

Torrey 1984 Be a Teacher with Poise

By Daisy Hepburn

Have been put right up here on the podium for me. I was speaking in, I guess it was New Hampshire, a few years ago, at a women's retreat, which I do a great [inaudible] and I was badly in need of a glass of water and reached down into the pulpit there in front of me in this conference center. And there was a styrofoam cup that was half full, and it looked like perhaps it had been already half drunken by somebody else. And that's all right. I needed it. So I drank it and I just went on with it. In the next session, apparently, someone had noticed this, and there was a glass of water in the next session, and so I used that.

And the third session, there was ice in the water. And on Sunday morning, they had seen how appreciative I was as I reached out and took a drink. On Sunday morning, they had a tall glass of coke in the pulpit waiting for me. Who knows what might be here tomorrow? I receive all of these little goodies with great joy and thanksgiving in this session.

I have said in your outline of that which I'm going to share with you while I am here at this conference. I have given this a topic: "Be a teacher with poise." But Mr. Hafer told me that I could have absolute freedom during the five sessions in which I will be speaking here. And so I have decided to change the rest of them and just alter them a little bit. Tonight in our general session, I have decided that I must speak to you under the heading of "Send me to build." Perhaps you would find the resource for it in 2 Timothy 2, which is what I'm going to be

speaking to you about in this session and using the outline from lead, follow or get out of the way.

Tonight's message might be couched under the heading of 2 Timothy 2:15. You'd be a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed. Tomorrow morning we will talk about the athlete. However, here in this session tomorrow night, I'm going to speak about guilt and grace in the life of God's servant. And then on Wednesday evening, the glory game. So I will look forward to seeing any or all of you there. And I am delighted that you have come to this particular elective this morning, and I do thank Holly for her welcome and for her prayer.

How would I like to be introduced to a new group? Well, you know how I'd like to be introduced? I'd like to be introduced as Mrs. America or an Olympic ski champion or the Pillsbury bake-off winner or something. You know, when you are invited to speak at a conference like this, and they say, well, what are your qualifications? What brings you to this place? What have you done that's significant? I said to our son, "David, I'm so intimidated by these kinds of things. I do a lot of what I'm doing, but, you know, at the Torrey conference and so on." He says, "Mother, face it. You are a blue collar speaker."

I realized that this morning I am standing before you, realizing more than I have before that the thing God uses most especially about my life, is my ordinariness. I met the Lord this morning and I say this to him and I say it to you. Nothing in my hands I bring. Simply to his cross I cling. I am a woman who is here not because of credentials or degrees, but because I believe the Lord has given me the opportunity to share my life in Christ with you.

And perhaps I will be a mother figure to you for the next couple of days. I don't know, but I am at your service, available to you. I tell you with this little book about Betty Carlson, who has written a book of her own called "Life Is Worth Living." Betty Carlson is on the staff of Lavrie. She has a little piece in her book that's entitled "Never Die of Ordinariness." And I know that I feel so ordinary a good share of the time that apart from, as Dr. Hendricks has said it so well, our faith and trust in the one who is able, all of us would throw in the towel. It is only when we come to that point that he is really able to use us. I've been doing my homework on Dr. R. A. Torrey.

Re-read his little book, "How to Win Men to Christ." It's the turn of the century. Dr. Torrey says something in this book that you and I all know, but he says it with such risk to the body of Christ and to those students of his, perhaps even to students who were gathered in the name of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, not too far from here. He says, before you can serve him, you need to have a deep and definite encounter with the Holy Spirit of God. His closing chapter says, is entitled "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

Now, in our context, we might sit up and take notice and we might say, what do you mean by that phrase and define it? Dr. Torrey does in the last chapter of this book. Well, but the bottom line, he says, he doesn't use those words is simply this. Whatever you call it, get it. Be filled with the Spirit of God. It's available.

And I would challenge you who sometimes feel like I do, that you're almost ready to die of ordinariness, that you would look to him and say, I will receive by whatever name it is, the

filling, cleansing power of God in my life. Well, we used to live in Mount Herman, and we still have our home there. David, my husband, has just been called to San Francisco. We now live in what we lovingly refer to as the Devil's territory. My husband is the President of a Christian High School, Bridgemont Christian High School. Only they call it Bridgemont High School, a Christian co-educational college preparatory school in San Francisco.

