Matthew - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Chicago Conference: 1989, Treasures in Heaven

Article from https://bibletruthpublishers.com/bible-truth-study-bible/btsb

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Matthew, Chapter 13. And verse 44. Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like under treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. And then in Matthew chapter 6, verse 19. Laying out up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves breakthrough and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal, Or where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. And just one other verse in Second Corinthians chapter. For Two Corinthians chapter 4. Verse 6. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasury in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distress. We are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed. Just thought of these three passages, brethren, in connection with that theme about treasures. Isn't this lovely in the 13th chapter of Matthew where the Lord is Speaking of the similitudes of the Kingdom of heaven? That is what would take place during His absence. Until the time that all would be ordered according to his mind and will and it says here it's like on the treasure hid in a field. All we're told in this chapter that the field is the world and I think this is most amazing thing that God should speak of us as being a treasure. Our brother was talking to us in the meeting this afternoon and how well we're appointed with the failures of our own hearts and lives. God's graciousness. Restoring. But isn't it blessed for us to think that the Lord found a treasure in US, and as he looks down upon this room, in spite of all that we are, He looks upon us as a treasure, a treasure for which He was willing to give himself. I believe the thought of this can't help but touch our hearts. That creates a response because it says the love of Christ. Constraineth us that we should not live unto ourselves. But unto him who died for us, and rose again. Surely, as I say, if we think of ourselves, we hang our heads, and we say, Why would He ever find delight in me whatever? What did He find in me that He wanted? But it says there was a treasure hit in the field. How much did the Lord give for that treasure? We see things that we value, and we think, is it really worth it? I would I be willing to pay so much for that thing? Is that a sufficient treasure to me that I'd be willing to pay that price? How much did the Lord give for you? And I, the beloved apostle, could say, the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me? And I want each one of our hearts, brethren, this afternoon to get hold of this. And I wanted for myself to how much we mean to the Lord, how dear we are to Him. That he went all the way to Calvary and paid the price in full in order that we might belong to him. And so the apostle could say, you're not your own, you're bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body. I believe, brethren, that there's no greater. Constraining power than to think of what we really meant to him and how much he gave for us. When someone gives us something that has cost them a great deal. Why? It means a lot to us. Perhaps the thing itself is not as important as the fact that it costs this person so much, whether it's labor or money, whatever it may be, that they thought that much of us, that they would be willing to pay such a price just to give something to us. But the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. I know a brother and he had a text hanging on his wall, that very one. The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me, a business acquaintance came in to visit him in his home and to talk over some business. And when this man stepped out of the room, this businessman who was not a saved man, just kept looking at that text hanging on the wall. The Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me. And when my friend came back again, he said to him, Do you really believe that?

Oh, he said, I certainly do. He said, no wonder you're happy, No wonder you're happy. And brethren, that's true. It says there was a treasure hid in this field, this field as we know the world, the world with all its system, the world with all its confusion, the world with all its sin. And the Lord looked down and He has a personal love for you. He gave Himself for you. We know that He loved the Church and gave himself. But it's very blessed when we lay hold of it personally for ourselves. What was the effect in the life of the apostle Paul? Well, when he realized that, why he was willing to give up everything in order to follow that blessed one. He didn't place himself under a certain code of rules or how much he had to give. He didn't say it. Well, I should give a 10th. No, he was. He gave himself. And he valued the fact that it says of the Corinthians, they first gave themselves to the Lord. So isn't this very beautiful? The treasure hid in a field for which he gave it, it says. Which in a man hath found he hideth, And for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, And buyeth that field notice he hideth he caused. The thought of this produces separation, just like in marriage. Maybe a person has been very popular with a number of people, but when they realize that this particular person really wants them for their own. And then it produces separation. They belong to that person. They love to be with them. Their relaxation and their joy to be in their company. And isn't this beautiful? Whom for the joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath. Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. He brought out his Father's heart, He did his Father's will, and that will was your blessing. And so that well known verse in Nehemiah says, the joy of the Lord is your strength. It's not our joy in the Lord. You know what will give you an eye strength to go on to think that the Lord is finding joy in it. Did you ever do something for a friend? And you're looking forward to the time that that friend is going to see that thing that you have done and they're going to really admire it. They're going to love it. And you say, well. It's worth all, it's worth all the effort just to do that and see what what's on their face when they look at what I've done. Well, what is it that will keep us going on? The joy that the Lord is going to have when He has all His own around himself. He'll present us to the Father's house, brethren, with singing for the joy thereof. And that joy the Lord is waiting for when He's going to have that which for which He gave. With him now he's hiding us, we're hidden in this field, so to speak, but there's a good day coming when he's going to joy over his own with singing and rest in his love. So this is perhaps we might say the starting point. And in that 6th chapter of Matthew that we read, the Lord says here. In the 19th verse, Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth. Where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves breakthrough and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, Than where your treasure is there where your heart be also. Now we have an opportunity to lay up a treasure. The Lord found a treasure in us, a treasure that was sufficient to make him willing to give himself for us, and to look forward to the day when He'll see of the travail of his soul. Be satisfied, but we also have the privilege of laying up a treasure. Now that which is going to be manifested someday at the judgment

seat of Christ, a life that in some little measure responded to his love, because the Lord is going to review our lives. And one of the most wonderful verses to me is that verse in Second Corinthians chapter, First Corinthians chapter 4, where it says, and then shall every man have praise of God.

I can certainly understand why I should praise him, but why he should praise me? That's totally beyond my mind. But it says that every man shall have praise of God, and that as he looks over your life and mine, every little thing that you and I did for him out of love and in obedience to His word, it says we'll have praise of God. I say, brethren, is it worth it to lay up our treasures in heaven? We can get a lot of praise for what we do down here, and it's nice, too, when we do recognize what others do. That's right and proper. But isn't it more important? Everything here fails to lay up treasure in heaven, where moth and rust don't corrupt. And so many of us have laid up things down here, and they've been a disappointment. Class was graduating in high school and the man who was addressing them said never set your sights high enough that you can attain to because you'll never be happy when you've attained to it. The door will not be in possessing the thing, the joy will be in striving for it. When you get it, it will be a disappointment. And so it is with everything here, brethren. Moth and rust corrupt. Many of us have thought, wouldn't it be wonderful when I get that when we got it, it wasn't all that we expected at all, but all those treasures in heaven, to have the Lord Jesus say that He's pleased with something that we did for Him. To have praise of God. Is it worth to lay up our treasures in heaven? And then the Lord adds that little comment, where your treasure is, there will your heart be also? He doesn't want just lip service. He doesn't want us just following certain rules. He wants that which comes from the heart. And so for your treasure is there will your heart be also. Think I can repeat a little thing that my father used to say to us at home, he said. We can have as much of Christ as we want, and our lives show how much we want. We know that we can have as much as we want because He's willing to bless us more abundantly than we ask or think. He really has for us far more than our little hearts can contain. But our lives show how much we want. Do we? Do people really recognize in our lives, brethren, that Christ is the object? I don't believe we should go around telling them. I think that's all. Self to say I want to do this and I want to do that, but I believe that our lives are what speak. And it says where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. And the Lord would have us to set our hearts on things above those things that are really lasting, those things that are really abiding. And if going away from these three days or 2 1/2 days of meetings have the result that the joy that we have found, that the Lord has found a treasure in US. Fills our hearts to the point that we want to live for Him and we want to lay up our treasures, not on earth. But in heaven, then they have accomplished the purpose that the meetings were arranged that we should be drawn closer to him that in this world would be living as those who are not like the people of the world. And the third chapter of first John. It says, therefore the world knoweth us not because it knew him not the world will understand if you're living for things that are seen you'll they'll say you're a wise person. You're really. Shrewd, and they'll understand that. They'll praise you for it. But if you're living and I'm living for what is unseen and eternal, they won't understand because they have no such motivation in their life. They don't see that the Lord finds a treasure in his own. They don't see what it is to lay up treasure in heaven. All that's very dim to them as we grow older. We get papers that continually trying to encourage us. To still try and find pleasure in life in this world and really live for things down here. Because don't let the fact that you're getting old dim the fact that you're living for things here. All brethren, isn't it lovely that as we get toward the end of the journey, which is that much closer to where our treasure really is, it's up there in the glory. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

And then the last one that we looked at is in Second Corinthians chapter 4. Says they are for God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, as verse 6, pardon me, has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed. We are perplexed, but not. In despair. Could I illustrate it something like this? You have a gift that you want to give to a person, but you don't want them to get occupied with a nice box it's in. So you say, I'm just going to put it in an old cardboard box because I don't want them to get occupied with the box. I want them to get occupied with this treasure, this gift that I'm putting inside. And then they'll just throw away the box and they'll enjoy the treasure that's inside. And you know God does that with us, brethren. He allows things in everyone of our lives that break us down. Troubles, sorrows, difficulties, disappointments, all kinds of things because he wants to bring out the treasure. And we see a brother and maybe things were going along quite nicely in his life, quite smoothly. And then a big disappointment comes and you see the treasure that was inside, all that that he seemed to have outwardly that looked very. Shall I say successful and nice? It all fades in a moment. See the treasure that's inside, that the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. You can honor a man because he's been successful in his farming or in his business or in something that he has attained for perhaps. But when all those things fade, then you find what's inside the treasure in the earthen vessel. And God allows these difficulties and troubles that come into our lives and the world of sun. And they can understand that we should enjoy the natural things. And as our brother said, it's not wrong to enjoy them providing they're kept in their place. But the world looks on and said, as they said to our brother Stan Dodds, when he had his disappointment and sickness, and they said you have something, you have something. They saw the treasure in the earthen vessel. And God allows these things as it says here. He caused the light to shine out of darkness. And he gave to us the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord in our hearts, that the world said, well, they have to get a good job. They have to provide for their homes the same as we do. They have to go to the store and buy a night's clothes like ourselves. Then they saw a problem come into your life. They saw a disappointment, but they saw a sickness. Then what did they see? Did they see that there was something inside? Well, God allows that. That's the way it was with Gideon. People around would have known that there was those lights in the earth and vessels, but when the earth and vessels were broken and 300 shining torches shone out in the darkness, the Midianites ran and fled. They realized that there was something there. And brethren, the Lord allows these things. May we have grace when the trials and difficulties of life come, when He upsets and the disappointments that it's only an opportunity that He has given. That this light, this treasure that he put in the earthen vessel should shine out and be a testimony in this world. So I say again, I saw a treasure in the field. It was you and I. He gave all that he had for us because he wanted us. He's going to see if the travail of his soul and be satisfied. And now he says, I'm going to give you the privilege the rest of your life of laying up treasure in heaven. So that you can live and I can live. With a different view than the man of the world who's only thinking of this earth. But we can lay up our treasures in heaven. And then he's going to say, I am not going to give you anything that you can glory in in yourself. Not going to give you anything that you can boast about because I may give you like I gave the apostle Paul a thorn in the flesh. Let me give you an accident. Let me give you some sickness so that what I want to be seen is not. Just that everything's going well for you and your life. But the world can look on and see that treasure in earthen vessels. And I might just say in first Peter chapter one, where it says the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found under praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Isn't it? Is not the thought, brethren, that the trial?

