

One More Night with the Frogs

The subject I want to speak on is One More Night With the Frogs. That is right out of the Bible. It is a very scriptural subject. I'd like to read from Exodus 8:9-10, "Moses said to Pharaoh, 'Be pleased to command me when I am to entreat, for you and for your servants and for your people, that the frogs be destroyed from you and your houses and be left only in the Nile.' And he said, 'Tomorrow.' Moses said, 'Be it as you say, that you may know there is no one like the Lord our God.'"

Frogs Everywhere!

There were frogs everywhere; frogs in the bedrooms, frogs in the kitchens, frogs in the parlors, frogs in the ovens; because God keeps His word. God said to Pharaoh in the second verse, "'But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will plague all your country with frogs.'" Pharaoh would not let the people go, so, God sent the frogs.

Look at that Egyptian woman opening her oven as she makes preparations to start dinner. She screams, because out of that oven jump frogs. Look at that Egyptian housewife as she starts to make

up the beds after the children have gone off to school. She pulls back the sheets and out jump frogs. Look at that Egyptian husband getting ready to go to work in the morning. He reaches in the closet to get his clothes out and out of the sleeves in his shirt jump frogs. Look at those Egyptian boys walking to school. They are squishing between their toes. It's not mud and not tar! No, it's frogs that they are squishing between their toes! There were frogs everywhere.

Frogs in Pharaoh's Palace

There were frogs in Pharaoh's Palace. Little frogs and big frogs. Croaking frogs, the noise was deafening. There were thousands of dead frogs piled in great heaps everywhere and the smell was terrible. Finally, Pharaoh could stand it no longer. Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron. He said, "Pray to the Lord, Get rid of these frogs!" Moses was overjoyed. He thought, "Oh, at last, Pharaoh is going to let the people go." That is what he said, "Moses, pray to the Lord to take away these frogs and I will let the people go." Oh, how happy Moses was. He said, "Pharaoh, when do you want me to ask God to get rid of these frogs?" Pharaoh gave one of the most amazing answers to be found anyplace in all of history. Pharaoh said, "Moses, I want you to give me one more night with these dirty, croaking, stinking frogs." Isn't it astonishing? One more night with the frogs." Imagine it. Frogs in the food. Frogs in the closets. Frogs in the beds. Frogs in the ovens. Frogs everywhere. It was driving everybody crazy. God was ready to take away the frogs immediately, but Pharaoh said, "tomorrow. I'll take one more night with the frogs."

Pharaoh a Sinner

Pharaoh was a sinner and therefore is used in the Bible as a type of all sinners. He was rebellious, proud, fleshly, and godless. God warned Pharaoh that if he did not let the people go, frogs

would come. The frogs came because of Pharaoh's sin. God loved Pharaoh, just like God loves all sinners. He was ready to remove the plague of frogs instantly, but Pharaoh said, "Just give me one more night with these frogs."

Tomorrow!

We are famous for what we are going to do tomorrow. God says, "Today!" The Holy Spirit says, "Today!" In Hebrews 3:7-8, "Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, 'Today, when you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness.'" Yes, God says "today," but we say "tomorrow." We preach to people about making a full surrender of themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ. As it states in Hebrews 12:1-2, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." We exhort people and we plead with people, "Today, give your life to Christ. Make full surrender of your life, your talents, your money." What is the response that people give to a plea like that? Most people say, "I know I should. I'm planning to do it sometime. Maybe I will do it tomorrow." We plead with backsliders, who have lost their first love, who have drifted away from God, who are living in sin away from the fellowship of the church, "Return to the Lord. Come and seek God's forgiveness." They say, "I know I should. I'm going to do it sometime. Maybe tomorrow."

A Runaway

I was reading a story about a 15 year old boy who ran away from home. He was living in an old, abandoned sewer pipe in New

York City. He was living among the filthy rats when the police found him. As they interviewed this boy, they said, "Don't you have a father and a mother?" He said, "Yes." "Where do you live?" He told them. "Boy, why aren't you at home with your parents?" He said, "I cannot go home." The policeman said, "Why can't you?" He said, "I stole \$10 from my dad. I took it out of his pocketbook while he was asleep. I wasted the money. I have no way of paying it back. I knew that my dad would kill me and that is why I ran away from home." The policeman said, "Son, your dad would not kill you." He telephoned the father immediately. He told him, "I have your son here at police headquarters. I found him living in an old, abandoned sewer pipe with the dirty, filthy rats. Would you like to come get your son?" The father was absolutely overjoyed. He thanked the policeman again and again. He said, "I'll be there just as quickly as I can get there. I have just nearly worried myself to death as to where that boy was." The policeman stood there and watched as the father and son had such a happy reunion. The policeman thought to himself, "Isn't it a shame that boy spent the last two weeks living in a sewer pipe when he could've been staying at home with his parents, sleeping in a nice, comfortable bed and eating good food."

