Descriptive Summary
Title: Frank Hall Wright sermons
Dates: 1916
Accession Number(s): 1996-091
Extent: 2 inches
Language: Materials are written in English.

Full finding aid available here: http://www.austinseminary.edu/page.cfm?p=1125

Biographical Note:
Frank Hall Wright (1860-1922) was an evangelist in the western United States.

Scope and Contents:
The Frank Hall Wright Sermons are typed, bound sermons delivered by Wright at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio in January 1916. These sermons were a component of special evangelistic services intended for both Christians and the general public.

Related Collections:
The Arthur Gray Jones papers at the Austin Seminary Archives include letters written by Frank Hall Wright to Arthur Gray Jones from 1915-1916.

Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Preferred Citation: Frank Hall Wright sermons, 1916, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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When Jesus was at the house of Simon the leper there came a woman broke the box of ointment which she carried and poured it over His head. And there were some who had indignations and said, "Why this waste of ointment made?" Mark, 14: 6-8 ------ 9: "Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." 2 Cor. 5:14-- For the love of Christ constraineth us. -- I once went into a prayer meeting and heard James Brooks making comment on that verse. He said, "If we do not know the constraining love of Jesus we do not love Jesus." Do we do what we ought to do because we love Jesus? In the lesson of Mark, 14, the love of Jesus prompted her to this act. That is the true motive. Do you love Jesus? Jesus says if you love him you will keep his commandments. We cantell whether we love Jesus by our acts.

