

Inquire of Me

#0519

Study by W.D. Frazee

Isaiah the 21st chapter, and the 12th verse the 3rd line. Sometimes we only have one verse, sometimes we just have a piece of a verse. I want you to see one line, here in Isaiah 21, verse 12. What is the word repeated with two syllables? [Audience answer "inquire"] What does that mean? Ask. What punctuation do you use for that? [Audience answer "question mark"] Are you willing to change on that? [Laughter] Well, alright, thank you. Over the sake of correctness, that's right. A question is followed by a question mark, isn't that right? All right, now will a couple of you young fellows here take these slips and I want to give everybody one. And I am going to give you an opportunity to ask a question. Now nobody has to ask a question, but the verse says.

"...if ye will inquire, inquire ye..." Isaiah 21:12.

In other words, if you have a question, here is an opportunity to ask it. And as I was thinking with the Lord, about what we should study together at this meeting, I thought that there might be something in your mind, some of you, that you would very much like to get an answer to. And I am going to give you an opportunity. One question to a person, and remember, nobody has to ask any, in fact if nobody asks any, we are going to get out quite early tonight. But now knowing human nature, I know there will be some, and I don't pretend to be able to answer all the questions, I'll just try to answer the ones I can. And I hope none of you will ask questions, that are of very little value. I don't think you will, I think any question you ask will be important. Now did everybody get a piece of paper? All right, now Steve, if you will help me, as fast as anybody gets a question written out, if you will hold up your hands, Steve will pick it up and bring it up here and we will start moving, and that will give the rest of you time to finish your question. Remember, nobody has to ask anything, it is just a question that is in your mind. You say, "On what subject," anything in the Bible, anything in the Spirit of Prophecy, anything in the Wildwood program. I think those three things will take in any question that we might want to ask.

[First question from audience] Is our family our first work in all situations? And the word "all" is underlined.

Answer. Well, I am glad I brought some books along tonight. I hope I have brought the right books. I know I brought one right book, the Bible. Turn to Luke the 14th chapter, and the 26th verse. Luke 14:26. My, we are going to have a lot of questions here. We may not get them all done tonight. All right, Luke 14:26. Jesus said:

"If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth

not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple.
So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all
that he hath, he cannot be My disciple” Luke 14:26, 33.

Who is first? Jesus is first. What is the First Commandment?

“Thou shalt have no other god’s before me” Exodus 20:3.

The beautiful thing is, when we really make God first, everything else fits into place. Now the statement in the book *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students*:

“The work of those who love God will make manifest the character of their motives, for the saving of those for whom Christ has paid an infinite price will be the object of their efforts. All other considerations—home, family, enjoyment—will be made secondary to the work of God”
Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, page 495.

What is first? The work of God. And what are mentioned here as secondary? Home, family, enjoyment. Now other statements clearly show, that the work of God is not to be made an excuse for neglecting our families, neglecting our own health; anything can be overdone, dear folks. Eating is overdone, but the answer is not to quit eating. Sleeping can be overdone, but the answer is not to burn the midnight oil. So you will understand with these many questions, we can’t take the whole hour, on any one question. Now the next one.

[Second question from audience] “Why have we lost so many of our children to the world of those who have come here?”

Well, I am glad somebody put that in, because I hear that question occasionally. It is worthy of a whole week’s study, more than five minutes. Why have we lost so many of our children to the world, of those who have come here? My, my, how to answer such a big question, so involved, anything I say, will be incomplete, partial, but I will give you a few thoughts.

The power of choice is supreme, in every human life. The power of supreme, in every human life. Did God give Adam and Eve the power of choice? What percentage of the people in the Garden of Eden home turned out bad? That’s worse than any record around here, that I know. Now I don’t take comfort out of that. I take a deep solemn thought out of it. God Himself has found no way to give His creatures the power of choice, and at the same time, ensure that every one of them will choose right. This is the basic answer to this question.

Now let’s go back a bit further. Up in Heaven, God was there all the time. He visited the Garden of Eden, but in Heaven, He was there all the time. And how many of the students in that school, how many of the faculty, chose wrong? One third. Did that prove that there was something wrong with God or His program, or the environment, or the way of life, or the rules, or the regulations? No, it didn’t. It didn’t prove any of those things. It proved the mystery of the individual choice, which is unpredictable.

Now let's look out across the universe. Are there some other worlds besides this one? How many of them have rebelled? Things must have been handled much better by the Lord on these other planets, than they were in Heaven. What? You don't think so? Things must have been handled much better by God, on the other planets, than on this planet. The results speak, or do they? The results speak loudly on our basic premise, and that is, that every individual has a choice to make.