God Will Forgive the Backslider

Isn't the story of that boy just like the story of many a backslider in the church. They run away from God. They live back in the world of sin. They are miserable. They are afraid. They are anxious. They have no peace. You say to the backslider, "Why don't you return to the Lord?" They say, "Oh, I'm ashamed. I've disobeyed God. I don't see how I can ever be saved. God can never forgive me." God is ready all the time to forgive, just like that father was ready to forgive his son. We are promised in John 1:9 that if we will confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. We plead with

people to repent of their sins and to come to Christ and to be saved. But, they always have excuses. "Tomorrow, give me one more night with the frogs."

What Jesus Said

Jesus was very familiar with these tomorrow people. He had lots of experiences with them. In Luke 9:57, we read, "As they were going along the road, a man said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'" That is a big promise, isn't it? Doesn't it remind you of yourself, when you once made a promise to the Lord? You said, "I'll do anything you want me to do, Lord, I'll go any place you want me to go, Lord. You just show me the way. I'll do it." That is what this man said.

In Luke 9:58 the Lord answered this man, "And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.'" In other words, Jesus said, "If your are going to follow me, you've got to be willing to sacrifice." The moment Jesus mentioned sacrifice this man turned away and he was ready to talk about tomorrow. He didn't want to make any sacrifice today. He was willing to make a daring promise, but when it came to fulfilling this promise we hear no more from him. He became one of those "tomorrow people."

In Luke 9:59, "To another he said, 'follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.'" That sounds like a reasonable request, doesn't it? It would have been reasonable if the father was dead and it was time to bury him. But, the fact is that the father was not dead and what the boy was saying was this, "Let me go home and live with my unspiritual father, who hates God, who has nothing to do with the kind of life that You want me to live. And sometime in the future, when my father dies, and I have buried him, then I'll follow you." That is why Jesus gave this answer that sometimes seems so strange to us in Luke 9:60, "But he said to him, 'Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for

you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.’”

Don't Wait Until You Bury Them!

I have met so many people like this man. You talk to them about following Jesus and they will say, “Well, I can’t, because my father is not a Christian. I can’t, because my mother is not a Christian. I can’t, because my parents belong to some other religion. I don’t want to disappoint my parents. Let me first bury my father. Let me first bury my mother. Let me wait a few years when my parents aren’t living anymore and they don’t know anything about it, why, then I’ll become a Christian.” I have seen that sad thing come to pass. I have seen some people delay and put off their decision for Christ and they would wait until it was too late . . . until they had to literally bury their parents before they would ever think about following Jesus. That is a shame. You should come ahead and accept Christ as your Savior so that you might win your parents to Christ.

If your are married to a man who is not a Christian, you should go on and become a Christian and then try to live so you could win your husband to Christ, rather than say, “Oh, I can’t be a Christian, because my husband is not a Christian.” If your husband isn’t a Christian you should be a Christian and try to win him to Christ. If your children aren’t Christians, you should be a Christian and try to win those children to Christ. Don’t wait until you have to bury them, when it is too late for their soul to be saved before you finally make up you mind.

Wicked Relatives Cause Delay

In Luke 9:61-62, “Another said, ‘I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.’” What was wrong with this man’s

excuse? That sounds reasonable, "First let me go home and tell them goodbye." You see, Jesus knew that man's family was living for the devil. And Jesus knew if he went home to say goodbye to his family that his family would talk him out of his decision. And his family would pull him down in the goat pen instead of coming with him to the sheep fold. That's exactly what some people would say today. "I would sing in the choir, but . . ." "I would teach a Sunday School class, but . . ." "I would go calling on lost souls, but . . ." "I would accept Christ and be baptized, but first let me go back and talk it over with my relatives." They know all the time that their relatives are ungodly, their relatives are wicked and sinful. If they go and talk to their wicked, sinful relatives that the relatives are going to talk them out of the decision. When Jesus calls, it is up to us to answer and follow him and not say "tomorrow."