But I want you to know we are facing the greatest challenge of our lives. We love San Francisco. Our pastor in San Francisco at First Covenant Church is a senior student at Talbot Seminary, and I am thrilled that young Mike Ryan has been willing to come to San Francisco and serve the Lord with us in that area. But while I was in Mount Herman and I have been doing what I'm doing now for a great many years, occasionally I need a little therapeutic shopping trip.

And so I went over to a little shop in Los Gatos, and I found in the Fat Robin this T shirt that's the name of the shop. And I thought of all the people, all the women that I thought needed to have a shirt like this. But I got it for myself. I don't wear it very often, but I use it as a visual aid to remind me that the Holy Spirit's power in my life lifts me out of the ordinariness of the world, squeezing me into its own mold. And I must walk tall in the knowledge that this is no ordinary housewife you're dealing with.

But I have the presence and power of Jesus Christ in my life. And it is from that perspective that we look at two Timothy II chapter and see those seven portraits of God's person there. And it is in that chapter that will spend in that verse or two that we will spend these next several minutes, 2 Timothy, the second chapter. In our concern about never dying of ordinariness I come to you

with a theme verse of my life. It's Philippians 2:13. "God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him and then helping you do what he wants."

It would be my desire during these two morning sessions to give you, I hope, some practical help on how to be God's person in a practical way. The subtitle of this book is a new look at servant leadership for women. Some of you are gentlemen in this room, and I will tell you this, that as you move out into areas of Ministry right beyond Biola, in whatever area of service God calls you to, I hope you will have an appreciation for what God is doing through women in this Kingdom building process.

And maybe your presence here in this training time this morning might be an indication of the fact that you are interested in being members of the same body with some of God's choices.

Women joy Dawson said it on a tape that I have God has given to men authority, but he has given women influence. I love that statement. I believe it. I believe it. Perhaps if you come tonight or even hear me right now say this. I am not a feminist in the common vernacular of that phrase, that word. I am a woman who longs to have the power of servanthood in my life, to do and to be an example of what God's woman really must be for such a time as this.

And so it's a revolutionary thought from the word of God that's located in Matthew 20, Mark 10, Luke 22, that Jesus gives us when it comes to our standing firm in this time, deciding or knowing for sure who we are in him, without having to make a life's work, of having my self image raised, without having to make a life's work, of discovering what my spiritual gift is by doing what the scripture says, and that is to get out my basement and towel and get to work. If God has

given to men authority, and I believe he has, we don't play games with that God's pattern. And if he has given to women influence. Hear this. Chuck Swindoll in his little book on leadership, "Hand Me Another Brick," has defined leadership in the very opening chapter of that book, and it's simply this: leadership is influence.

A certain mother of two sons, Salome by name, was accompanying Jesus with some other women and his disciples en route to Jerusalem. For the last time. There was much discussion about who should be closest to Jesus. And during the discussion, that mother said, Our Lord, could my sons be there? I identify with her. But Jesus used that experience both there and in another account in the upper room, to teach us a great lesson about leading and following discipling, as it were. He says, you know what? In this world, Kings lord it over others, masters over slaves. But in the Kingdom, it's not to be like that. The living Bible in Luke 22, it says this in the words of Jesus, and this paraphrase: the one who serves you best will be your leader. The one who serves you best will be your leaders.

Well, if God has given to men authority and to women influence. And if Chuck Swindoll is correct, leadership is influence. Women, men. This morning we ought to be just racing each other to pick up our basins and towels in order to have the power that God wants us to have right here, right now. That's the power of serving. Serving. Well, I have decided that that's one synonym for making disciples, serving others. How do I do it? Using the outline again of 2 Timothy 2, listen to what it says. "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses and trust to reliable men

who will also be qualified to teach others." There in 2 Timothy 2:2, I give you, the word gives you, and I point out to you, a two part job description for a teacher, a teacher.

