

Get a Lawyer

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Study Given by W.D. Frazee—August 6,

Recently I was visiting with a friend of mine. As I heard his problems there came to me the definite conviction that he needed to get a lawyer.

When does a man need a lawyer? He needs a lawyer when his problems are beyond his ability to handle, and believes the lawyer can do something for him that he can't do for himself.

Suppose you are arrested and land in jail. It might be a good thing to get a lawyer. Suppose your financial affairs are in such bad shape that you are going to go bankrupt. It may be you would need a lawyer to help with that problem. It might be something more of a happy situation. You may have been left a large legacy involving a large number of properties and money. You might need a lawyer to help handle it. And you will agree that the greater the value the more important it is for you to have good legal counsel.

There are men in various levels of responsibility who employ a lawyer merely to advise them to keep them out of trouble. The president of the United States has a man who is his personal legal counsel. And the presidents of great corporations involve that kind of help. And the legal counsel under those circumstances will be asked again and again, Should I do this and should I do that? And his work is to help his client to keep out of trouble.

There are those who consider themselves defrauded. Jesus told about a woman who came pleading to the judge and said, Do me justice of my magistry. Sometimes when a man has been defrauded he gets a lawyer to represent him and try to get justice. Or he may feel there is cause for liable. His character has been defamed. He may get a lawyer to help him get vindication and damages. So, for all these things, and other things you can think of, men get lawyers.

Why does a man get a lawyer?

First of all, the lawyer knows the law. It is his job to know the law. He knows a thousand things about the law that other people might not think of.

Second, he has access to the court. He is accepted to practice before the court.

And third, he has experience. He has knowledge, standing, and experience.

How do you use a lawyer?

First, you have to secure him. Lawyers don't go around and lasso people and pull them in their offices and say, I am going to represent you. You have to call them up and make an appointment. Sometimes you have to give a fee in advance. At any rate, you have to secure the lawyer.

Second, you must tell him all the facts. If you withhold some of the facts, he can't do a very good job. You have to tell him the sad facts as well as the glad facts, the bad ones as well as the good ones, and the ones that reflect upon you as well as those that give you a good reputation. You have to tell him all the facts if he is going to do a good job.

Third, you have to follow his advice. If you don't want to follow his advice you have to let him go and get somebody whose advice you can respect and follow. If you pay a man to be your lawyer and do not follow his advice it would be like paying for a dinner and refusing to eat it.

Fourth, and this is so important, leave your case in his hands.

A good lawyer tells his client and a good client follows it out. But if he is contacted by the opposing lawyer he is to say nothing. Who will do the answering? His lawyer. Unless you are prepared to do that, don't look for a lawyer. Be your own.

You know I am thinking about Jesus.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” 1 John 2:1.

What word indicates a lawyer? Advocate. It is used today. A lawyer means someone who is acquainted with the law. The word advocate comes from words meaning to speak for. An advocate is one who speaks for us. Jesus is our advocate, or representative. I thank the Lord for this. Jesus is my lawyer. Jesus is your lawyer.

We have been arrested and bound over to the court. We will either have to get a good lawyer or face the consequences. Jesus is our attorney. He has never lost a case. Isn't that wonderful?

I was thinking about the matter of my Lawyer representing me in connection with bankruptcy. We are all bankrupt spiritually with no way to recover. But we have an attorney that can bring order out of chaos, victory out of defeat, success out of failure, and eternal life out of death. I think that is wonderful.

I was thinking about the matter of my Lawyer representing me in connection with legacy. You and I have a legacy. We are heirs of God. Unless we have somebody to represent us that knows what we are after and what he can do for us, there is a great enemy that is determined to swindle us out of our inheritance. He is doing it for most of the people of this world. Like Esau they are selling their birthright for a mess of pottage. Thank God for a lawyer who can represent us in this matter.

Then to advise us on various things, and keep us out of trouble. I am so glad that my Lawyer is not just interested in getting me off the hook where I have failed, and not in getting me out of prison. He is interested in keeping me out of prison. In other words, He is a keeping Savior as well as a giving Savior.

He knows the law. He is the lawgiver.

“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another” James 4:12.

Jesus has access to the court.

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” Hebrews 9:24.

A word is used here that is often used in a legal sense. Appear. In fact, in some courts you cannot come yourself. Your attorney must appear in your behalf. If you are there, the attorney must speak for you.

Ah friends, our lips are sealed when we face the Judge of the universe. But there is somebody with wounded hands standing there ready to represent us, to take our names on His lips, to appear for us in the presence of God.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened” Daniel 7:9-10.

Here is the legal language. It is a court scene. The judgment was set and the books were opened.