I. I want to give a few reasons why you must not spend one more night with the frogs. **First of all, the frogs may not leave tomorrow.** You remember that story in the Bible about the rich young ruler, who came to Jesus, "Good Master, what good things shall I do to have eternal life?" Jesus told him all the commandments and he said, "Oh, I've obeyed all these from my childhood up. What do I lack?" Jesus said, "Just one thing. You go get rid of your riches and give them to the poor and then you come and follow me." This man was very wealthy and he loved his riches more than he loved God, so he turned and walked away sorrowfully. "Tomorrow I'll do it!" But, we never see that rich, young ruler again. The frogs did not leave when tomorrow came.

Bob the Drunkard

I remember during my ministry at Catlin, Illinois, there was a man who used to get drunk quite regularly. His wife would always call me and ask me to go to the taverns, where he was drinking, and pick him up and bring him home. If she would try to get him,

there would always be trouble and he would end up in jail. So, to try to keep him out of jail, she would have me go to get him, because he always respected ministers. No matter how drunk he was he would never fight or cause trouble if the preacher would go and get him.

Many a night I'd be called out at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning to go get Bob. I'll never forget one night. She called and Bob had been drinking and he had gotten in a big fight and somebody cut him up and they called the police, so he was in jail. She called me about 3:00 a.m., crying and wanting me to go to the jail and get him out and bring him home. I went down to the county jail in Danville. I went inside and looked and it was absolutely sickening. Bob had thrown up all over himself. He was lying there on the jail floor, lying in his own vomit. He had been stabbed at least 17 times, nothing serious, of course, just little cuts here and there. But he had bled some and he was lying there in his own blood. He was a dirty, filthy mess, a wretched looking piece of humanity.

I walked in and spoke to him. He kind of roused himself up out of his drunken stupor and looked at me. I said, "Bob, would you like to go home?" Oh, yes, he'd like to go home, he was so sorry. He cried a few tears. I had been through it so many times with him that I admit that I was kind of disgusted in the wee hours of that morning, so I spoke to him a little bit harshly. I said, "Bob, I want to know right now, I want your decision. Will you promise me that you'll repent of your sins? Do you promise to come and accept Jesus as your Savior? Are you ready to go right now and be baptized into Christ? Do you promise you'll never ever touch another drop of whiskey?" He looked up at me. He sobered up. Here he was all cut, bleeding, he'd thrown up, he was lying there in his own vomit, just a dirty, wretched piece of humanity. He looked at me and he said, "Well, I don't know if I'm quite ready yet to do that. I'd better think about it a little bit longer."

Can you imagine? Oh, how horrible! He had sinned and sinned and sinned and thrown his life away time after time. Here he was in jail and he says, "Give me one more night with the frogs!

I'm not ready just yet. I want to think about it a little bit longer." I knew that he meant, "I want one more Saturday night to go back to that tavern and drink and get in one more fight. Not just yet!" I'm sorry to say that the frogs did not leave tomorrow for that man. Last Christmas we received a card from his wife and she said, "I'm sorry to tell you that Bob passed away this last year and he never did accept Jesus." He never did change. The frogs did not leave.

II. The second reason I want to suggest that you must not spend one more night with the frogs is because something worse may come in place of the frogs. That certainly happened to Pharaoh and the Egyptians. After the frogs there was lice, after the lice there were flies, after the flies there were locusts, after locusts there were boils, after boils there was fire and darkness and finally death; the death of the first born of every family in Egypt. As bad as sin is something worse than sin is coming. That is the Judgment Day.

A True Example

I was holding my second revival meeting in Caldwell, Idaho. The first time I was there was 1958. There was one man who was quite outstanding in this congregation. He was one of the elders in the church. In 1968, ten years later, I noticed that this man was no longer an elder of the congregation. In fact, he always sat on the back row, very inconspicuous. No longer was he joyful, no longer did he mingle among people, laughing and talking as he had before. It went on like this for almost the whole revival meeting.

Finally, toward the end, he came up and spoke to me one night. He said, "I guess you noticed that I'm not in the mainstream of the church life anymore. That I take no part in the activities, that I'm no longer an elder. You surely must have noticed this." I said, "Yes." He said, "I want to tell you what has happened to me since you were last here, because I would like for you to use my life as an illustration to warn other people not to do like I did." He pro-

ceeded to tell me the story of his life. He had been a very wealthy man. He was in partnership with his father in the cattle business.