A teacher in the Savior's School room. Do you see what it is? It's a two part job description. And the first part is to transmit truth. Teach truth. The second is to teach others. Discipling, in essence. But what do you do you teach how? By transmitting truth. Well, you are sitting on the grounds of a University. I have been told that one Biola University student was invited to respond. When the teacher professor challenged to their knowledge of the word of God. The question was asked, what's your favorite book in the Bible? The answer from the student was, the parables is by far my favorite. And the teacher said, I would like to know, would you tell me a little bit about that and perhaps even relate one of the parables.

This was the parable related. Once upon a time, a man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves. The thorns grew up and choked that man. And he went on. And the Queen of Sheba, met the Queen of Sheba. And she gave that man 1000 talents of gold and silver and 100 changes of raiment. He got in his chariot and drove furiously. And as he was driving under a big tree, his hair got caught in the limb and left him hanging there. And he hung there many days and many nights. And the ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink.

And one night, while he was hanging there asleep, his wife, Delilah, came along and cut off his hair. And he dropped and fell on stony ground. And it began to rain and it rained 40 days and 40 nights. And he hid himself in a cave. And he went out and met a man and said, "Come and take supper with me." He said, "I cannot come. I have married a wife." And the man went out into the

highways and byways and compelled them to come in. And he went on and came to Jericho. And he saw Queen Jezebel sitting high up in a window. When she saw him, she laughed and he said, throw her down. He said, "Throw her down" again. And they threw her down 70 times seven. And of the fragments, they picked up twelve baskets. Now, whose wife will she be on the day of resurrection? A merry heart does good like a medicine.

Dear people, we are responsible to transmit truth. Truth in a tide when it's so gray. This evening, I hope to knock your socks off with a challenge to become involved in the moral decay of our country under the heading of "Let me never enter a life except to build." There is so much grayness out there. Truth is so relevant. Situation, ethics, the whole bit. What is truth? I believe God is calling you and I to make disciples by teaching truth, sifted through a spirit filled life. Have you ever been devastated to have someone teach you something that was not exemplified in their life. That is false.

Well, my husband and I had occasion a year and a half ago, we went over to Knott's Berry Farm. We live up north, and we came down with another couple of good old friends of ours. We went over to Knott's Berry Farm and we are all entertaining our midlife crisis. And by the way, the little kid was asked, how come his mother looks so young? And he said, it's because she uses the oil of delay. So I am here today entertaining my midlife crisis and just thanking the Lord for a husband who has survived his. At any rate, we were over there at Knott's Berry Farm and over the loud speaker after we were doing our midlife crisis thing of going on those roller coasters and trying to behave as if we were teenagers, over the loudspeaker came this news.

Truth or consequences is about to begin in the Good Times Theater. Well, our friend, who's our age had this trick knee and he couldn't walk real fast. And so we stood there, the four of us, and Knots very firm. And we realized that the four of us were never going to get together again. But one or the other of us was going to have to accommodate each other's growing pains. So we went a little more slowly than we might have individually. But we got into this theater and they got all these people together. And the producer came out to warm up. The audience needed some contestants, and they brought him down front.

And then he says, "Now we need some married couples." Tell you what, let's have a person here. Who's been married the shortest amount of time? This little couple down here in the front on their honeymoon. Come on down, sit over there. And so then we have a couple from Canada. They've been married 14 years. You come on down. Who's been married the longest? I just raised my hand and I said, 31 years, never dreaming that out of that entire theater, my dear David and I have been married longer than anybody else in that whole theater.

"Come on down." My husband was not thrilled. And they put this name tag on us and it said, Daisy, 31 years, David, 31 years. And he said, and it just might be the end. But we sat there and pretty soon out on this great big stage over there, they brought out that first set of contestants. And after they went through their thing, they gave them each a digital watch. Well, David's attitude was changing a little. Second group came out and they gave them each a Polaroid camera.