Is some honor to the Lord, but it's the trial of your faith that is that when the trial comes, what God values is the faith that trusts him. As the little song says, trust him. When to simply trust him seems the hardest thing of all, and that's what the Lord values. Sometimes illustrated it

like this. You have to do something that hurts your child. But you say to the child, I really can't explain it to you now. You wouldn't understand if I did. But I'm doing it for your good. A child looks up with a smile and says, Dad, mother, I know you love me and I know you wouldn't do it unless it was for my good. Doesn't that make you feel happy inside? That they have that confidence in you and the Lord allows a trial to come in your life and mine. And when faith responds and says he doeth all things well, that brings praise and honor and glory to the Lord, the faith that trusts him. When we can't understand, even when things seem to go under reverse in our lives, that faith that trusts Him. And so we know that all things work together for good to them, that love God to them, that are the called according to His purpose. Well, may the Lord make these thoughts precious to our hearts, that He found a treasure in us, that He gives us a privilege here, and that He may allow trials just to bring out that treasure. That He has put in the earthen vessel. Maybe we have grace, brethren, and I say it to myself, to receive all the circumstances of life, pleasing or painful, dark or bright, as best may seem to thee.

Ottawa Conference: 1988, Our Treasure is in Heaven

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Matthew chapter 6 and verse 19. Leonard Up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, And where thieves breakthrough and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. For neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, And where thieves do not breakthrough nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. In the 13th chapter also. 13th chapter of Matthew. And the 44th verse. Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field. The witch, when a man hath found behind us, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. And one other passage in Second Corinthians chapter 4. Verse 6. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed. We are perplexed, but not in despair. Persecuted but not Forsaken. Cast down but not. Destroyed, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. Well, brethren, I was just thinking particularly of that little word treasure, thinking of how perhaps I should have read the 13th chapter. First of all, the Lord finding a treasure, we finding a treasure, and then we displaying that we have this treasure in earthen vessels. In Matthew chapter 13, we have brought before us about the Lord Jesus, the one who found a treasure, and it says for joy thereof he went and sold all that he had and bought it. What was that treasure? Oh, it's very humbling for us when we think about it, to think that the Lord looked down and saw us, poor feeble things that we are. Ones who are part of the crowd that cried away with him crucified. And that he actually found his joy and his delight in us, that he saw a treasure hid in the field. We know that the field is the world, and we're told that in the 13th chapter. And so he looked down upon this world, this world that had gone on in its evil way, this world that was in rebellion against him, and he saw a treasure. Doesn't that touch your heart and mind? That we're so dear to him that he went and. All that He had in order that he might have us as His treasure, just think of what it cost him. He left that glory on high came down into this world, and as our brother brought before us last night, took His place here in this world in a Manger, was brought up in Nazareth of Galilee, where Nathanael said, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? While he passed through this world could say foxes have holes in the birds of the air have nasty. But the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head, and so he went onward to that cross. Tells us that he bought the field. Satan, as the usurper had come in, and he had taken over this world. Remember how in the temptation he said to the Lord Jesus that the kingdoms of this world were his, and that to whomsoever he would, he would give them. He was a usurper. He had taken things over, and the world had accepted Satan as its God. For it. Tells us that Satan is the God of this world and the Prince of this world. But the Lord Jesus. He bought the field. Another day we're going to see him in his rightful place. He is going to be honored as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. All are going to acknowledge him and his rights, and every knee will bow down to him. He bought the field. But oh, brethren, how wonderful. There was a treasure in it. And who was that treasure? What was that treasure? Oh, I say again, does it not humble you and I to think that we were the treasure, those who were? Dear to him the most sacrifice was too great. He gave himself our poor hearts to win, and there he bore the wrath and judgment that our sins deserved. He died in our place. He paid the price. He bought the field, it is true, but it was for the treasure that was in it. And now he looks down. How precious we are to Him. Doesn't that touch your heart?

When Paul was writing to those at Thessalonica, he said, knowing brethren, beloved, your election of God, that is, you may be rejected by your fellow man, but as God looks down, you are one of his elect, one of the ones that he had chosen. I've heard young people say, oh, I was chosen out of a class of 40 to do such and such. They feel greatly honored, but just to think out of this world that he should have chosen you and chosen me to occupy the nearest. Place in association with himself for all eternity. We wouldn't have asked for such a thing, we wouldn't have thought about it, but in His eternal purposes He had it that all the price has been paid. Surely we can say the love of Christ constraineth us as we think of that wonderful love. So I say again, brethren, it's a humbling and yet a wonderful thought that we were the treasure, His own, not just those of us who are here. Because He looks down on this whole world. He knows those that are His, they're dear to Him. Some of us may not as walk as closely to Him as we should, but we're still precious to Him, and He loves us. Having loved His own, which were in the world, He loved them unto the end. And this is said just on the very time when they were about to forsake him and flee, when Israel had turned away from them and Jeremiah had to mournfully tell them they were going to be carried into captivity. It was at that time the Lord gave him that beautiful message. I have loved thee within everlasting with an everlasting love. Love, therefore, with loving kindness have I drawn thee. Oh, may that love touch our hearts. If it does, brethren, it's going to have an effect upon us. I don't believe it to be possible for a real Christian to sit down, as it were, for even 5 minutes and bask in the sunshine of that love. And to think that the God of all the earth, the One who has made everything and upholds all things by the word of His power, is looking down on us here and says that we're His. In this world. Well, that is in Matthew chapter 13. In that 6th chapter of Matthew, we find the Lord speaking a little word to his disciples. Bringing before them a very, shall I say, a very searching question for them and for ourselves, he said. Where is our treasure? Where is our treasure? We have things that we value, things that are very important to us. But where is our treasure? Truly? Oh, how often we have set our mind on something here. We have thought it was worthwhile striving after and when we received it, when we got it, we were so disappointed. Disappointed.

Dorothy Conference: 1988, Laying up Treasures

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Matthew chapter 13. Matthew chapter 13, and the 44th verse again. The Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath buyeth that field. Then in Second Corinthians chapter 4, verse 7, verse 6, For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us who are troubled on every side, yet not distressed. We are perplexed, but not in despair. Persecuted but not forsaken, cast down but not destroyed, always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. And we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. And last of all, in Matthew chapter 6. Matthew chapter 6 and verse 19. Lay that up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves breakthrough and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, For neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and for thieves do not breakthrough nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. I'm sure you have noticed in these three scriptures we have a little word about treasures. In the first one we have a picture. Of the Lord, and there was a treasure hid in the field and he was seeking. He bought that field in order that he might have that treasure. I believe it's what He has in His people, the treasure that He has found in His people. He was willing to sell everything for that. In the second one, we have a treasure in earthen vessels. He's put a treasure in us and that is the new life that has been given to us. And the Holy Spirit of God, who indwells us so that we might be able to go through a world. Like this. And then last of all, there's something that speaks to our hearts. Where is our treasure? We know that He. Spoke of us as a treasure that was worth selling all that he had to have. We think of what he has given to us and how richly we've been blessed. And then we think of how much our lives respond to this. That sometimes been said, we can have as much of Christ as we want. Our lives show how much we want. And so in this one that we looked at in Matthew 13, I'm sure we're all acquainted with these similitudes of the Kingdom of heaven. I believe the Kingdom of heaven, just to say briefly, in a general sense refers to what is known as the Christian world professing Christendom. And in this chapter, the Lord was telling about what character things would take during His absence. I believe He gave a little outline of how things would go on in the sphere of profession in this world. While He was away. And so we find these different things. But when we come to the passage that we read here in the 44th verse, the Lord had gone into the house and now He's speaking specially to His disciples. The others were spoken more publicly. But here He goes into the house and then He speaks about the treasure hid in a field. I believe this refers to His people here in this world. Isn't it a marvelous thing? When we think of ourselves and what poor, failing things we are, at very best a little, we have responded to His love. How marvelous that He should speak of us as a treasure. When we think of a treasure, we always think of something that's specially valuable, something that means a great deal to us. But brethren, isn't as true about the Lord Jesus, we'll never fully realize what we mean to Him. I think of that lovely verse in the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. He shall see. Of the trival of His soul, and shall be satisfied. Doesn't that sound wonderful to you when you read it? As we look at ourselves, we think of how far short we have come in responding to His love. But what we think that He's going to view that whole vast company up there in the glory, and He's going to see each one there. There's not one that He will say. I'm sorry I brought that one here. No, everyone you'll see of the travail of his soul. And shall be satisfied. His heart will be eternally satisfied. He wants us to be satisfied too. But remember that verse. I shall be satisfied when I awake with Thy likeness. But this seems to me overwhelming when we stop to think of it. That He could speak of His own as treasure. And we know here, we're told in this chapter that the field is the world. We think of this world, how far it had departed from God. How far.

It had gone and it's. Giving up of God at last of all, God had sent his Son. But then we find that the Lord bought the field. We know that He had a Creator's right. Perhaps you remember in the 4th and 5th of Revelation we have His two claims to this world celebrated by the redeemed in heaven. The first one is, thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they were, are, and were created. And then in the 5th chapter we have redemptions, right? And there is the whole company of the redeemed up there around the throne in. Glory and they're singing, Thou art worthy, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. That is His right as Redeemer. So he had a right to this world as Creator. But into that fair garden we know how Satan came and got the ear of man, and they turned away. They shut out the Creator, so to speak, from their thoughts and from their lives. And yet the Lord loved His own so much that he saw in all his corruption and ruin that we see in the world those who are precious and dear to him, those He considered that it was worthwhile that He should give himself, as we often sing Himself, He gave our poor hearts to win. Was ever love Lord like thine from the paths of folly and shame and sin? And fill them with joy as divine. And what? Marvelous expression as is, He sold all that He had there. He was up there in that glory above, forever the delight of his Father. But there was a necessity if he was going to have his own. There was a price to be paid. And how much must He give up? When we think of doing something, we say, well, how much do I have to give up for this? Well, the Lord gave up everything. He left the Father's glory and came down into this world a homeless stranger. The only person who could choose where he would be born, he was born in a Manger, the only person who could choose where he'd be brought up. And he was brought up in a community that apparently had a poor reputation, for he remembered, Nathanael said. Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Oh, how marvelous. Then in this pathway here foxes have holes and the birds of the air hath have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head. As the little song says, to only a cross did they give to our Lord only a borrowed tomb. Just think of what he gave up. And that makes a response in our hearts, doesn't it? Somebody gave up a great deal for us. Somebody did something that really cost them a great deal. We appreciate it in proportion to what we see behind it and the love and the sacrifice they made in order to do it for us. And so if you and I would only realize. What it meant that the Lord Jesus sold all that he had and bought this world, He has now a Redeemer's right over it, but he has a company, and though that company have been washed in his blood, and they'll surround the throne and sing, Thou art worthy, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. And so I say again, isn't this? That he's going to be satisfied. Another thing that I've enjoyed, especially of late is that the Lord calls us friends. We sing the little song, what a friend we have in Jesus. And that is wonderful that I can say that I have a friend in the Lord Jesus. But isn't it much more that he should say, well, I have a friend in you. He said, Abraham, my friend. And why does he say that He said All things that I have heard of my father have made known unto you? Yes, He's told us what's going on. You pick up the Daily News and they're concerned about things that are going on in this world. And the Lord says, but I have told you everything. You're not surprised by things that happen because I've set out the whole panorama of what's going to happen and you can just look on as an observer because you're my friend and I want you to understand what's happening. And it's all leading up to that glorious event when the Lord gives the shout and gathers his own to himself. And then, as we know later on, brings in blessing to Israel. And then he'll bid the whole creation smile and hush its groan. Well.