It seemed like everything that they did turned into money. He said, "You know, it reached the point that I could just make a phone call and I could make \$200 a day easy. Making money was no problem to me. I just made more and more, got richer and richer. I couldn't possibly spend the money, I was making so much. I just loved doing that. I just loved making money. It got to the point I couldn't think about anything else. I just wanted more money. I dropped out of the church activities. I quit coming to prayer meeting. I quit going to Bible School. I dropped out on Sunday night. I just attended on Sunday morning. It wasn't long before they dropped me as an elder of the church, because I wasn't doing the work of the office. Shortly after this my father became ill and he died. My father and I were not only father and son, we were business partners and we were also like brothers and we were also like real good buddies. We also did everything together. My father was my pal, my friend, by business associate, my confidant. It just tore me and I didn't know how I could continue living without my father. I knew that I should repent. I realized with the death of my father that I had not been putting first things first.

"After a while I seemed to get over it and I went right ahead making money. It was an obsession. I thought about it twenty-four hours a day. I could hardly even sleep at night because I was always scheming how to make more money. Then my mother became ill and she died quite suddenly. It tore me up and I did not know how I would be able to go on living without my mother. Somehow I managed and again the thought came to my mind that I was doing wrong, that I was neglecting the Lord, that I should repent, but I didn't. I just went on making money. Suddenly, without warning there came an unexpected business reversal. In a matter of just a few short months my financial empire vanished. I lost everything. It is almost unbelievable because I was a millionaire at the height of my success, but I lost everything." He said, "Reggie, it got so bad that I couldn't even feed my family. The church came

to our rescue. The church actually brought food to our house. They brought used clothing for my children to wear. I couldn't clothe them. I couldn't feed my family. When I finally got down to rock bottom, I repented. I have returned to the Lord. God has forgiven me, but I've lost my influence. Nobody had any confidence in me. I cannot lead in the church any longer and so I take a back seat. I've lost the joy of my salvation. I want you to tell my story wherever you go so that other people will not make the mistake I made." You see, he kept saying, "Just give me one more night with the frogs." But something worse came in place of the frogs.

III. I want to give you a third reason why you must not spend one more night with the frogs. That is because tomorrow may not come!

Sudden Death

America is known as the land of sudden death. Six hundred people or more are killed in an average year in America by lightning bolts. That is a sudden death, isn't it? I was reading in the newspaper the other day and a sixteen year old boy in Chattanooga, Tennessee was changing a big truck tire and that tire exploded right in his face and killed him. We are a land of sudden death. I was reading again in the paper in Birmingham, Alabama. I read about a lady who was out in her front yard picking up the newspaper. The TV antenna on top of the house just suddenly crumpled, fell on top of this lady and killed her. I was reading about a truck driver coming through Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Suddenly, without warning, his trailer truck jack-knifed and it squashed him, like he had been a giant accordion. He was killed instantly.

A Lion Eats Him!

It not only happens in America, it happens other places, too.

We were in Rhodesia, Africa. One day there was a man asleep in his mud hut and while he was asleep a lion came. That lion jumped right through the door and grabbed the man and ate him alive. When that African man went to sleep, within the safety of his hut, he didn't think a lion would get him. That doesn't happen. But, it did! The lion killed him just like that.

Maybe tomorrow!

I was holding a meeting in Bedford, Indiana and there was a couple who had a restaurant right near the church. I used to go over there and eat before services each night. I became acquainted with this young couple. I pleaded with them to accept Christ, because we became good friends. But, they did not. We came right down to the closing service of that revival and I went there to eat my last meal before leaving town. I pleaded with them to accept Jesus. Finally, they said, "We will do it soon, maybe tomorrow. We'll have our preacher write you a letter just as soon as we are baptized. We promise you we'll do it!" I said, "There may not be a tomorrow! Please come to our meeting right now and make your decision." "No! No!" they said, "Not right now, but soon. Maybe tomorrow." In less than two weeks I received a letter from the preacher. That couple started traveling on Highway 50 East. There was a dip in the road and a great big semi truck bounded across that dip and hit them head on and they both died instantly . . . less than two weeks after that meeting. They had not become Christians.

Tomorrow may not come, so I plead with you. Not one more night with the frogs, but today if you hear God's voice harden not your hearts, repent of your sins, come to Jesus and accept and obey him that you may be saved while there's yet time.