So David poked the young Canadian fella next to him. And he says, they're probably revving up our Mercedes backstage. And he got feeling better about the whole thing until we got out front. And then after this little amenities that they asked us this question. You ready for this? This was our question. Why did the man not want his son to take a course in Egyptian plumbing at USC? We didn't know the answer either. But if I had known it, it would have been beneath my dignity to have responded.

Because this is what the answer was. He did not want him to be a Pharaohs. Faucet Major, come on now. Wake up. Did you get it? The Egyptian plumbing. All right. So we sat there and pretty soon they brought out this great big black flannel box. Now my husband has been the director of ministries at Mission Springs Conference Center. But there, my dear David, because I had raised my hand, had to get into that big flannel box with those other two men and put his nose through a hole in the curtain. And the idea of our consequence was to decide which nose belonged to our husband.

It was not David's best moment when it was all over, after we had gone through that, the humiliation, the whole thing. This was what our prize was. Not the Mercedes David had hoped for, but truth or consequences. T-shirts and two jars of Knott's Berry Farm jam. My question to you this morning, as I would hope you'd catch on, that there are consequences for not speaking truly, dealing truly, living truly. And my question is, is it worth it to tell the truth, to transmit truth? Is it worth it?

There are consequences for living a life that is such a fuzzy caricature of what God's plan is for us, that how could we ever hope to draw others to the Savior? How could we ever hope to be looked upon with trust so that we can teach others? The scripture does not give it an option about our teaching others. Those of you who are here and who feel like you don't have any disciple, there's no one in your life that you are teaching, no one who is looking to you with confidence. My suggestion to you is this, whether you like it or not, you're teaching something. Whether you like it or not, you're a teacher.

The question is, what is it that you're teaching? What is it that you're teaching by your life? And how are you teaching others? I tell you about in this little book about a young black woman. Her name is Kathy Meeks. She is the assistant dean of women at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia.

Please turn the tape aside to for the continuation of this session.

Kathy has written a book of her own called "I Want Somebody to Know My Name." Kathy, in a message that I asked her to give in Minneapolis now, several years ago, Kathy made this important statement to us and told this simple vignette. As I listened to her, my heart was moved, for this is what she said. "I was led to the Lord of the little eight year old girl in Sunday school in Tennessee. My dad was alcoholic and my mother died while I was still very young, just from despair. But someone in our community had taken me to Sunday school there. I was plainly explained to that Jesus Christ loved me and that he wanted to move into my heart of life." And she said "that family in that little church in Tennessee became my family in a special way."

But she said, "I looked around as a young teenager for someone who would say, 'Watch me.' Who would dare to take the risk that the Apostle Paul takes. In Philippians 3:1 when he says to us, 'Follow my example.' Well, that's the greatest risk any one of us can take. Watch me, follow me." Kathy said, "I looked all around and I couldn't find anyone. I grew up and eventually went to Pepperdine University." She said "after a year or two on that University campus struggling, I still asked the Lord, send me a role model."

And she said, "I finally came to the point in my life. And I said, Lord, I cannot seem to find a role model, so I will commit myself to becoming one." I lead you then to the second part of this job description for a teacher in the Savior's School room. First, your understanding that it is truth that's to be transmitted from your life as well as from the word of your mouth. But the second thing is to understand the most important teaching tool you have in discipling is your personal example, modeling a life that is abandoned to his purposes. But that is the risk that a good many of us are unable or unwilling to take in our ordinariness. I have a marvelous Bible teacher friend in San Francisco, wife of a faculty member of Simpson College, and has a fine Ministry of teaching the Word. But she realizes, as I do, that we are not qualified by whatever that means.

Apart from the presence of God in our lives, our credentials are slim. My friend Maxine was invited to go to Regina in Saskatchewan to teach the Word for a week to a group of Bible student women. And she said when she received the encouraging letter that simply said, this, Maxine, we're getting a lot of teaching. What we need is someone to come and share their life with us.

That's what it is. God has called you and me to make disciples by being not just a decoration in the Church, but a demonstration. Decoration is a static word. Sometimes you perhaps have looked in Titus, the second chapter with its challenge to teach. It's challenge for masters to teach slaves, and it's challenge for slaves to respond in submission. The challenge that men are to become the priests in their home, and women are to teach younger women, and so on and on and on. Teach them how to be keepers at home and lovers of their husbands, and so on.

