WRIGHT (FRANK HALL) SERMONS, 1916

**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](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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He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. There are three things to be considered. The cost, the motive, the result. He that loseth his life for my sake, that is the motive. Shall find it, that is the result. But what about the cost. It is loss of a certain kind to be a Christian. Of course we Christians don't feel it that way. We compare it with what we receive. The blessings so full, so rich and glorious. And yet you have to give up certain things. There is always something, some one little thing that stands between you and Christ. I don't know what it may be in your case. It may be some form of worldliness. I once knew of a woman who was not a Christian. She came and told me so. But she didn't have to tell it. We all knew it. Her husband was a steward in the church, he was a Christian, and yet his wife was not. That is not often the case. Usually the wife is a Christian and the husband is not. One morning I went up to the husband's office. And found him and also his wife there. Well I had been wanting to speak to that woman about the Lord and I thought here is my opportunity. I asked her if she did not want to be a Christian. And she said, "There are certain things I think a Christian ought not to do. I don't want to give them up. I want to be in a position to avail myself of these pleasures." Well, that was honest. It is nice to deal with honest people. It may be something like that that stands between you and Christ.
Some worldly form of amusement. What are you going to do about it? The chances are you will lose your soul about that one thing. You know your duty. You know what you ought to do. What are you going to do about it? She knew she ought to be a Christian. While I was talking to her the doctor very quietly left the room. He was a sensible man. You cannot talk to a soul in the presence of somebody else. The third person is so apt to say, "Oh well he is a good Christian, all he needs is to join the church. He is really a better Christian than I am, only he doesn't belong to the church." That is the way they do. The best way to talk with them is alone. They may be embarrassed by the presence of a third person. That doctor did the right thing. All I could see of him was his knees and his big feet. And I asked her, "Don't you want to accept the Lord?" And finally she said, "Yes I will accept him." She began to tremble all over and directly she gasped, "I believe I am converted." And she was converted. I looked around to see where the doctor was. And I saw two great big feet kicking up toward the ceiling. Rejoicing because his wife had been converted. It was loss to her of a certain kind. I know it loss of a certain kind to everybody. But Christ says, "He that loseth his life for my sake, shall find it." There is something you have to give up to be a Christian. It is possible that it may mean the loss of something very dear to your heart. Luke 13: 4.

It is not a matter of arbitrariness. You cannot be a Christian unless you absolutely surrender your life to Jesus Christ. If you try to be your own master and Jesus is supposed to be the master, there will be a clash of wills. When a man enlists to be a soldier he has to give up his citizen clothes. He is under the orders of his superior. He must
obey and give up his own will. They are told when to go to bed, when
to eat, when to go to practice, when to go to the stables. They have
to obey the call of the bugle. There has to be an absolute surrender.
You can see how absolutely impossible it is for you to be a Christian
unless you are willing to make a complete surrender. Bishop Taylor
says, "not to crown Jesus Lord of all is not to crown Jesus Lord at all!"
You have got to make an absolute surrender to Jesus as Lord if you
want to call yourself a Christian. It may be that your own family
will persecute you. Your own mother and father jeer at you and persecute
you. May it not make any difference what your mother or father may say
or do. It may mean that you are going to shut out from your family and
your own house. I know of a Jewish woman who became a Christian.
Her family cursed her and cast her out when they heard she was a Christian.
She told them she was a Christian, and they cast her out into the night.
She called a cab and the man asked her where to go. But she didn't know.
And he told her, "But you have to go somewhere." And then she thought
of a minister. And had the man to let her down at the door of that
minister's home. And when the mother, the wife of that home heard what
the young Jewish woman had experienced to be a Christian, she said, "You
have lost one mother, but you have found another." It cost her something
to be a Christian. Unless we suffer some we can not be Christians." He
that loveth his father and mother more than me, is not worthy of me."
It may call for the surrender of your tenderest ties. Don't you ever call
yourself a Christian unless you can make that surrender. It must be all
for Christ, or nothing. It may mean the surrender of your possessions.