Just think of this a little bit, brethren. I need it for myself as well As for you, that the Lord has looked down in this world, with all its trouble and turmoil and strife. And he says, I have a treasure there. I gave everything in order to possess that treasure so dear to me. And from the ruin and wreck of humanity He picks us up and counts us his treasure. Then too, he says. And then shall every man have praise of God, just to

think when we get. Get there. He's going to value the slightest little response there was in our hearts to His love and His claims over us. But then in the next one, in Second Corinthians chapter 4, Second Corinthians chapter 4, and verse 6. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the Excellency of the power may be of God. And not of us. Well, there's a treasure that's been placed in this earthen vessel. That is, before we were saved, we saw no beauty in the Lord Jesus. We had no interest in him or in his love or in his claims. But then he brought us to himself, and he put a treasure inside. Every believer in this room has within him the very life of Christ, when Christ, who is our life, shall appear. Then shall ye also appear with him in glory. He also sealed us with the Holy Spirit, and our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Are we conscious of this, brethren? Don't we often forget it? This treasure in the earthen vessel, Wherever you go, wherever I go, this treasure is with us. He asked The very life of Jesus in US. And as we think of that, certainly it concerns us that our conduct would be such as would show to this world that the treasure is there. As the Lord said, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify not you, but glorify your Father, which is in heaven. So God wants the world to look on and say, here are people who are different. What is it that's different about them? Oh, it isn't just a change of ways. There's a treasure in the earthen vessel. Just think of it, the life of Christ, the Holy Spirit of God. And so that we can look up and see that Blessed One is read to us this morning about on the Mount of Transfiguration, how the disciples saw no man anymore. Say Jesus only. With themselves, that is, they saw Him, and God has given to you and I a life that is created in righteousness and true holiness, a life that delights to please Him, a life that finds all its satisfaction and all its joy in Him. And so it tells us here to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. All that God is has come out in him, so the Lord Jesus could say. He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. A perfect display here in this world of what God is like. People say, what is God like? There was a perfect display in this world of what God is like. And I see the Lord Jesus standing still at the cry of a blind man. That's what God is like. When I see the Lord Jesus weeping at the grave of Lazarus, I see what God is like. I see his heart told out in a man down here in this world. In the circumstances of life sin apart and how perfectly he displayed that and he's given us the very life of Christ. We say I can't respond that way to situations. Well, maybe we don't, but we can. We have the life and we have the power. Every believer has the same new life. Every believer has the same power. Sad to say, we're not always using it. We're not always allowing the life of Jesus to. Seen in our bodies, but it's there. There's a treasure in the earthen vessel. Well, as it tells us then at the Excellency of the power may be of God and not of us. That is, he puts the treasure and some of us have bodies that have aches and pains and that are wearing out, have many deficiencies. We realize that. He's he's put it in an earthen vessel. He doesn't want a lot of attraction. The world is all built up in the idea of the idea of a traction that tension to.

The body. What God wants to do is to attract attention to the treasure that's inside. Just like what we were talking about yesterday. What does God value in a woman? He says the hidden man of the heart, that which is not corruptible, that's what He values. That is really what is of importance to him in our lives. Brethren, whether brothers or sisters, is not how well we're dressed or how well we appear, but the treasure. Do others look on like they did with the early disciples as they took knowledge of them that they had been with? Jesus, what did they say? They saw the life of Jesus. Oh, but we might say, I have so many unpleasant experiences and it's hard, but that's the very purpose that God is accomplishing in these things. Notice this eighth verse. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed. We are persecuted. We are perplexed, but not in despair. Did you ever feel like that? Trouble on every side. Something that you wanted to make a decision about and you were just perplexed. You didn't know which way to turn. The Lord put you in that situation that you would realize, and I would realize how totally unable we are to meet the situations of life in our own strength. But He put the treasure there so that we would feel a need of Him, and so that when these situations arose, we would see His hand. That He was teaching us the hard lesson for all of us. Dependence and confidence. That's what he wants to teach us, repentance and confidence. Cast not away there for your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. And so he passes us through these things. Possibly even persecution in the goodness of God. We have great liberty in this land, but there are lands where they really are being persecuted for the name of the Lord Jesus. Has it robbed them of the treasure? No. As we read accounts of it, we see the treasure shining a little more brightly. Sometimes I have wondered if there isn't a reference here to Gideon's men. Do you remember when Gideon's men went out against the Midianites? It tells us that in one hand they had an earthen vessel with a light in it, and in the other hand they had a trumpet and they blew with a trumpet. I believe that refers to our spoken testimony. A trumpet makes a noise and we speak. We we let it be known as, or at least we should, that we are believers in the Lord. Jesus, we confess his name before men, and then they begin to watch us. And what do they see? Well, when they heard that trumpet blown, and they looked over, there was 300 shining torches. But how was it? Everyone of those vessels had to be broken. Everyone. Gideon said When when you hear that trumpet, I'll blow, and then you all blow with your trumpet. And then he said the vessel has to be broken so the light can shine. And it's not how we act when everything goes well, it's how we act when everything goes wrong that displays the treasure within the vessel. In the time of trouble, He will hide me in his pavilion. And how often we find that we're overcome when bad situations arise. But God is saying it's just an opportunity that others would see that there is a treasure in the earthen vessel. There's something inside. And how lovely it is when you see and sometimes. Even the world will say, what is it that you have? You have something we don't have. It's all right when everything's going well, but you've faced a very bad situation and yet you, you seem to have something. Yes, we have. We have a treasure in the earthen vessel. The Excellency of the power is not of us. It isn't. We have such wonderful characters, but we have the life of Jesus in the vessel. And so he speaks of the situations of life cast down, but not. Destroyed. I guess we've all experienced that. We get cast down because situations seem so hard to understand. Why has the Lord allowed this or that to come in our lives when He has all power? Why doesn't He correct that situation? Well, it's in order that the light would shine out. The brighter people in the office or the neighbors will never know what we have when we're prosperous and everything's going well, because they can be. Happy when everything's going well, but they will see something when things go the other way. And the Lord intentionally, shall I say, passes us through these things so that that treasure would be seen.

I believe there are two thoughts in the 10th and 11TH verse here. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body, for we would live, or always delivered unto death for Jesus sake, that the life of Jesus also that that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. You notice how similar these verses are? One speaks about bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus and the other one speaks of delivered unto death for Jesus sake. Well, if I could illustrate it by speaking about Gideon's man, let us suppose that when the trumpet is blown, there's one man and immediately breaks down the vessel so the light can shine out. But there's another man there, and he he thinks his vessel's pretty nice. He's picked out one that's very nice and pretty, and he's hesitating. He just doesn't like to see that nice vessel broken down. And so Gideon slashes it down. So the light can't shine unless it's smashed down. We ought to do this voluntarily. But the Lord in his wisdom and in his love brings circumstances in our life. We would deliver all the way. It's always happening. Isn't that what it says here? All the way delivered unto death for Jesus sake, because we're so slow to put the flesh in its right place, the place of death. Reckoning ourselves dead indeed unto sin, but alive. God and God seeing it necessary, then he has to allow these things over and over again. Brethren, we never graduate from God's school. We're in it as long as we're

down here. And some of us require more than others in order to break down that. And so if you could only accept those situations that arise, the times of trouble, the times of distress and perplexity and persecution times. When were cast down, they're all allowed of God for this definite purpose because he didn't intend people to be just attracted to us, we'll say for our nice personalities or good looks or something. But he wanted them to see the life of Jesus in the vessel. And he passes us through these things. So again I say he found a treasure in US and he put a treasure in us and he wants that treasure to be manifested. And in his wisdom and love, perhaps the reason it says here you notice in the end of the tenth verse in our body, and then in the 11TH verse in our mortal flesh. That is when we do it in communion with the Lord. Maybe He doesn't have to put us through some of the trials that really humble us, But if we don't, then in his wisdom and in his love, he says, well, I'll just remind you that it's mortal flesh. It's that which is going to wear out and breakdown. It's that which is weak in itself. And so troubles come, physical troubles perhaps, and we realize it's mortal flesh. We have mortal that is dying, We die, so to speak, and so He sees in his wisdom and his love. But again I say, he's put the treasure there, and he wants others around to see it. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify. Again I say, not you, but your Father, which is in heaven. What does God want to see displayed in this world? He looked down as it was brought before. This was such infinite delight on a person in this world that always pleased him, did everything, thought everything to please him, was willing to go even to Calvary in order to tell her at the heart of God. And now that precious 1 is up there in the glory that he put the life of Jesus in US and he's looking down and what does he want to see? He wants to see the life of Jesus manifested in US. That's the treasure in the earthen vessel and it's. The Excellency of the power would be of God and not of us. And so these things are necessary, brethren, in our lives, because otherwise we might boast and say, well, I did it. But the Lord brings us into situations where we have to say, it was all of the Lord. And the time came for David to get the Kingdom. Where was he? Down in the country of the Philistines, offering his services to the king of Gath, he could never boast and say, I was so faithful that when the time came to get the Kingdom, the Lord gave it to me. He'd have to hang his head and say.