But then Titus 2:10 says, you are to adorn the doctrine of God, your savior in all things. That word "adorn" can be a rather static word, as in decorating the Christmas tree. How about this? God doesn't call us to a static adorning or decoration or display case kind of Christian living. But he would say to you and I this morning, I want you to be a demonstration, for it is that which will be your most potent discipling tool, Lord, unsatisfied with life at any other place. Well, what are you teaching? Perhaps you've heard the words of a little song from My Fair Lady. Words, words, words. I'm sick of words. Sing me no songs. Read me no rhymes. Don't waste my time. Show me, show me.

I think back to Daniel. I want to show by my life that all that God has poured into my life, all the resources that he has poured into my life, will stand to be a good stead in crisis. Look at the first chapter of Daniel for a moment, at least in your mind, because time is going. Think about that. You know how Daniel was taken into the court of the King and through those years of training there, part of the preparation was going to be a diet that would supposedly give them those captives, those who were in training for the service of the court would thrive upon.

And Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. And I think mother and dad, thousand miles away from where this was happening, if you could have known that those years that you had poured into that kid were standing in good stead. I remember when our son went away to College. I remember when our daughter went away to school, I thought, O Lord, of the moments of crisis, I've not done all that well. I'm sure anything but the world's champion. Mother, Lord, are they going to be able to stand? I am the product of a Christian home. I've been prayed for every day of my life.

And I say, thank you, Lord, that I have been given the privilege of being a demonstration of your keeping power. Thank you, Lord. Not a lot of you are here because somebody has poured themselves into your life in a way that is allowing you to stand firm with a purpose in your heart, that anything less than allowing your life to be a demonstration of his power and love and great grace is not even entertaining you're not even entertaining that thought willing to take a risk because of the resources of your life.

Oh, but then in chapter three, I want to teach by my life that I'm trusting him. Like Dr. Hendrick said it so well, not taking unto myself. And the older you get there, people, the more you realize how ordinary we all are. The third chapter, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. My dear old Scotch grandpa used to say, "Shake the bed, make the bed and into the Veg you go." And he thought that was real cute. My dear old grandpa, he would tell me about this, but it wasn't until I got a little bit older and looked at it myself that four words struck me. Daniel, the third chapter. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego replied to the King, "Oh, Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter," as they face the fiery furnace, heated seven times

hotter. "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us, and he will rescue us from your hand, oh King. But even if he doesn't, we will not serve any other God."

I told you, I grew up in a home where I guess my earliest discipling training was behind our front door, where I had the privilege of seeing my mother and dad living so convincingly before us that every one of my four sisters and myself were early convinced.

I want to teach, that by my life, that he is utterly dependable. I want to be so convincing by the choices of my time, by what I do with my leisure, by my attitude of asking God I pray to deliver me from this horrendous selfishness that is absolutely pressing us in conforming us to the world's idea. Lord, I want to teach by my life. Trust in you. I have reread this last week the biography, the story of John and Betty Stam, a couple who were serving the Lord a very short time in China when God allowed them to be martyred by having them their heads cut off. A young couple whose only idea was to serve the Lord, John Stam went to Moody Bible Institute, a place where Dr. R. A. Torrey served as Dean many years ago.

John Stam left his home to go without much wherewithal, 1932, to Moody Bible Institute. Didn't have enough money to complete the course, and he said in his letter home, I want to prove during this education time of my life that he is able, if God sees fit, to provide me a job, and that is how the need is going to be met, just simply through my own hard work.

Hooray. But even if he doesn't, and I am going to have to be the recipient of funds that God is going to lay the need on the heart of his people and they're going to send it to me by whatever

means. I want my life to teach. Trust in God. Now that's a very practical thing that any of us can do. You and I are responsible to make some definite decisions as to what it is shall be taught by our lives and how we can lead others more closely to the Savior. What will you do? The Most important Teaching Tool The most important discipling tool you've got, dear people, is your personal example, the Joy of the Lord.

