing with them with such that those who had homes did what? Shared their homes with those who didn't. And those that had food did what? Shared their food with those that didn't. And those that had money? Well, turn over here to the fourth chapter:

“And the multitude of them that believed were of...”

What?

“...one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common” Acts 4:32.

Don't think that establishing a system like that will automatically bring you to that experience. It's the other way around. We have to have the Spirit in order to be able to survive on that kind of program.

Do you think something like that might happen before we get through to the end? Oh yes, under the persecution.

“Neither was there any among them that lacked...”

Why not?

“...for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need” Acts 4:34–35.

Some people that don't know their history or their politics say this is communism. Well, as I say, they either don't know their history or their communism. In a sense, this is the only true communism that has ever existed.

The communist has a motto, you know: From each according to his ability; to each according to his need. But this was not enforced by government decree. There was no property confiscated. The supply was made possible by what?

Voluntary gifts. The Spirit of God so moved upon them that they were glad to share what they had.

And we're not there yet, folks. But dear ones, unless we die before our time, we're going to see some things so much like this that we'll not be able to tell the difference.

But God does things by degrees. And if you can learn to share something out of your home with somebody that needs it, and share some comforts of your home with somebody by bringing them into it, the time may come when God can lead you to go to a greater sacrifice than that. Do you see?

But as I said, they weren't perfect yet. The sixth chapter of Acts brings us right down to earth. What's the last word in the third line? Murmuring. Do you mean in that beautiful picture, that wonderful scene there came something to mar? Yes, and what was it about? It was about the food. That's right.

“...in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables” Acts 6:1–2.

“So pick out some men and let them do it.” That is where the deacons came from.

My point is they had practical problems. And just because you run into practical problems in your home or on this campus doesn't mean that everything is off course. It just means that there are some lessons to be learned.

And the disciples—notice what they didn't do. They didn't just say, “Well, forget it.” No, no. Neither did they leave the important work of soul-winning that God had given them and say, “Well, we'll have to look after this.” They said, “Now, you folks that are having the problem find some people in the church that can help you solve these problems and bring them to us. And we'll appoint them to do that, and let them do that. And we'll go on with the soul-winning.” Very practical, weren't they?

Oh, brethren and sisters, I hope every one of you, under God, will become a problem solver. That's what these seven deacons were. They were problem solvers. And God wants every one of us, deacons, deaconess, church elders, ministers, lay members, homeheads, He wants us to be each in his place, each according to the opportunities a problem solver. But may I tell you, some people are so full of their own problems that they can't take on the problems of others. So ask God to help you with that.

Now, this is all we're going to take from the Bible and the books today. But I'd

just like to have you think for a little now what we have gone over today.

Jesus prayed that His disciples might be what? One. And so He started with people that were almost like that and worked with them. What? Did He? In His group, there was manifested a what? A marked diversity. What does marked mean? Well, you could see it obviously. Do you suppose they ever had any discussions at the table?

Reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will be new reading to you if you read them from the standpoint of watching Jesus run His training home. Just start in and read, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Every time you can get something that helps you see how He ran His home. I won't say every verse will give it to you, but every now and then, you get a glimpse and say, "Why He had some of the same problems I have."

Watch how He did it. He didn't try to get it all done in a day. He didn't try to make angels out of them overnight. He always had His goal in mind. He never lost sight of that. But He was patient while they grew. And they finally, as we see in this, outside of Judas that eliminated himself, the rest of them, all came to the place where, by the day of Pentecost after the cross, they were what? All of one accord in one place. And then the disciples began to multiply rapidly. Thousands came in. Is it going to happen again?

But did they have some problems? Problems in the food distribution. They solved that problem. The Word of God multiplied and increased. They were willing to meet their practical problems by involving more people in those practical details. But they kept their spiritual vision.

What a wonderful book the Bible is. Don't you love it? Don't you love these glimpses of dealing with practical problems? God bless you all as you keep studying.

Now, this is Wednesday, next week, Monday, I'm going to begin to give you some other things on this same subject of the home training plan, but you don't need to bring your *Education* and *Ministry of Healing* next time. Bring your Bible and bring your notebook, but the books that I shall quote from will be varied enough so that I won't be asking you to bring a particular book. But bring your Bible and notebook, and we'll study together some more.

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