For what purpose this waste--- said Judas, --it might have been sold for more than three thousand pence and given to the poor. -- There was some sense to that judged by a business standard. It would have amounted to about a year's salary of a working man. Just think of it, taking a whole year's salary and just pouring it out to breath its fragrance for a while and then disappear. It does seem like a waste to put it in a gift like that for the Savior when it seems not to do anything in
particular. Love though stops not at the cost. The second lesson is utility versus self sacrificing love. Judas showed his insincerity by that talk, he made a great show by that talk but Jesus rejected it. You can not doubt the sincerity of that act. How many excuse themselves from the care of heathen? A great many people say they think sending money to the heathen is a waste. They say we have plenty people here at home who need it. But I say whosoever puts objection to that kind of work you can doubt the sincerity of their Christian religion. I have heard folks say, "I have no use for Foreign Mission work." Whenever I hear that I doubt them. Everything they do is by a business rule. They don't know the first promptings of loyal love. If a man does not love his wife he tries to make her think he loves her by a gift. But I tell you love was never deceived yet by a gift. Your gift no matter how great will never hide the lack of affection. If you love them they know it. We don't gage the gifts we receive in this world by their utility. If you gaged the Christmas gifts by their utility you would have stuck some of them into the fire, maybe you would have pawned them. A lot of things would be stuck in the fire if gaged by the law of utility. We don't gage a gift by the law of utility we gage it by the spirit that prompted it. Some of us cherish mementoes about a life that has passed out of our life. Things that you would not show to the world. They would not understand it. Because they have not the
affection. A mother cherishes a little shoe or a dress that belonged to a child now with the Master. Judged by the law of utility there is no use in it. But you know you would not bring it out to the world. The world would not understand it. But it is a very precious thing to you. There are roses and leaves crumbling now that you cherish because they mean something to you, but judged by the law of utility there is no use of them. But you gauge them by affection. I once read about a little girl who went to see her father in a penitentiary. It was Christmas. The father was a prisoner for life. The warden brought the father out and with a cry the little girl ran to meet him. But he met her with a scowl. She said, "Father are you not glad to see me? You loved little Johnnie and since mother died his heart has gone to heaven." "I did love little Johnnie," said the father, "but little Johnnie is dead?" And he began to sob, "Little Johnnie is dead." Then the little girl said, "Father I have brought you a present." And she unwrapped her little package and brought out one little golden curl. It was the only thing she could remember little Johnnie by, and she gave it to him. And he opened his arms and took her to his heart. The little girl said, "Father the world might forget you but I never will. I am going to work and try to get you out of this place." There was no use in that curl judged by the law of utility. If the love of Christ don't constrain you nothing will. It is not the
big service that counts but it is the little thing if you offer it because you love as he loved. The act of Mary must have cheered him. He must have been glad that some hearts were true to him. What joy there is for those who love him. Do you love Jesus? I am glad to bring this last service to you -- Love as a motive Power. -- We sometimes get so confused in our motives and actions. I want to ask you if you have the love of the Lord? If you have not I hope you will be filled with a yearning for that love. I once read about a little child who wanted to help her mother sew. The mother sewed all day and late into the night to make ends meet. The child had grown old enough to appreciate that labor and she wanted to help. She made great big stitches. But the mother let her help and after the child went to bed that mother had to take out those big stitches and do the work over. But she saw that the child appreciated her efforts. Don't you know that encouraged her? You can go through everything if you know that it is appreciated. It is a good thing to practice. A great many men for example are prostrated over their wife's tomb. It would have been much better if they had carried on like that when she was living. Would it not have been sweet if he would have brought the flowers while she could see them. How many women are just shriveling up in their souls for the lack of attention? I believe it. I
believe there are many women hungrying for a word of appreciation. A box of bonbons after you are married twenty years would be much more acceptable then when you were courting. A great many say they feel the appreciation but they don't express it. You say you don't have the power to say so. You don't ever say so to the Lord. Some of you would fade in your tracks if I asked you to say, "I love the Lord." When will we learn that the little things count? Remember that Jesus loves your love. A great many folks would do great things to get a Carnegie medal. But when it comes to the humdrum things of life they don't do it. It is the hardest thing in the world for a little child to say thank you. The mother ask them to say it and they do it in the same way the mother says it and out they go. Did you ever see a boy appreciate what his mother did for him? But I hope that the day will dawn when that boy will say, "Thank you mother." A great many of us have to work without getting a "thank you." When you go to be a missionary you get no "thank you." One time there were some missionaries, a man and his wife working among some men. And one day those men held a little council and they went to the missionary and asked him how much the board payed them. They said, "We would like to write the board to send us that money direct, you needn't stay here." That is a thank you, is it not. If you do things only when you will be thanked you will
never do them. We have to do things because we love to do them. It is so sweet to do things for appreciative folks. I wonder if God does not love to do things for appreciative folks. It has a bad effect on your souls if you receive things and don't express gratitude. Utility is not the gage but self-sacrifice. "She hath wrought a good work against the day of my burial has she done this." When you serve the Lord because you love him He will find some good in it that you never dreamed of. -- In as much as ye have done it to one of the least of these ye have done it to me also.-- Just think of it, the little word of cheer you handed out because you loved Jesus will never be forgotten. The song you sang to the friend or neighbor because you loved Jesus will never die. Love transfigures the service. You can be a soul saver right in your own home. Some folks wait for a big gift. God put a little gift in you now you commence and use it. One time a seamstress went out to find a Sunday School class. She found a little boy and she had to offer him a shilling to come to her class. She saved that boy, he became a missionary. At the end of twenty five years, not in a single year of course. That poor seamstress gave him a start by giving him a shilling to come to Sunday School. You never can tell what God is going to do with that simple act of yours. Love transfigures the smallest act. -- Wherever this Gospel shall be preached, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.--- I love to preach a memorial
service for Mary. She poured the ointment on His head and feet. She got criticism from the world. Do you want to live in the hearts of folks? Serve Jesus. Ask God to put the love in your soul. Look about how you can serve him. If it is just a little word, just a little service do it for Jesus' sake and it will never be forgotten. The little girl Mary Jones loved the Lord. She had no Bible but she walked seven miles to read the Bible. She loved the Lord and the Lord never let that little act die out. That was the beginning of the publishing of the Bible in all the languages of the world. I once went to call on a young man and his wife. They had a beautiful home. There was one forty dollar davenport that they showed me. They asked me to pray and they brought out a little Bible. Queer little thing had brass corners on it. It ought to have been in a museum I don't think there were any more like it. They had a little twentyfive cents Bible and a forty dollar davenport. Have you a Bible, do you love it? I once asked an old lady, "Do you love the Bible, do you grow hungry for it?" "I do get hungry for it", she said. How many of you would walk seven steps to read a Bible? One of the most wonderful things about a woman is the power of loyal devotion. Women follow such useless men. It is remarkable how they stick to them. I am glad the Lord made them sort of blind on one side.
You know if anything belongs to you you throw a halo over it. Someone once asked a woman what she would rather have than anything in this world. She said, "The halo of life." Well I thought that was foolish then. I have seen girl out on a campus play the game of a hen race. There were twenty three girls and each had a hen. If every anything was calculated to give you nervous prostrations it is that. Those old things would start out and then come back just cackling. One brother said there ought to be a halo about a hen race. You ought to have the halo of life about anything you do. When you look at the Angelus, the artist made the sun to shine on the implements of labor as well as upon the bowed figures. The artist meant to teach us that the sun must be upon the common implements of life. You learn that and you will take joy in it. May God ever keep the halo of life around your life. It is for anybody the rich, the poor, the high and the low. If you love and serve because you love you will never die. In the great judgment morning when Christians stand before God if you have served because you love Jesus you will be astounded at the results. A man once landed on the African shore and he led one woman to Jesus and then he had to leave. And he prayed Lord send me back to Africa, he died praying for Africa. As a consequence there were thirteen thousands converts, from that small beginning. That is the kind of a Savior we have, he loves your devotion. You are a son of God if you are obedient.