When the rich man came to Jesus and asked what he should do to inherit eternal life. Jesus said, "One thing thou lackest, Go and sell all thou hast and give it to the poor. Then take up the cross and come and follow me." But the young man could not pay the price, and he went away sad at heart. Jesus meant for him to sell every house, everything he had and turn it into money and give it to the poor. You may say that you think Jesus would have given it back to him. But it don't make and difference what Jesus would have done. It was the supreme test. If you would be a disciple of Jesus you must stand that test. It is said that it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. Your business interests may stand between you and Christ. If Jesus calls for surrender, it means surrender. Unless you are willing to surrender don't you call yourself a Christian. It is a narrow way that Jesus Christ wants you to go on. There is a broad way into which you can drift with ease. There are just two ways set before you. It may mean the surrender of your ambitions. Most every man has the ambition to get along in this world. But if your ambition comes between you and Jesus. If you are a Christian, cut it goes. That is what it costs you to be a Christian. I once had a minister tell me that his father was a lawyer. His practice brought him ten thousand dollars a year. He felt called on to be a preacher. And finally he gave up his law practice and was a minister. His preaching brought him three hundred dollars a year. It cost him something. It cost him ninetyseven hundred dollars every year to be a Christian.
There are a great many who are willing to pay the price. That is the way to serve Jesus. Jesus will never let the smallest token of affection for him be overlooked. I know of an infidel who came from France. He fell under the influence of a brilliant woman and she with others led him to Jesus Christ. He went back as a missionary to his own people. He wrote the song I am going to sing. "None of self and all of thee." He grieved to think that there should have been a time when he had said "None of Thee and all of self." And then rejoices that he has come to a time when he could say, "None of self and all of Thee". I know of a young man who came from a family of social prominence. They tell me he was worth four million dollars in his own name. A graduate of Yale. He became a Christian. And he said, "I will make the place in China my field." Gave up all the pleasures of the rich. Gave up his home, his palace, because he wanted to serve the master. That is what it costs to be a Christian. You needn't pity him. He has got the advantage of us. One of his blessings is the fellowship of the Master. It is a most glorious possession. There was once a young man who was studying law. One day the judge who he was working for, came to him and said he was going to retire from business and give it to the young man. But this young man felt called upon to preach. The judge was going to put a good practice right in his hands. And he thought I won't preach. I will do anything else. But I won't preach. They asked him to teach in Sunday school and he did it. He became a worker in the church. One day the minister was gone and the men of the church came to him and
asked him to lead in divine service. He thought, "O no that is getting too close, I can't do it." But he finally gave up and decided to be a preacher. He went to the judge and told him. And the judge said, "Young man you are a fool. You are giving up what many a man craves to have. You are giving it all up to be a preacher." Well when that young man came back from college and preached his first sermon, the first man to congratulate him was the old judge. He had come to see that the young man had chosen the better part which could never be taken from him. I want to say God blessed that man. I say, who would not rather be in a place like that than know and have nothing of God in his heart. "He that loseth his life for my sake, shall find it."