Right at the time when the Lord was going to come in and give me what He had promised, I broke down. Oh, how weak we are at best. And He teaches us our nothing. Is our weakness to teach us to lean hard upon Him? And so we have that treasure in earthen vessels now in Matthew that we looked at in the 6th chapter. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth. Where Moth and Rust doth corrupt and where thieves breakthrough and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Or in either moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not breakthrough nor steal. For where your treasure is there for your heart be also. Well, we've spoken about the Lord Jesus counting his own a treasure. We've seen how he's put the treasure in earthen vessels. But then there's one that we can look up to. There's one up there in the glory. And He wants us to have our treasures, not down here, but up there. Now it's amazing how much effort we go to in order to have treasures down here. And when we have perhaps worked hard and got a nice car or something. That we had particularly wanted by. We're so pleased that at last we've got what we wanted here. But the Lord wants us to be looking up and saying, well, everything that's abiding, everything that's worthwhile, it's not here, it's up there. And someday, brethren, there's going to be a manifestation of our lives. And when that manifestation takes place, it won't be how well we succeeded in getting along down here, but it'll be how much in our lives was according. His well and pleasing to Him, how much we truly found our treasure up there. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. If I could think of that treasure as the Lord Jesus up there, everything that I have for time and eternities in Him, everything I say, there's nothing that you and I could possess apart from Him that can bring any kind of lasting happiness. Remember when the children of Israel entered, Jerry called. There was a special. Charge made that all the silver and gold were the Lords. One man thought, oh, I'd just like some for myself. And so he took it and hid it in his tent. Brought a lot of sorrow on himself and on his family. We often do that, brethren. We get an eye that says the wedge of gold and silver and a goodly Babylonish garment. And he said, I'm just going to have this for myself. But what a loss it was before the one who searches all. Things out. Why would the silver and the gold be brought into the treasury of the Lord? Does he mean that when you get saved, you're to just take every bit that you possess and give it to be distributed? No, not necessarily. But you sell out, so to speak. And you say before I was saved, everything was my own. It was my car, it was my house, it was my. Possessions, clothes and everything but after we are saved. If we really recognize the Lord's claims, we sell out. This car belongs to the Lord, This house belongs to the Lord. These clothes that I have, they belong to the Lord. And so there's a new ownership, shall I say? They belong to him. And he makes us his stewards. And then he says, I'm going to reward you if you carry out that stewardship in a way that's pleasing to me. And that's our privilege here in this world. We're stewards at each one of us can. I'm not going to ask you where you've got a nice color or not or whether you have a nice home, but the great the important thing is are we acknowledging the Lord's claims over what we possess and that we are willing to say it's really not mine, it's his and I just want to use it for him brethren is a real joy in that it says where your treasure is there with your heartbeat also and if our treasure is up there in the glory they. Our hearts will be there, our hearts will be there, and the thing that we'll seek after in life is that we might recognize that Blessed One now crowned with glory and honor, that everything we have for time and eternity is in Him. And if He has left us here to be stewards for Him, that it's only that we might use what really doesn't belong to us, but belongs to Him in a way. That would have his approval. What a blessed thing it is. So we see what He has done for us, brethren. He sold everything to have us as His treasure. He put a treasure in the earthen vessel. But now he's looking for a response from our hearts, from his love. That's what he wants. My son, give me thine heart. He's asking us how much do we value what he has done for us? And if we value what he has done for us, we'll say, as the words of the little hymn say, love that.

Our highest power demands our soul, our life, our all. The enemy may tell us all, but that's a hard path. You may have to make a lot of sacrifices, but very, very small. When we think of the sacrifice that he made for us and all, how how wonderful it would be if in any little measure he says well done. That's the only thing that will count when we get there, to have his approval on what we've done. He wants us. As Paul said, we labor that whether present or absent, we may be agreeable to him.

The Christian Shepherd: 2003, Wise Men

“When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him” (Matt. 2:12).

We have before us the person of Christ and the center God has marked out in His Word where we can meet around Himself. The wise men came to Jerusalem to inquire about His birth, but the religious leaders of that day knew nothing about it. But God in His grace gave those men who came from a far country to see the One born King of the Jews. He was the one who was to bring blessing, not to Israel only, but to the Gentiles also.

We too have been brought from a far country, have we not? We had no claims, no promises, but God in grace wrought in our hearts and gave us to see the blessed person of the Lord Jesus, who is the center of our thoughts the One who is the center of God’s thoughts and the One who is the light and the temple of the coming scene of glory. We were attracted to Him. Surely we delight to come and worship Him now as these wise men from the far country did so long ago.

The wise men came to Jerusalem, where there were those who had the Scriptures; they knew the prophecies, yet they were unconcerned and did not value them as they ought.

Can it be that we, having these same Scriptures in our hands, do not value them as we should? Has each of us become acquainted with God’s holy Word? Has each read it through and through again? There is responsibility as well as privilege connected with being in the place where the Lord is in the midst. All is clearly marked out in the Word if we read it carefully and prayerfully, willing to submit wholly to its precious truths.

The privilege of being gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus to remember Him in His death is but for a little while. His coming draws near. May each be led to rise up seeking His face with renewed purpose of heart and diligence, as did the wise men.

G. H. Hayhoe (adapted from an address)

Calgary Conference: 1989, Is Christ Our Object

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

My brother has spoken mostly to those who are unbelievers that they might receive the Lord, and I trust the Lord will answer and blessing. I just like to say a few words for those of us who are the Lords. Particularly you'll turn to Matthew chapter 17. I'd like to read this little story about the. What we call the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew 17. And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, and was transfigured before them. And his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here, if thou wilt, let us make here 3 tabernacles, one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise and be not afraid. When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man save Jesus only, and as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man until the Son of Man be risen again from the dead. And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes, that Elias must first come? Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall come first come and restore all things. But I say unto you, that Elias has come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of Man suffer of them. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist. Minimal and when they were come to the. There came to him a certain man kneeling down to him, saying, Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is lunatic and sore vexed, for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and OFT into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer You bring him hit her to me. Jesus rebuked the devil, and he departed out of him, and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief. For verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to Yonder place, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Albeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. Well, in the end of the chapter before the Lord Jesus has spoken about discipleship, He was preparing the disciples for the fact that the Christian pathway would not be easy, that it would cost them something. And he said, He that loveth his life shall lose it. He that hateth his life in this world keepeth, shall keep it unto life eternal. He was preparing them that Christianity is not an easy path, but a difficult one. But what is it, brethren, that will sustain us in the difficulties of. In life, what is it that will enable us to meet the problems that constantly confront us as believers? Wasn't it lovely to see the Lord Jesus taking these disciples up onto the Mount of Transfiguration, just to have a view of himself, the glorified? 1 And I think this is most precious. The Lord knows what we need to sustain us in days like this. Our brother has been bringing before us how very difficult things are and especially. For our dear young people and. We know that we can't handle these things in our own wisdom or strength, but isn't wonderful when the Lord gives us a view, so to speak of Himself and to know that He is the one who we're soon going to see face to face. But He's also the one who is sufficient for the difficulties that we have to meet in the pathway of life. So he takes them up and I was thinking of it, brethren, perhaps in connection with these three days that we have been enjoying together, perhaps we could say the Lord has been taking us to the mountain. Apart now, that is, we've been away from the world. Young people have been away from the influences of school. They've been away from the influences of the world as a system. Those who are occupied in business are very happy to have three days just to spend with those who love the Lord and just.

Happy fellowship and conversations, and I'm sure we feel sometimes like as if we had been on the mountaintop too. And so we see here, this was perhaps the most wonderful experience of their whole life with the Lord, if we can picture it in our own minds seeing the Lord transfigured before them. And I trust our hearts have had a view of what it's going to be. When we look into the very face of our precious Savior to see Him there. This morning He was in the midst, but we know that it was only by faith that we could behold Him. But it's not always going to be that way. Faith is going to be changed to sight. We're going to see Him. The anticipation of this fills our hearts, in a certain sense, with a vision of glory even now. And so His disciples were still in the midst of a nation that was rejecting Him, but they were given a view of Himself. And brethren, this is what I feel the Lord has granted to us in some measure as. We have been occupied with the Lord Jesus. We're still here in a world full of troubles and sorrows, but he has given us. He's taken us, as it were, up to the mountaintop. I've rather enjoyed In the 42nd Psalm, the psalmist is saying, Why art thou cast down, O my soul, Why art thou? Why art thou disturbed within me? And then he says, I will remember thee in the land of Jordan. On Mount Hermon. And in the hill Mizar, you know, those speak of the ups and downs of life when it says Mount Hermon, that was the highest mountain in the whole of the land of Israel when it spoke to the Jordan. That's the river of death right down at the bottom and flowed into the Dead Sea. And if you look in the margin, you'll see the hill Mizar is the little hills. And so it represents these ups and downs that we have. And as you read that chapter, you see. That he is occupied with all these things, unable to go even to the House of God, because the enemy has taken possession and he's really sad. And what made it harder still? The enemy was saying, Where is

thy God? Perhaps the enemy's been whispering in your tear. If the Lord cares for me, why doesn't he change some of these situations? Why doesn't he remove these difficulties? And the enemy kept whispering that, and he was really. Cast down. But then he says, I'll praise him for the help of his countenance. But before the Psalm closes, he thinks about him again, and he says, He's the help of my countenance and my God. He's looked at him and his face has been brightened. Well, the disciples had an experience like this. It was amazing to them. However, even on the mount they intended to. They tended to think about man, perhaps great men, people from whom we have received blessing. We look back over our Christian lives and we think of people who've really been a blessing in our lives. It mean a great deal to us, but none compare with the Lord Jesus. The Lord has to sometimes remove those props on which we lean. He said to Joshua after Moses died. Moses, my servant is dead now. Therefore arise and sometimes the Lord removes those props. Perhaps you say their word, brothers and sisters that were a help to me, but the Lord has taken them home and I feel sort of bereft. Well, the Lord made Moses and Elias disappear and what for? So they would see no man anymore save Jesus. Only have you say some brother or sister that I look to is really disappointed me, but the Lord will never he will never disappoint you. He's the same yesterday and today and forever. So I say again, the Lord opened their eyes and isn't it lovely what it says here? And Jesus came and touched them. I like that word. Jesus came and touched them. That's what He wants to do to you and me. He wants to touch us. And when he touched them, they opened their eyes just to see him. Oh, what a wonderful. Occasion this was well, you might say, oh, that's going to be. Such a wonderful turnabout in their lives. They'll be able from that point on, to handle all the difficulties that rise. All brethren, How often we find that it's after an occasion like this that the enemy seems to come. Full strength. Full strength. He doesn't want to see us. Maybe they're brothers and sisters here. Who are saying I want to follow the Lord more closely? One of the most serious tests came in my life just after I'd been to a conference. And you know what often happens that way? The enemy comes full strength. That's what happened. They came down from the mountain and I can just imagine how their hearts were full as they talked to one another. What a grand and wonderful experience they had had seeing the Lord and their faces no doubt reflecting in some measure having been with Him.

But when they got down to the mount, why it tells us here? That in the 14th verse, and when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man kneeling down to him and saying. Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic and sore vex, for oftentimes he falleth into the fire and OFT into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Yes, they couldn't handle a situation. And you know, we find that we're so dependent on the Lord, and if we think that a wonderful experience is going to give us strength. No, dear brethren, it's. Constant dependence upon the Lord. It's keeping our eyes on Him and on Him alone. And so tells us in the 16th Psalm, Preserve me, O God, for in thee do I put my trust. This must have been terribly humbling to listen to this man saying to the Lord Jesus, thy disciples couldn't help me, Thy disciples couldn't help me. And don't we feel just that way? We can't seem to handle the situation that's confronting us, perhaps in our business, perhaps in our family, perhaps even in the assembly. Yes, we feel we can't. And we can't, brethren, we can't do it in our own strength. But isn't it wonderful the Lord came in spite of the fact that they couldn't do it? The Lord was so gracious. Doesn't He often come in when we're not even perhaps conscious of how weak we are, But He comes in, as our brother was saying, how wonderfully the Lord came in, in his life in so many situations. And haven't we failed? Just absolutely helpless in some situations? And then the Lord came in and he undertook for us, and the Lord undertook about this boy. This may be a family situation too, like it was here. This man was concerned about his boy. And this boy had been led captive, as it were, by Satan, LED captive at his will. And so maybe a family situation. Maybe there's some father, mother here and you just feel I can't handle. The situation that's arising in our home. Well, the Lord was able, how beautiful he cast him out. But we see then the disciples became exercised and it says they came to the Lord Jesus. Notice what it says. In the 19th verse, then came the disciples to Jesus apart and said, why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief. Yes, we have a lot of confidence in ourselves, don't we? We may have confidence in Moses and Elias, so to speak, some other person that we think we can lean upon that will be able to help us. And the Lord says, because of your unbelief, with whom do we need to have confidence? The psalmist said I've seen an end of all perfection, and you know, if there's some brother that you're leaning on, the Lord may let you see that you can't lean on him. But we can always safely lean upon the Lord. Trust ye in the Lord forever. For in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. And the Lord told him that if they had faith like a grain of mustard seed, they could remove a mountain. I have to confess that I have less than a grain of mustard seed because I know there are mountains that I haven't removed yet. But I know the Lord is able. But he does let us. Feel how weak we are. But oh brethren, let us trust Him. Let us trust Him, casting all your care upon Him, for he cares for you. We need to confess. I've often noticed. I don't know of any case where anybody in the Bible ever boasted about his faith. Because I think the more we're in the presence of the Lord, we realize that what my father used to often say were unbelieving believers. We believed to the salvation of our souls. But we find ourselves in situations so weak. But it doesn't change the Lord. He's the same. He answered the prayer when they were praying for Peter, even though there wasn't enough faith to believe, when he came to the door, he still answered. Oh how good He is. So wonderful to meet us in our need. But then there's a little word that the Lord gave to them.