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” Daniel 7:13-14

Jesus longs for His people to be His. That means He wants you and me to be with Him. But the sin problem must be settled. In other words, let's face the reality of it. Jesus must do more than get us off the hook. He must be able to guarantee to

the court that His clients will never embarrass Him or His Father anywhere in this universe. That's quite a task.

Jesus is depending on you and me to represent Him in this world while He represents us there. We are in training for the throne. We are in training for that wonderful trip through the universe of God. This is what the investigative judgment is all about. This is what the cleansing of the sanctuary is all about. It is the development of a people who will pass the judgment because their lives have been so changed by the wonderful power of the Gospel that they will not embarrass their attorney anywhere in this universe.

Has Jesus had experience? Oh, yes.

“For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that He Himself also is compassed with infirmity” Hebrews 5:1-2.

Jesus came and took our infirmities, met our problems, so He could be our attorney. He has experience on this earth of meeting the sin problem that you and I meet. Bless the Lord, He has access to the supreme court of the universe. In fact, He is the only attorney that is qualified to practice at that court. Either Jesus is our attorney or we don't have one.

First, we need to secure the attorney. Have you asked Jesus to be your lawyer? He wants to be. He has secured the right to practice. But He can't represent you unless you employ Him.

Second, have you told Him all the facts?

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”
1 John 1:9.

Let's not hold back anything. If Jesus is going to do a proper job to represent me, I must turn in all the facts.

Third, follow Jesus' advice. Shall I do that? Oh, yes. That is what the Bible is given us for. That's what the beautiful pages of the Spirit of Prophecy is given us for. Jesus is the faithful and true witness. So let's follow the advice of our attorney. What do you say?

Fourth, let's leave our case in Jesus' hands. Once we put our case in His hands and leave our case in His hands, He has made us accepted in the beloved.

In some of these areas we are led far beyond the dimensions that any human attorney can lead us. No earthly attorney has paid the ransom price with his own blood, and no earthly attorney has the power to change the nature. Those two

things make Christ a successful attorney. He paid the price Himself. He met the penalty. He changes the nature of His clients. I think that is wonderful, don't you?

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” Isaiah 9:6.

Thank God, Jesus Christ is a wonderful counsellor. He knows the law. He knows you. He knows the Judge. He know every being in this universe. He is God, the Son of God. He is man, the Son of man. Oh, what a wonderful counsellor we have. You would think that everyone would run to employ Him as their attorney.

God help us. How many would like to send Him the word that this is what we desire?

I have a case at court, and court is set,
How soon my case is called I may not know;
But from the seat of justice dare not go
Till sentence has been passed on me;
And yet although my sins more red than crimson be,
I have an advocate who pleads for me.

I have a case at court, and court is set,
The Judge supreme is on the judgment seat;
With trembling low I bow before His feet,
Convicted by my own proud heart;
And yet will downcast eyes see not the Judge's face?
My advocate has never lost a case.

I have a case at court, and court is set,
My straining ears have caught at last my name;
Needs not the former charge to tell my shame,
My heart cannot deny its guilt;
And yet to hide my filthy garments out of sight,
My advocate provides a robe of light.

I have a case at court, and court is set,
With tears the angel reads the charges there;
And to the court my Counsel makes His prayer,
For pardon please, admits my guilt;
And yet the Judge divine in mercy sets me free,
My advocate has born the curse for me.

Thank God, Jesus is my attorney. Is He yours? I have put my case in His hands. Have you put your case in His hands? Let's leave it there.

I want you to see how to face the court without fear:

“And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us” John 4:16-19.

The Father's love and the love of the Son has cast out fear that would make us scared of the judgment. Thank God for the Savior's love. And remember, it comes to us as we behold. We love Him because He first loved us.

Does your love for Jesus seem small? It is, but it is His love for you that you are hoping for in the judgment.

“Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.”

There is a very practical application of this. Somebody may have done you wrong. Somebody may have told a lie about you. Somebody may have defrauded you. Somebody may have spoiled your reputation. You had better get a lawyer. You had better not try to handle it yourself. You will get into trouble.

But if you are going to try to get Jesus, quit trying to be the attorney for the defense. Leave it with Him. Leave your case in His hands. He has a thousand ways of which you know nothing to bring you to glory and honor and success.

Lord, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight for an Attorney who knows the law, who has access to the court, and who has infinite experience. We thank Thee for His record of success; never losing one case that has been put into His hands and left there.

Tonight we are coming with some very definite problems. Different ones have different problems, but Thou dost handle the whole range of problems, little and big, far and wide. Just now we give to Thee that which is too hard for us. Just now we leave in Thy hands the keeping of our souls, our reputations, our means, our possessions, everything.

Take care of us, and make us so conscious of this that we shall cease to worry about what happens to us, and get busy helping Thee to get the problems of the world solved. We thank Thee in Jesus wonderful name, Amen.

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