A great many people are hindered from coming to Christ by their pride. You are asked if you want to be a Christian. And you don't come up to the front. You say, "They frightened me, that is the reason I would not come up there. Let me tell you if you were standing on a railroad track. And someone would come up to you and tell you a train was coming. To get off that track. You would not bristle up and say, "O you can't scare me. I'll get off when I am ready." If you were in a burning building and a fireman would risk his life to come into that building to rescue you. You wouldn't say, "You can't frighten me". If you lost your life you would be to blame. That is how I believe it. You don't come up here because you don't want folks to see you are a sinner and want to be saved. If you think, "What that preacher says is right." Why not come up and confess it. So it
So it is pride that keeps some people out of the Kingdom of God. Don't want folks to see they are sinners. God can not save you until you have surrendered your pride. Once some young men in a college were having a big meeting. They would all get together and pray. One of the big men in the place heard about it. And he wanted to pray and be saved too. But his pride would not let him go before the students and pray. He thought he could pray in his own home. There on the carpets and among the bric-a-brac and gee-gaws that the rich gather about them. He did pray in his own house, and the Lord heard him not. One day he was going down the street and he came to a mud-puddle and he said, "I am willing to do anything for the Lord. I will give up my pride. I will go down in this mud-puddle and pray to the Lord." And he did go on his knees in the mud-puddle and prayed to the Lord, but he found him not. Don't you say you will never join the church during a revival. If you are going to be a servant of the Lord, be an unconditional servant. He had to surrender absolutely before he found the Lord. If you serve the Lord it has to be without conditions. That man went up there before the students, and he found the Lord. Just as soon as you are ready to surrender the point that is between you and the Lord, the Lord is right there to receive you. Somebody has said that when Jesus called to Zacharias he came down quickly and that he was converted somewhere between the limb of the tree and the ground. Don't let some little simple thing stand between you and Jesus
Don't you let your miserable pride stand between you and Christ. Say, "Lord Jesus I will surrender all to you." Don't sit back there and be stubborn and lose the blessing. You may tremble. May be you will not be able to get here. Oh wouldn't that be glorious. If someone would have to carry you up here. Just fall on the ground. The ground will hold you. The bench will hold you. When the poor weak woman touched Jesus' garment. He said, "Who has touched me." And she came trembling in her weakness and confessed unto him before the people, for what cause she had touched Jesus' garment. And He said, "Daughter thy faith hath made thee whole. You will never be saved until you confess him with your mouth, with your actions before the people. Do it now and you will have the added blessing of the Master. It may mean giving up our ease. I didn't want to go to the Indians, I just wanted a nice home, and wanted to study and sermonize. That is the trouble with some of us we get so possessed with sermonizing we don't get the truth of the Bible. Salvation don't depend on some words. Salvation don't depend on the word, subjection or on any other words like that. Thank the Lord salvation don't depend on anything like that. Once a minister was going to a little place to hold some meetings. He studied and had all his sermons ready. But when he got off of the train he found that he had lost his valise with all his sermons in it. All that good work gone. And he said, "Thank God it is gone." And he never did such preaching as he did after he had lost his sermons.
Some of you say, "I would like to be a Christian, but I can't. You think that is the trouble, "you can't"? You won't that is the trouble. Mr. Moody told me something about his son one day. He said his mother asked him to do a certain thing. And the boy said, "I'd like to but I can't." But that father had some sense. He said, son, say, mother. He said mother, Say I, "I," say, am. "Am". say sorry. "Sorry". And then the boy said. "Oh I have said it, I have said it". Now why couldn't he have said that beforehand. You would like to but you can't. Don't be stubborn. The man who is going to be a Christian is the one who makes an out and out surrender, of all his chances and opportunities and pride. "He that loseth his life for my sake. What about the social life. You might have to give up your social friends. A preacher once said to a drummer who wanted to be a Christian. "You needn't worry about having to give up your friends. They will give you up." That is what they do. They don't want a longfaced Christian around them. That is what it may cost you. Luke 6:22 For Jesus' sake. If you are trying to be a Christian and people hate you for Christ's sake, that is cause for rejoicing. I have known of worldly mothers who didn't want their children to come to Jesus. Ah, the worldly hearted. Ah friends, I wish I knew a language in which I could express myself about them. I have known of young women who wanted to consecrate themselves. And the worldly mother would come and say, "Now daughter, I don't want you to take that step, it will ruin your social prospects." Yes, bless the Lord it will ruin your social prospects. The day will come when you will be hanging on