And he says. Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. And I believe this is important for us too. We tend to give up and feel, well, it's no use, But I believe the Lord encourages us in prayer. He says with prayer and supplication, with Thanksgiving. Let your requests be made known unto God. Let's keep on. We're going to need it, and we're going to need. More and more. The armor of prayer as we sometimes sing and then what is fasting? Well, some people think of it in connection with doing without food. And there have been occasions, I suppose, when something has pressed upon a person so much that he said it burdens me so much I don't even feel like eating. And so he fasts he he really burdened about a situation. There are situations that press on our souls just like that, but there I believe that fasting has a much wider. Application than just food. There may be things in our lives that we think we can't part with, things that we say. I just couldn't give that up. But that very thing, that little thing may be a hindrance. I remember a girl that we used to know. And she really turned to the Lord and wanted to follow the Lord. But there was just one little thing that she kept in her life that I believe in the end broke her down. And, you know, we need to let the Lord have his rightful place. We sang in love that transcends our highest powers, demands our soul, our life, our all. We think of dear Jonathan, you know, when David had won that great victory. He comes and he presents everything, his bow, his sword, his girdle, the girdles, what's closest to yourself. And he, he said, David, it's all yours. But he didn't give everything. He kept one thing as someone who said he kept his shoes. He didn't follow David. And that very one thing, the one thing lacking was what was his final downfall. He didn't walk with David. And when David was slain? When Jonathan was slain, pardon me, on the mountains of Gilboa, it tells us that David mourned. Have often said, and it struck me, David never asked Jonathan to go with him. You say, why didn't he ask him? He wanted him to come out of love. He wanted him to come out of love. And I'm not laying down rules for you because that's not Christianity. But I do say that. The the Lord wants your company, and if there's something that's hindering you or for me from enjoying his company, you don't have to give it up. But is it worth clinging to it if it's going to rob you of the company of the Lord Jesus? He's worthy of our all and all had he missed by just keeping that one thing? Yet did David value it? Yes he did. 1 Jonathan died. He valued what he had done. That's always touched me. He says Thy love to me was wonderful, He might have said, but he missed one thing. But he didn't. Isn't it wonderful that all It's not of himself.

Someday, brethren, is going to be burned up, but there is going to be something that abides. And David didn't forget what Jonathan had done. But there was a loss in his life. And if you and I want to. Really have the enjoyment of the Lord's presence and company in our lives and the ability to meet the different situations. We don't have it in ourselves. We have to be constantly dependent and we have to be careful that we're not allowing something in our life that's the hindrance to the blessing because He's full of blessing. He wants to bless us. He longs for our companionship and company, and He's not going to be satisfied till He has it forever. And it says here. And be satisfied, and I shall be satisfied, when I await with thy likeness.

Toledo Conference: 1971, Food in the Desert

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

One metal passage. I'd like to watch that brother. And Matthew chapter 14. Matthew chapter 14, and verse 15. And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, this is a desert place, and the time has now passed. Send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and by themselves Biddles. But Jesus said unto them. They need not depart, give you them to eat. And they say unto him, that we have here the five loaves. And two faces, he said, Bring them hidden to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass. And took the five laws and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blasts and breaks, and gave along to his disciples, and the disciples to the molecule. And they did all eat and were filled, and they took up of the fragments that remained 12 basket full, and they had eaten were about 5000 men. Beside women and children, I just enjoyed this little portion of God's Word. Because there are times when we often feel discouraged, there are times when we feel very much like the disciples did on this occasion. As it was evening, they said it was a desert place and the time is now passed. Surely we can say, too, that we're getting to the very end of the day of Grace. We feel a weakness coming in. We feel too that it is a desert place now. That is, there's a famine not only for bread or for water, but for hearing of the words of the Lord and how often we hear it commented. Well, isn't the freshness in the ministry there isn't that in the meetings to hear and encourage our hearts like they should be? And very often we are inclined to look at our feeble resources and say. So what can we do? What? How can we help out in this situation? It's a desert place, and the time has now passed. What was the suggestion of the disciples on this occasion? They said, send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages and by themselves little, but that is, instead of being exercised, that the Lord was sufficient to see that great molecule. Even though it was a desert place, even though it was toward evening, even laws, it says here the time is now passed. The Lord was sufficient for this situation. He loved the people. They had come and had followed him, and no, he wasn't going to send them away. But the hearts of the disciples failed on this occasion. And perhaps as we returned to our little meeting and we see the few that come out to the Bible reading the prayer meeting and we might feel just exactly like the disciples. Well, what is the use of continuing? Doesn't seem to be much that is stabbed and is not perhaps much that ministers to the heart. I'm reliable to, I don't give up. And what will be the result of this? Well, it tells us here that if they sent them away, they go somewhere else for their food. And Thoren, I feel this is a challenge. I feel this is a warning to we find that these things of God, instead of enjoying the precious ministry of the word and being faithful at the meetings, how often we find them turning to other sources for refreshment, other sources for encouragement for their souls. I've heard it's bad. Well, what is the use of having. Meeting only Christians come out, but those very same Christians, if you don't have a gospel meeting, will be listening to the gospel on the radio. They'll be listening to someone else preaching the gospel because we didn't give them to eat. And I believe there's a word here to encourage us to go on. I've often said the Saints need the gospel. We need to have our hearts warm with the love of Christ. We need to have our hearts drawn out to Him. I remember a man who came out to the gospel meeting in Ottawa many years ago. And I wasn't the speaker but another brothers talk and this man hadn't come to the gospel before, but it was a very small little meeting and a little hall and there were just I think 8 people there. And sometime afterwards he was brought to the Lord. And I asked him, I said when were you brought to the Lord, brother?

Well, he said the first time the Lord spoke to me. Established when I went to the Dos for meeting, and there were just eight people there, but he said the brother that spoke both was just warmth and such love. I don't remember anything he said, but I thought there must be something to it. Well, dear friend Carl, this ought to be an encouragement to us. The disciples were weary. It had been a difficult day, and as I said. It just seemed that they said it's no use and they said send the molecule away. Let them go other places and buy themselves Vettel. But Jesus said unto them. They may not be part give you them to eat. Well, let me say, and I say to those who are young as well as those who are older. What a privilege it is to be gathered to the precious name of the Lord Jesus. What a privilege it is to be where the things of God and all their weakness seek to maintain the truth of God. I don't say it with any boasting, brethren, but I say that God's assembly is to be the pillar and ground of the truth. And I believe that when we leave the past that has been marked out in the word of God. We may get numbers, we may get crowds, but there will be some departure from church. There'll be something that's given up. And we listen to things, we read things, often very interesting and pleasant to read, but we find that there's some part of the truth that's missing, something that's important that has either been omitted or has been set aside. Well, isn't it lovely here, the Lord's word if they need not be part. I don't know if there's anyone here who's discouraged. If you're perhaps like some and say, well, I don't find much use and coming to the meetings there seems so little for my soul there. Remember those words. They need not be parked and then let us to have any part in trying to help the Saints of God remember. Words give you them to read, give you them to eat, and one is often an exercise that when the Saints of God come together, the Lord said to seed the flock of God which is among you. And I feel it when we come to the meeting. There are to be when the meeting is over, stepping up from the meeting and starting toward home with the ceiling that we had been fed. And those who take part? Should be exercised that the Saints would be fed. Sometimes said to the young people at Otter Lake, we can have a lot of discussions about knowledge that don't at all edify the soul, but we would seek to minister Christ supposing that we sat down to the meal table and before we started to eat today one of the brothers got up and he said now before anyone each I'd like to tell you. How many pounds of meat there were for this meal today, how much time was taken in preparing it? How many slices of bread were cut, how many pieces of butter were put out? And how much coffee was used and how much taste. I think we all say, well, we're glad that she knew how to prepare it, but we'd like to eat well. I believe there's a danger of us getting so much taken up. With little details about the Saints are not bad. Give you them to eat. Oh, but you might say we haven't got very much to give. And that's exactly the way that his principles fell here. They looked on their tiny endorsers and were told in another place it was just one boy's lunch. That's all it was. One person and 5000 besides men and children. That even had a lunch that could be used and you might say, well, one of my I'm just one person. And if you read the account in John, you'll see it was just a lab. There might be someone here who says why I'm just one person. What contributes contribution could I make? What could I do? And I'm young. Besides, they looked at their little resources. 5 low, 5 in scripture figures, weakness and.