I happen to be a woman who is committed to enabling God's women to serve the Lord effectively through the Church. That is my personal commitment, and I do seminars and all kinds of stuff on that. But my bottom line concern is that these two children that God gave me, that they have the right to see their mother behind her own front door serving the Lord with gladness. For if I want my lowest to serve him and to take a position of influence, meaning anything, that where her Basin Adele will take her, then she has the right to see me living that way. I want to be convincing.

I have a marvelous friend. Oh, my, it gets late early. I will close then with this. Two things I just want to tell you about my friend Melia Cross. Melita Cross is a tall black mother of eleven children. Detroit, Michigan. When Melita Cross does a workshop on raising teenagers for Christ, people listen. When she speaks, you can't help but listen. Melita and her husband, Haman Cross, have founded the Detroit Afro American Mission Haman Cross. Some of you might have picked up on that name.

Hayman Cross Junior, according to Worldwide Challenge magazine and other reputable sources believe that Hayman Cross Jr. Or Haman Cross II, whatever, is going to, or is, becoming

probably one of the finest missionaries to the black population, the inner cities of our nation, who will teach others truth. God is using that man by his Mama. Melita, who was my contemporary and in both of these books, this as well as in my book, "Why Doesn't Somebody Do Something?" I said to her, Melita, as we were sharing a room up in a conference in Northern Michigan about two years ago. Melita, how did your husband, Hayman, want a name for a baby?

Haman, come to Christ. Haman, I presume you know, is the Satan figure in the Book of Esther. Why would anybody name their beautiful little son Haman? Well, moving right along. I said, Haman, Melita, how did Hayman come to the Lord? She said, Daisy, it was quite a story. Perhaps I'll have to reach Elvis today. But she said, my mother always told me never marry a man who's not a Christian. But when I brought Haman home, he was such a goody goody, Mama forgot to ask. And so there we were. We finally moved along in our relationship until we were married, moved to Detroit and began to have all these kids. I tend to realize Haman did not really know Christ."

So I said, "Melita, tell me how you got connected then. Did you have the courage to keep on telling him what he needed?" No, she said. "I went to the preacher and I said, Preacher, you've got to do something about Haman." So the preacher said, well, that's okay, Melita. I'll see him Sunday night after the service. Haman Cross, I'd like to see you in the office," the preacher said.

Sat him down across the desk and he said, "Haman, are you drinking?" I do not recommend this as a discipling technique. "Haman Cross, are you drinking?" "No, preacher. Maybe a beer on weekends. That's it." "Haman Cross, are you smoking?" "No, preacher. I'm not smoking."

"Haman Cross, are you cussing?" "No, preacher. I got all these kids at home. I'm not cussing."

"Haman Cross, are you chasing women?" He said "No, no, preacher. Ever since I left the Navy, I am not chasing women." Melita cross said my husband's life was changed, turned around when the preacher had the courage to say to him, "Haman cross, you're going to hell for nothing."

Dear people, this morning I don't know what technique is yours, but I do know this. That there is a woman and a man in Detroit, Michigan this morning who are convinced that God has called them to be teacher, servant, leader, discipler. What will you teach? What do you have? It's the resource of a spirit filled life lived as a demonstration in every attitude. My phrase for this new year is simply as to the Lord as to the Lord. Whether I eat in the dining room. Whether I drink in the dining room. Whether I get out there and take a bus ride.

Lord, make me a teacher of truth. That all that I do. As to you. Do you believe God will draw others to you and to himself through you as you are an active demonstration of the love of Jesus? Can you believe that he would use the likes of me and thee, all of us ordinary people? God could zap Southern California and declare a Christian. But what does he do? He lives through your life and mine.

I don't want to get out of the mainstream of the blessings for 1 second. Blessed Lord, we thank you for your presence here. Oh Lord, I pray that you will alert us to the possibility of not simply adorning the doctrine of God But demonstrating our faith and trust in convincing ways that our corner of the world might early to maturity in Jesus Christ. Oh, may it be so, Lord. Use us as a chapter in someone's life. Chronicle, I pray, amen.