to life like a cat hanging on by its ninth life. Then won't you fall. Poor old frozen soul. Dried up soul, and yet you have ambitions I will never forget. One time I was coming out of a hall and a saw a poor old woman. I will always remember that woman. She was rich, she didn't know how rich she was. In her garments of white, it made her look like a ghost. Poor old soul going to the reception. She just loved receptions. She looked like a grasshopper. I will never forget her. This is what your social life ends in. Don't give the Lord your remains. Give him your youth, your young manhood and young womanhood. Give him your best. Blessed are ye if men shall hate you and curse you for Christ's sake. Oh not for your evil and the wrong you do, but for the Son of Man's sake. If you become consecrated your mother may not like it. Your husband may not like it. Your sweethearts may not like it. Are you going to risk your soul for that kind of a thing. If you do the day will come when you will wish you had not been born. One time a young woman wanted to come up and be saved. And her sweetheart pulled her arm and said, "Don't go now, and maybe some day I will go with you." She never came. Some time later that young woman became sick and was about to die. I went to see her. And she said, 'Don't talk to me now, it is too late, I am lost.' She had lost her soul and she knew it. The man came to me and said, "What can I do. It is my fault. She is lost and she knows it". She wanted to be saved and I stood in her way. ---------We have to stand alone. I am not just talking. I know it. We all have to do that. I was a student at college and had drifted far away from the Master. I came back in my senior year. A crowd of us had gone down to New York
City. We were out for a good time. We had not gone far before the Lord arrested me. He said to me, "Where are you going? You are not going in the way that your father taught you when you were a boy." I tell you I felt right then that all those people were on the road to perdition. I said to my young friends, "I am going to pay for this supper and then I am going back." I tell you I would not be preaching here if it had not been for that night. I would rather stand alone than to disobey God's heavenly call. It costs something to be a Christian. I never wanted to be a missionary to the Indians. I knew what it all meant. My father had been a missionary to them. I said "Anywhere but to the Indians of Oklahoma." I craved New York. I was doing big work up there. Had the finest lot of business men behind me. I thought I was doing the Lord's work. I prayed to the Lord to send someone to the Indians. I got up the money and sent a man and an ugly old man who was a worker for the Y.W.C.A. I thought he was the very man to go. But he came back. He said "My work is down here with the Y.W.C.A. There had been a great many souls saved in the Indian country. I prayed again to the Lord to send some one to the Indians." The Lord sent me. I was up there in New York City, sick with tuberculosis. At death's door. I was lying up there and I said the next call I would get, I would answer. I was just able to walk around in the room and someone came to me and said the Woman's Board of the Dutch Reform wanted me to go as a missionary to the Indians. Something said to me, "You can't go, you will die down there." But I said" No sir, you go." I knew that if I was willing to serve the
Master, I would go to Oklahoma. The Lord didn't look pleasant to me that day. But my heart smote me. There was something wrong with my faith. I could not stand up and say I was a Christian, if I disobeyed Christ. I said, "I will go, Lord, though it kills me." "Where I am there also my servant shall be." That comforted me. I went and after two years my health came back. I could work in Michigan and it would not harm me now. The Lord gave me back my voice. And here I am sound in mind and body. Best of all is the fellowship of God. How much I would have missed if I had not been obedient to God. If you will but surrender, he is going to bless you and make life worth living. I was going to tell you the story of the little Indian girl. Some little Indian girls came to me and said, "Mr. Wright, Dorothy wants to be baptized. She does not understand such things, you do." I said call all the Comanches together. I sent for Walter Roe to come and help me. And when the day came, there was little Dorothy ready for the baptism. There was an old chief standing in back and when I began, he said, "Hold on, Dorothy is walking in one road today, and I am walking in another road. Good? No, no good. This day with Dorothy I go." Do you know he came right up there and surrendered. And his wife came with him. We baptized them both that day. Later Dorothy read the Bible to those Indian savages. She herself told me, "Mr. Wright I don't know much about it. But what I know I try to tell to them." She was my interpreter after that. I didn't know any of their language. I had to talk to them by signs. She sickened and died. Before they were Christians they would have wrapped her in a blanket and gone screaming over the hills like wild beasts. But now we were
going to have a Christian funeral. Because little Dorothy had been a Christian. We put her into the grave. And I said, "She is at rest, just a little while and she is going to come again. When Jesus comes he is going to bring her right with him." That is what comforts you. You expect to see your loved ones again. There will be a day of resurrection when you will clasp hands again. After we had buried her and turned our backs to the grave. The old Indian chief came to me and said, "Mr. Wright, Dorothy is dead, I am just the same as blind man." He pointed to his home and his cattle and said, "All nothing, just same as blind man." And did he say, "I am going to throw Jesus away," no he said, "I am going to hold on to him." Nothing, Jesus only." O would I not have missed it all if I had not carried the Gospel to the hearts of these Indians. And then to think you can say "All of self and none of Thee", O may the day soon come when you will say, "All of Thee and none of self".