Two sisters, another place, so small fishes all went a little bit they had. What could they do? Feed one person? That's about all is enough to feed one person? Well, was the Lord able to use this one boys? One could this boy, he made a blessing to over 5000 people? Yes he could. He could be made a blessing to over 5000 people. For what was the secret? The Lord said bring them heavy to me, bring them heavy to me. That is, was how was this boy willing to present what he had to the Lord? And are you and I willing to take a little bit that we have and present it to the Lord? The greatest blessing that we find recorded in the Scripture was when some person presented a very little to the Lord. Think of that woman at the well. How much did she know? But as well, she knew that she had met a person who had told her all things. Whatever she did, she knew that was the Christ. It was a short message. The ones he doesn't seem to be a great deal said, but it was such a powerful message that there was much blessing and they came out and believed and then the Lord came to that place and many more believed. But it all began because one person put the little bit that he knew of Christ into youth. He just said come see a man that told me all things that ever I did. The man in the ninth of John, what did he have? He didn't know very much about the Lord. But he said one thing. I know that whereas he was blind, now I see. And he said, I know that his name is Jesus. That's about all he knew. But all what a powerful testimony. What blessing? Well, may we just say, do we come to the meeting with a little enjoyment of Christ? It may not be very much, but I'm sure that if there's some little enjoyment of Christ in our lives. Some little enjoyment that we have had of himself, and that is put into the hands of the Lord. We'd be surprised the blessings that there is. I've often noticed how richly the Saints have enjoyed some young brothers who get up and spoke for the first time. He was shaking in his boots. He said. I didn't know how I could even speak for 10 minutes. But he brought what he had and he gave it to the Lord. And what did the Lord do to blast it? And he returned it to the disciples. Did he at? Mormon say, well here's one line size multiplied at the 5000 lunches and now you can start out, Oh no, I just had the one lunch, 5 loans and two fishes and the Lord blessed it and gave it back. And every step in the distribution I believe was a step of faith, I believe as they went along and one person took his chair off the plate. There was still more. And as they went along, including those people, it just continued to multiply and increase. But each step had to be a step of faith. Each step had to be a confidence in God. And oh, how wonderfully he came in and it says. That when they were all finished, everyone had 18, everyone was filled and there was something left, Yes, something left. Because whenever Christ is enjoyed, there's always something left because your heart and mind can't contain it. It says, behold, heaven and the heaven and heaven cannot contain these. And so whatever is presented of Christ. Can never fully contain us. There will always be something left. And so it was 5 basketball more than they started with. So it is in the things of God. When we give, we always have more left than what we give. And that's the way it is in spiritual things. And then when they look at the molecule. They would have eaten were five saw about 5000 men beside women and children.

How beautiful it is, how wonderfully as a Lord undertook and said this whole molecule. Well, may this be a voice to you and I in these last days in this desert place, and we look at our own poverty of soul. We look at what we have and we say, what can I do, what can I contribute in the little meeting? If they depended on me, they wouldn't get very much. But that's the way the disciples felt. But didn't depend on them. The whole thing depended on whether they were willing to put what they had into the hands of the Lord and have Him bless it and return it to them with His blessing. And then when they gave it out, they all even were filled. Oh, may the Lord help us as we go back to the little. Families where we are, realizing it is a desert place, realizing the discouragement of these last days, may we give us grace rather than to be willing to put what we have into His hands and realize there is a need, a great need. And in the blessed place where the Lord has gathered His own to His precious name, He wants to see them sad. They need not be. And to eat.

Conference: 1977, Come

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Like to look this afternoon at a few scriptures in connection with the word come not so much in connection with the invitation to the law as to the invitation that the Lord gives that we might walk through this world and in his company and as a testimony for him. We all know the joy of having a friend who wants our company, and it's a pleasure to be in their company. Well, isn't it wonderful that the Lord Jesus. Not only died to deliver our souls from hell and coming judgment, but he's not going to be satisfied with anything less than our company for all eternity. It will be his joy to have us there in the Father's house, just as we have been reading in the 15th chapter of Luke of the Father's joy and receiving home, the prodigal. And you know, it tells us there they began to be married, but it never says the merriment ended. And so God would have us to enjoy something of this here about there's a more wonderful day coming when we will enjoy his company and he will enjoy ours for all eternity. A little Him puts it like this. He and I and that bright glory 1 deep joy shall share mind to be forever with Him His that I am there. All what love this is and only trust the Lord will use these scriptures to encourage us. It has been said that every heart desires two things very specially, and that is understanding and love. Isn't it wonderful that we have that in the Lord? Understanding and love? To know someone who understands you, who can enter into your feelings, is wonderful. But if they knew all about you, or they knew all about me, perhaps they might not feel just exactly the same. But oh, isn't it wonderful. That there is a person who knows all about us, pulls us through and through. There's not a thing, not even the motives of our hearts that he does not know and yet loves us with an unchanging love, a love that goes on to the end. Well, let us turn first of all to Matthew Chapter 11. Matthew Chapter 11. And the 25th verse At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank the old Father Lord of heaven and earth, because Allah hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hath revealed them unto babe. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father, and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father neither knoweth any man. Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the son will reveal him. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest under your soul, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Well, the Lord Jesus was the rejected 1 here, but we find that He took everything as from His Father's hands. And at this time, when He had to speak of these cities where His mighty works were done, who had rejected Him? You and I might have felt very cast down and sad, but isn't it blessed to hear the Lord Jesus speaking in this way, looking up to His Father? Luke's gospel tells us he rejoiced in spirit. How could he rejoice in spirit at such a time as this? Well, because he took all things from his father. And it says here he said, even soul, father for soul, it seemed good in thy sight, and, you know, in the disappointments and trials of life. The only thing that will give us peace at such times is to be able to say the same thing. To be able to recognize that God is our Father and that whatever has been allowed has been allowed because He saw it was for our good and for our blessing. It doesn't require a special intelligence. Or it says here these things were hid from the wise and prudent. Because the more wise we are, the more tendency there often is to question the ways of God to try and reason things out. How about isn't it lovely when there is that submission to His mind and will, when we can just receive it in this way? Oh, what peace floods our soul. I'm sure all of us have experienced in some little measure, but would to God it were always so that we not only would accept it in, shall I say, submission about accepted as our

Father's will and that He thought it was good.

For all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. And then he goes on to tell us how this can be. He says, all things are delivered unto me of my Father. Now the Lord Jesus hasn't yet taken the place of a headship over everything. In the way of power as that is, as tells us in Hebrews 2, we see not yet all things put under Him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor as faith looks up and sees him there, knows he's in that place of power. And so we are willing to accept things because it's possible for him to change any situation if it's his will. It tells us that he's head over all things to the church, which is his body. It tells us, too, that angels and authorities and powers are made subject unto him. When He gathered with His own in that place in the last chapter of Matthew, a mountain where He had appointed to them, there were some who had doubts. How did the Lord answer their doubts? Why, He said He said, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. And isn't that the answer to every doubt that is in your mind and mine? In other words, if it were God's will? He could and would change things about if He allows it to be otherwise. Faith can say Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight. Those two on the road to Emmaus were depressed and sad. And why? Well, it tells us that they thought that the Lord was the one who would redeem Israel, and they expected Him to do it at that time. And isn't that the root of a lot of our problems? That we know the Lord has power, but we don't want his time. We want our time. So they thought he would do it in their time and it was a disappointment to find that he was going to do it in his time. He's going to redeem Israel, but in his time. And so here we find the Lord Jesus. He accepts all from his Father. Satan had offered him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them if he would fall down and worship him. And sometimes we may think we'll gain certain things by sidestepping the path of obedience. We may think there are certain benefits to be had. But the Lord would not accept it from Satan. He waited the Father's time, and how long has he waited? Has he received the kingdoms of this world yet? No, it's almost 2000 years. A long time to wait, isn't it? But he's waiting the father's time, when the father will say son, the hour is come when he will say ask of me and I will give you the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. So face knows how that there's one who is in control of everything. Even though he may not as yet openly manifest his power. At peace, I say, it gives to know that all is under His hand, under His control, and then to defined, as He says here, no man knows the Son but the Father. Neither knoweth any man. The Father saved the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him. The first part of this verse shows us that we are never to try to understand the mystery. Person of Christ, no man knoweth the Son, but the Father. And so, as we sang in the little hymn with which we closed this morning, how wondrous the glories that meet in Jesus. And from His face shine. His love is eternal and sweet. His human tis also divine. We can never comprehend the divine mystery of His Person. But it tells us here that the Sun has revealed the Father isn't that of most blessed thing.

So that when you and I get home to glory, we're going to be in the presence of one who has been. Fully revealed. I've enjoyed the thought that when we get there, a thought will come into our minds at once. Why, this is home. I'm no stranger here. Oh, what a marvelous thing. God has been revealed. He has been made known. And as we trace the pathway of our precious Savior, we see Him standing still at the cry of a blind man. We see him weeping at the grave of Lazarus. We see Him sitting at the well talking to a poor woman whom His disciples couldn't understand. He would have any interest in such a person. But that is the heart of God revealed. Oh, doesn't this touch your heart and mind? This is the one whom we can call Father. This is the one with whom we're going to spend eternity. And the precious Savior here in this world was walking in the consciousness of His Father's love. His Father's presence, and so He would have this to be known by His disciples. And then after telling this in the 28th verse, here we have this little word. Come, come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. All if this is true of this One who once walked this world, now He is giving a very personal word. Just like you enjoy something and you have a friend you love and you say come and enjoy it with me. And the friend comes and enters into and enjoys what you yourself are enjoying. It's shared together. Isn't this most blessed? The Lord Jesus saying, Come unto me, all ye that labor under heavy laden. Of course we know that there are many who are laboring and heavy laden in their sins. And the Lord Jesus went to Calvary's cross and settled the question of sin. Saw that there would be no barriers to the telling out of God's heart to sinners like you and they yes, he's so glorified God about the question of sin that God could come out in all that was in his heart. That's why the veil was rent not only so that we could go in, blessed as that is, but that God could come out and that he could. Make noon all it was in the heart of the Father. That's why the Lord Jesus said. I have a baptism to be baptized with and how am I straightened until it be accomplished? The Lord was restricted in all that He would seek to declare and manifest until the question of sin was settled. And when it was settled at the cross, immediately the veil of the temple was renting twain from the top to the bottom, as though God were saying, now I can come out, now you can go in. All the barriers have been removed. And so he calls on everyone, come unto me. Is there one here that's not saved the. Says, Come unto me, do you feel the burden of your sin if you're not saved? I hope you do. You will someday if you don't feel it now. Those in a lost eternity will surely feel what it is that has separated them from God for all eternity. But isn't it blessed to feel it now, to know that the question of sin was so settled, and that he says, Come unto me, all either labor under heavy laden, and I will give you. To have rest of conscience to know that not a charge can be laid against you, because all were laid against Christ. And he settled it to God's glory. And then he goes a little farther. He says, Take my yoke upon you and learn of me. For I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your soul. I believe we could speak of the rest in the 28th verse of being the rest of conscience that we receive in salvation, but in the 29th verse its rest unto our souls. Now that is, the soul is the seed of the appetite and emotions and desires. And the yoke is for two, you know. When oxen are yoked together, here are the two oxen, and there there's a yolk placed over them, and there they are connected to one another. And this is what I had particularly on my heart, of how the Lord would have you and I to go through this life with that yoke upon us. Now that is feeling that He is with us, that we are walking in His company. And so he said, take my yoke upon you.

Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart. What is a meek person? Well, I believe a meek person is one who doesn't resent it when he's put in the low place. You know, it's comparatively easy for us to say I'm nothing, I'm a poor failure, I make many mistakes. This perhaps we have all confessed at times, but we don't like it very well. When someone else says, oh, he's nothing, pay no attention to him, he's just a big failure. All this test how much there's reality with us. Well, as the Lord Jesus went through this world, oh what, what indignation, what, what indignation, what empathy, what? Despising was his portion as he went through this world, and yet we find him even before Pilate. It says he answered not a word. And oh, how blessed it is the Lord says this to us. Don't we run into a lot of trouble by the resentment that stirs up in our own heart about things? Oh, how often someone has done us wrong, someone has done us harm and we see I just can't get over it. And what is it? It's ourselves that needed the correction because we didn't accept it as from the Lord. And so the Lord Jesus said, I am meek and lowly in heart. He not only took the low place through this world, but when men as it were pressed him down, He in loneliness abowed to all of his Father allowed. And that precious Savior go often was misunderstood, falsely accused, and yet we see nothing hindered that blessed. Pathway of love and service command. They took up stones to cast at him and as he passed by he saw a man that was blind from his birth and he stopped to heal him. He arrived, say well they don't want us, we better get out. But how different would that blessed one? He was

always seeking the good and the blessing of others. Well, He not only invites us to find rest of conscience, but rest for our soul. Oh, I desire this for my own heart, rest for our souls. I believe it's found as we walk in the company of the meek and lowly Jesus, that precious One who walked through this world, who accepted all as from His Father's hand. And then he says my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Perhaps, I hear someone say, but that's not easy to do that. Well, I'll say this. It's far harder to go through life with an unforgiving spirit. It's far harder to go through life with feelings of bitterness toward others. That's a far harder path. As unto seek grace from the Lord, to forgive. Oh what peace it gives in the soul. When we're able to accept that which He sees fit to place us on us in our pathway here. So here we find the Lord Jesus inviting to come to Him and receive salvation and find rest for our souls as we walk through life in this way in His company, seeking to manifest the life of Jesus in our bodies. Well may He give us this exercise, beloved, may He. To desire this saw that there would be more of this seen in us. I'm sure it would be the cure for so many of our problems in our homes and in our assemblies. Meek and lowly in heart, take my yoke upon you and learn of me all that precious Savior and all what what joy there is. Just think of the difficulty that came into the early church. Here were some that were complaining because they were neglected. Daily ministration and the disciples, I believe, were walking in meekness and lolliness of hearts. And so when some of them complained, they said will you choose out seven and the way you distribute it will satisfy us. Well, no wonder the difficulty was settled in a moment. That was meekness, that was loneliness, wasn't it? They said you can just look after the distribution and we'll be satisfied with it and the result was the.

Things spread out from Jerusalem. Many were added to the Lord. So instead of them saying, well, we'll, we'll go halfway and you go halfway and then they would never have been happy, would they? But oh, what lovely. My yoke is easy and my burden is light. Oh, may the Lord give us to see the blessedness of this for our own souls. I'd like to turn over to. A portion and a somewhat figurative way in Genesis chapter 45 Genesis chapter 45, verse four and Joseph said unto his brethren, come near to me, I pray you and they came near and he said I am Joseph your brother, whom he sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieve nor angry with yourselves that she sold me hit her for God did send me before you to. Of life for these two years hath the famine been in the land, and yet there are five years in the which there shall neither be earring nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So, no, it was not you that sent me hit her, but God. And he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and Lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout. Land of Egypt. Haste you and get go up to my father and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me Lord of all Egypt. Come down unto me. And Terry not well we could read more of this, but what I was particularly thinking of was those words. Come near to me, I pray you, we've been reading. In Matthew 11 Come unto me, all either labor, and are heavy laden. And now we have come near to me, I pray you. And then as we read on that we see Joseph not only wanted them to experience that momentary nearness on that occasion, but he also wanted them to come and live right where he was. He wanted them to dwell in Goshen. That was the place where Joseph dwelt. So he wanted them to be near him all the time. And what I particularly had in mind in this passage was. The privilege that we have of being in the company of the Lord Jesus as we walk through this world and looked at in two different ways, individually and collectively, that's very blessed. There is a way that we can enjoy His presence individually at all times because the Lord Jesus said in the 28th of Matthew. Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. He also tells us in Hebrews it says, I will never leave thee. Nor forsake thee. And so this I would desire for my own soul. And I trust each one of us desire this, and that is to enjoy the company of the Lord Jesus all through our pathway here. There's nothing more blessed than to walk through life in the enjoyment of His company. Our brother mentioned to us yesterday how the Lord was on the shore, but the disciples knew not that it was the Lord. We also find in the 24th chapter of Luke. Jesus threw near, but their eyes were holding that they did not know Him. And the Lord has promised not to leave us nor forsake us, but very often we are not conscious of His presence, and we walk as though we were walking through life alone. But He is telling us that He's not going to forsake us. And what He wants us to enjoy is the sense of His company. Oh, how wonderful it was for the disciples when they realized whose company it was He was made. To them, what a moment that was when he revealed himself to them. And I say to each one here, and may this be the greatest desire of our heart to have the sin at all times, whether it's in our work, whether it's in our play, whether it's in any part of our lives that we would just live and act as though the Lord, our very best friend is with us all the time. I've sometimes said the test of true love is that you don't tire of a person's company.

You really love a person, you don't get tired of their company if you don't fully love them. And then there are times you can enjoy their company and there are times we just wish they'd get away, but not so where there's real love. And you know the Lord Jesus is never going to tire of your company or mine. Not even for all eternity. And he wants us to sense this and to enjoy it ourselves. And Joseph realized it was a barrier between him and his brethren. And he had to break down that barrier. He had to bring them to realize what it was that made them uncomfortable in his company, in his presence. And I say to each one of us here, if there's something that's been allowed in your life or mine that has hindered the enjoyments of. Enjoyment of the Lord's presence and company. Let's have it out with him. It isn't worthwhile to go on and allow that thing to remain a barrier. Because I want to tell you he's missing something as well as you. He died, I say to have your company and mine, and He's missing something because he wants us to enjoy his company and He wants to enjoy ours. And so there was a barrier. Joseph, brethren, had something to acknowledge. And if there's anything that you and I have that we should acknowledge, let's own it to him. If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Oh, don't go on with something in your life that you know is a barrier. It's not worth it. Just robbing God as well as yourself. Or when they had acknowledged their guilt and when they were brought down to repentance. Now the barrier is gone. And Joseph said, come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And did he keep on talking about their failures? Did he say all that you've done and so on? No. Isn't it lovely? He looked at the other side of it now. When they had owned what had taken place, he said. Don't be angry with yourselves, he said. God sat me down here. To preserve your lives by a great deliverance. And isn't it very blessed that when we have come and own things to the Lord, that then the barrier is gone, and in spite of all our failures, that it's possible for us to enjoy the sweetness of His love and of His company, and find, as a little Him says, still sweet. Tis to discover if clouds have dimmed my sight when past. Eternal lover towards me as heir thou art bright. Oh, I think it's so lovely to hear Joseph saying to his brothers here, don't be angry with yourselves. And perhaps you and I might be filled with remorse as we think of what our lives have been and how little we have answered to his love. But he said now it's all been owned. He said now we're perfectly free. We can enjoy. One another's company, and as we read on in the chapter, Joseph made the advances. He went and threw his arms around them and kissed them just like the father did the returning prodigal. And then he told, told them, he said it's going to continue five years more of famine. And you know, brethren, we're not expecting things to get better in this world. We're not expecting things to improve even in the Church of God. But we do know that no matter what lies ahead. There is one who says if you keep close to me. You'll be well fed and you'll be safe. That's what he told them. He said come down to Goshen and he said I'll make you my charge, I'll take care of you and I'll protect you. But he said if you don't stay close to me, you and your households will come to poverty. And it's possible for a Christian to come to poverty, poverty of soul, even although we're so rich in Christ. So he warned them about the difficulties that were ahead. And I often say it's very lovely to see how realistic the Scripture is. God shows us just what we can expect. There are days of famine ahead, but here was the

assurance given by Joseph and that as long as they were close to him, they would be provided for. Then I just want to make a little mention of enjoying his presence collectively.

In the 28th chapter of Matthew. There was a mountain where Jesus appointed. There was a special place that the disciples had to have the energy to seek out, to go to, and when they went there, it says that they went to that place and Jesus was there and when they saw him, they worshipped him. I believe we could think of that as being the enjoyment of his present collectively. And we all know, and we hang our heads in shame as we think of the failure of the Church of God collectively and our part in it too. But isn't it an encouragement to us to know and that there will be a collective testimony until the Lord comes? That He has asked us to remember Him until he comes. And I believe from this that we can be sure. And that if He's asked us to do this, that He has a place away in which we can do it in a way that's honoring to Him and in obedience to Him. May we value this privilege too. It's very blessed to enjoy His presence individually, but it's also very blessed to enjoy His presence collectively. I believe the enemy is at work to try to spoil our personal communion with the Lord, and I believe he's at work to try and break down any collective testimony to being gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. It requires the energy of faith to go on. To walk in that path that he has marked out. So perhaps we could say that we have this brought before us. Come near to me, I pray you. And there is the individual side of it in our own lives. And then there is a collective side of it that we have this privilege that we had even this morning of gathering around the Lord as it was read to us. Or were two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. And I just want to say to some who may have come here, and perhaps you have never enjoyed this in your soul, you say I'm saved, but I have to hunt around for the place I'd like to go. Oh, May God give you the sea. That there is that which God is established, there is that which God owns. And if you and I have our eyes upon the Lord and are seeking his mind and will through His word, I believe He'll show us. It's not a question of us choosing the people or group. It's a question of being guided by the Spirit of God through the Word in order that we might enjoy this privilege. And oh, what a privilege it is until He comes. And now let us turn to another passage. That's in Psalm 34, Psalm 34, and the 11Th verse. Come, ye children, hearken unto me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life and loveth many days that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. Well, here in this chapter, perhaps we could think of this invitation. This little word. Come again in the 11Th verse. How are we going to learn the fear of the Lord? It through his word and know how important it is that we should read his word. I believe it's very easy for us in this day with so much to do such busy lives as many of us lead to neglect the reading of God's word. And so when situations arise in life, we don't know what the Scripture says. We haven't acquainted ourselves with God's mind as revealed. Word and as I have often said in talking to the young people, read the Bible through. Many Christians just read the New Testament, read the Bible through. You'll find the Old Testament gives you much wonderful instruction. You'll find, as I have sometimes said, there are pictures there of every kind of situation that we can get into. And then we find how people acted in those situations and what happened, whether it was wisely or unwisely.

Because. God has this for us, not only the instruction but the pictures for us. When difficulties arise in my life, I usually try to think of some person who was put in a similar situation somewhere in the Bible. And I find that there are places in almost every situation you can think about where someone was put in a very similar situation and then there's instruction for us. About how do act for God is not only interested in the salvation of our souls. He's not only interested in the privilege that we have of being gathered to his name and walking in his company, this is most blessed, but he is interested in every detail of our lives. It says here, what man is he that desireth life and loveth many days that he may see good, and that is, he's interested in your natural happiness. Your friends, your home. All those things that are connected with our everyday life. He's interested in the job that you have. He's interested in the place that you live. And if you and I would only take time to listen to the instructions of his word, that we wouldn't be, as our brother said yesterday, like Peter, who decided that he liked to go fishing and so he just did it and brought others with him. But here he says, come. Hearken unto me, and I will teach you the fear of the Lord, and then He tells us about. Desiring life alone us many days. He tells us about keeping our tongues from evil on our lips from speaking guile to depart from evil and do good. Oh, this is what we need in a practical way in our lives. Every Christian doesn't have a happy life. I've often said to the young people, all Christians don't see good days. Some Christians, even the law, they're on their way to heaven. They're gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus. But they don't see good days. Perhaps they do a lot of talking and make a lot of trouble for themselves. They don't keep their lips, they don't do good. They're not exercise to show kindness to others. Life centers around self. Or they don't seek peace. Wherever they go, they stir up trouble. Well, you know, we can't see the good things that God intended for us if we don't follow the instructions of His words. So here we find. That God is interested in these things. He want us, wants us to know what it is to find rest for our souls to walk in His company. He also teaches us how we should act with one another. Of course, I the scripture makes it very clear that we don't condone evil at the expense of the at the at the expense of holiness. We can't say well, we have to have peace at any price. He says first in his 14th verse, depart from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it. He doesn't just say to seek peace and leave out the departing from evil. We recognize that we have to be faithful, but I'm speaking about the things that we seek to go on with and then we can look up to the Lord and command our pathway to Him. There is the the joy of such a path. I've enjoyed that expression about the Lord Jesus. It says he went about doing good. He went about doing good as he saw people in need. What characterized his life? He saw them, he tried, and he did as seek their blessing and their good. So here we have following the instruction of God's Word for our pathway. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. How may each one of us then walk in the fear of the Lord, Be more afraid of doing something that displeases the Lord. And displeasing a friend. Sometimes you have to displease a friend. To please the Lord, to please the Lord. And so here it tells us, I will teach you the fear of the Lord. This is very important. It says in another place, be thou in the fear of the Lord all day long. That's a good thing for us. In days when the rights of Christ are being set aside, let us remember to walk in his fear. It's the beginning of wisdom. And then there's another passage in the 60.

The here the 66th chapter Psalm, Psalm 66 and verse 16. Come and hear all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he has done for my soul. I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. Well, I was just thinking of this verse in connection with our testimony for the Lord. He says come. And here all ye that fear, God, and I will declare what he has done for my soul. And very often we can not that we want to make a great deal of any experience that we have gone through, but how often things that God has passed us through can be a blessing to others. Paul said that the Lord comforted him and his troubles that he might be able to comfort others who were in trouble. And so very often as the Lord passes us through things. And then when we find others in a similar situation, we can go to them and say, well, I understand. I've been in that place. The Lord helped me through that difficulty. He'll do the same for you. And what that that means a great deal that we can tell others. Perhaps there's been some experience in your life that's been hard to understand because we don't always understand. Life is full of hard questions. The Queen of Sheba had a life full of hard questions. She was wealthy, but that wasn't the answer to. Question and she didn't get the answer until she saw Solomon and then it says he told her all that she all her questions he answered all that was that was in her heart and she was perfectly satisfied and there's another day when we're going to get the answer to all our hard

questions. But sometimes I believe that the Lord passes us through things here and then he fits us. Perhaps I. I speak a little of myself and I look back and see things in my life that the Lord passed me through that I couldn't understand at the time. But I can see it was part of His way of fitting me for things that He wanted me to do that I couldn't have done as well if I hadn't passed through those things. And then I could, through experience, speak of what the Lord had done for my soul. I see young people going through. The very same conflicts and the very same feelings that I had. Because I have a very reasoning mind, and I could see the conflicts that they go through, and I think the Lord passed me through those things. And He may be passing you through something. And there's a big question mark. Why doesn't He Take Me Out of it? Why doesn't He relieve me? But maybe He's helping you. So someday you're going to tell another person what the Lord did for your soul, what He meant to you in that situation. That was so hard. And as Paul spoke of it, and even our precious Savior, as has often been said, He came down from heaven and went to Calvary. He could have accomplished that work without those 33 1/2 years. Why did He go through those lonely, sad years in His blessed pathway? All it tells us in Hebrews that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest. That he was in all points tempted like as we are, then apart. So if you're lonely, you think of how the Lord Jesus was lonely. If you're misunderstood, you think of the time when the disciples misunderstood the Lord, and when all the disciples forsook him and fled. And you can just think of all the situations that you meet, and then you look and say, well, the Lord went through these. Oh, may the Lord give us grace and to not only profit for our own souls, but that these things could become a blessing to others. There is such a thing in this way of sharing these things with others and being a help to one another. And many of us have proved this as we have. Learned through the experiences of others. So let us not rebel on what He sees fit to pass us through.

I say again, the precious Savior in his pathway passed through every form and kind of suffering that a righteous man could endure apart from sin, and so he's a merciful and faithful high priest. So this is lovely here, isn't it? Coming here, all ye that fear God? And I will declare what God, what he has done for my soul. I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. Isn't this most blessed? And it's such an encouragement to us all to hear others, not in a boasting way, but telling how God taught them certain things in His school and they declared what He had done. So too, even in regard to our testimony to the unsaved, how often the Lord fits us for the work that He has for us to do. How? By what He passes us through, perhaps even in our unsaved days, we have learned the rebellion of our own hearts. And then seen his patient grace that enables us to present the message. Faithfully to others through here. This verse about coming here seems to suggest rather that we can be made a blessing to others as we have gone through these things ourselves. Now I'd like to turn to Hebrews chapter 4. Hebrews chapter 4. And we speak of this very thing here that we're talking about. Verse 14 seeing them that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God. Let us hold fast our profession, for we have not an high Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Well, we spoken briefly about the Lord Jesus as our great High Priest. But it's particularly the 16th verse. Let us come boldly onto the throne of grace. Isn't this the most blessed expression? Let us come boldly. You know, if we have a friend and we burden them with some of our troubles, we may feel all I've said too much. They don't want to listen to all my problems. They must be weary of having me talk to them about all the problems. But here is one. And he is infinite in love and in holiness. He says, you can never weary me. Because he said I care. And he says just come with absolute confidence to the throne of grace. Why is it called a throne of grace? Oh, you see, I've been unfaithful. I don't even deserve for him to help me. I've just been so unfaithful. He says that it's not a throne to get what you deserve. It's a throne of grace. It's where he meets us in grace. We didn't deserve anything but judgment and he meets us in grace. Says he never wearies to have us come. He never slumbers or sleeps. Our tale of sorrow is never such that his ear will refuse to listen and say, you've told me enough. Oh no, what a blessed Savior. I've enjoyed that verse of late. Pour out your heart before him. And this is what he wants us to do. And I just love that little word bully. Let us come boldly. Because. One who is perfectly fitted to fulfill that place because as I said before, he walked through the Path Center park when we asked a friend. The friends advice may be somewhat slanted. Sometimes we give others advice that are affected by our own mistakes and failures. But the advice that he gives will never be affected by failures because he never did fail. He never could fail. He was perfect and so he understands the situation perfectly, but he can't give us wrong advice. He can't sympathize with us in anything that's wrong, but he fully enters into our infirmities and he feels sometimes we read little booklets and so on that almost make us think we should be without feelings about things. But that isn't the way the Bible talks. It tells us the Lord Jesus. Speaking prophetic, prophetically said reproach hath broken my heart. I am full of heaviness. I look for some to take pity. And there was none. And for comforters and I find none. I found none. Did he feel things? Indeed, as a perfect man He felt them. There was never any resentment to His Father's will. It was always Even so Father, for so it seemed good in my sight but he.

Things and to say to people that they shouldn't feel things isn't the way the Lord Jesus walks in his pathway, but in that path he entered into what we passed through. He became a merciful and faithful high priest. He's just exactly the one that we need. And you know, this is to me most wonderful because when you talk to somebody that's been in the same place as you. You feel, well, they can understand. But here was one that was infinitely Holly, who in condescending grace, took that place. So that he could be a merciful and faithful High priest. So what an invitation this is. Let us come boldly under the throne of grace, that we may find, obtain mercy and find grace to help. Another translation puts that I believe timely help just at the time we need it. Not ahead of time, not behind time. Samuel couldn't wait. He couldn't. I mean, Saul couldn't wait. Until Samuel came, so he forced himself. And sometimes we think the help should come a little bit sooner than it does, but it's timely help. It's time we help. And as the Lord knows us exactly when that right time is to reach out his arm like he did to Peter. I don't know how far he let him go down, but I know he didn't let him go under the way. He reached out and he caught him and he lifted him up and so he. The timely help, what a blessed Savior we have. Well, let's turn to another passage in Revelation chapter 4 and verse one. After this I looked and behold, a door was opened in heaven and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me which said come up, hit her and I will show these things which must be hereafter. And just turn over to the last chapter of Revelation, 22nd chapter and the 20th verse. He which testifies these things sayeth. Surely I come quickly, Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Well, here we find, shall I say, that come call, that we're waiting for it pictured to us, I believe in the first chat in the first verse of this 4th of Revelation. I believe this is a little intimation of the Lords coming. The third chapter ends with the Church still on earth. And the 4th chapter begins with the Church raptured the glory. So this is the one that we're waiting for. He has invited us to come to Him, and He gives rest, rest of conscience, rest of heart. He's invited us to come near to Him and enjoy His presence here in the time of famine, individually and collectively. He's invited us to come and learn the fear of the Lord through His Word. He's invited us to. Share with others some of those experiences that we have proved in our lives lives of his grace. He's invited us to come to the throne of grace, but isn't it lovely? Someday we're going to hear this word come and what is it come up, hit her. It's all going to be over. We're going to be ushered into his blessed presence and there will see him in this chapter set this before us. It's so lovely in this chapter as soon as he got. What we see he saw the throne and he says he saw a rainbow round about the throng insight like unto an emerald. I think this is a lovely picture. As soon as he got there, why did he see the rainbow? Well, you know the rainbow is a picture of God's promises. Oh, you said I thought the rainbow was all colors. Why was it green? Why was it in flight like under an

emerald? Well, I believe rather than that just means that. That that God's promises are always fresh in his mind. Green is the color of freshness, isn't it? In the winter time we we see the green disappear, but we love to see it come again. And so doesn't it tell us this? We make promises to people and we forget them. We make promises to people and sometimes we can't fulfill them. But as soon as John got to have him, he saw all the redeemed around the throne, and there was the one as though it were.

I haven't forgotten any of my promises. I haven't forgotten many of them. And he hasn't, brethren. And he's going to call us home and we're going to prove this. We're going to see. That the way he led us was the right way. We're going to say like Israel in the Psalms, it tells us that they will say he led them forth by the right way, that he might bring them to a city of habitation. And so sometimes here it doesn't seem like the right way. They could have gone to from Egypt to Canaan and I believe 11 days and it took 40 years. If it took me 40 years to go a journey that I could have made 11 days, sure missed the way. However, did you take so long? But when they get up there and when we get there, we're going to say it was the right way. Why was it the right way? Well, he knew just what we needed. He knew the lessons that we needed. He knew the experiences that we needed. So we're soon going to hear that voice that says come up, hit her. We're soon going to. That one in the center of the throne, we're soon going to see that rainbow and now that he hasn't forgotten many of his promises and we're going to do just like they did. They cast their crowns at his feet. But now he likes to hear us say Even so come Lord Jesus, he likes to keep that hope burning brightly in our soul. He's more patient than we are. So he's waited to this day. But when we. Hear that shout and are called up there. What a moment it will be. May He keep us in the attitude here that is saying at all times this is not our rest. Even so, come Lord Jesus. So we ask the Lord bless.

clickbible.org