I'll tell you what a lot of people are looking for. I know people that are just going literally from one end of this continent to the other, hunting for some factory, where they can feed in the raw material of their teenagers that are worrying them, and know that they will be turned out, earnest Seventh-day Adventists, ready to give the loud cry. I don't know of any factory like that, in Heaven or on earth.

If God had wanted to establish factories, where all the product was like the pattern, He could have done it. Detroit does it, God could have done it. Now, this is not all the answer to your question, but unless what I have gone over is understood, nothing else can properly be interpreted. Let's go a little further. Jesus came down to this world and one day, as the result of preaching the Gospel, and carrying on His medical missionary work He, had around 10,000 followers, all ready to do what? Make Him king. Twenty four hours later, He had how many? Twelve, and He said, one of them was a what? Devil. From 10,000 to 11 you might say, in 24 hours. This proved that there was something wrong with Christ's program? Correct? No, it proved again, that human choice can outweigh all other considerations.

Now let's go back to the gates of Eden. Who was the first child born in this world? Cain. And the second one? Abel. Cain became the first murder and Abel the first martyr. How come, in the same family, they attended the same worship, same vesper services, heard the same chapel talks, and one of them became the first murder, and the other the first martyr? Interestingly enough, as time went on, even the descendants of Adam, that had first started to serve God, the descendants of Seth became corrupted, by association with the descendants of Cain. And as a result, God had to do what? Destroy the earth with a flood. How many got through? Eight, and not all of them were saved in the kingdom.

No, the history of the human race is replete with examples of millions of wrong choices. And again, this is not all the answer to this question. Let's bring it a little closer home. One reason we have lost some of our children to the world of those who have come here, is that they didn't have perfect teachers. A second reason is, they didn't have perfect parents. Now, I said that exactly the way I meant it. If we had perfect teachers here, at all levels, elementary and adult, it would help some, with this problem. Perfect administrators, managers, pastors, even if they weren't perfect, if they were nearer perfect than they are, it would help with this. The same with the parents, but unfortunately, both our teachers and our administrators and our parents are still not perfect, but on the road, we trust.

You know, I marvel sometime that God let's some people have children. Did you ever wonder about it? Did some of you ever wonder why, I bet you have. Now one of His great reasons is, that He lets these opportunities and privileges and problems challenge us, to seek the Lord. And I will tell you this, friends, I have

prayed and wept literally, with many a parent. And I have wept as a parent, and I know by my own experience, in sharing the experience of other parents, is that some of the heart breaks and the burdens and sorrows that come, help some individuals to understand God, and sympathize with Him, more than anything else that ever happened to them.

Now there are those, that have glib answers to this question. I don't. One of the glib answers to this question is that, "the people at Wildwood, are so busy doing the Lord's work, that they don't have time to take care of their children." Have you ever heard that one? Yes. I think it would be foolish to deny, that some people need help at different times, in how to distribute their time, but I will tell you this, dear friends. And I say this with no thought of being successfully challenged. By-in-large, the fathers and mothers at Wildwood have more opportunity to spend with their children than the average outside the gate, either in the world or the church. If there is a one of you that even is tempted to doubt that, bring your pencil and paper, and sit down with me. There are not very many families in Chattanooga, Chicago, in Texas, or Maine, that have the opportunity for parents and children to be together at meals, as often as most our folks do here. Am I correct? Think of it, you folks who have come, either recently or long ago, make an honest comparison and see.

Now, I will say this, there are so many precious opportunities to do, so many fine things for the Lord, and for ourselves here, that it is possible for a well-meaning parent, to forget their priorities. That's possible, but I don't think the answer is, for the administration to try to police the parents, any more than I think it is the answer to overeat, for the administration to police us, when we sit at the table. Do you suppose anybody at Wildwood overeats? We might help things out health wise if we had a monitor at every home and every table that said, "no more beans, you have had enough Fred, you have already had too many varieties, so, no more." That could be helpful, it could even be educational, probably very few people would welcome that method, and I am not certain that we could get takers, if we asked for people that would do the job. Listen, seriously, brothers and sisters, dear parents, you are up against a tremendous job, wherever you are on this planet, to try and save your children for God. And dear children, some of you are listening to what I am saying, I am glad of it.

Remember, even living next to the Garden of Eden, can't keep you from becoming like Cain and turning out a murderer, if you choose that road. Now think of Joseph on the other hand. Joseph was snatched away at a fairly early age, Moses still earlier, and exposed to all the evil influences of pagan Egypt, and both of them stood true to God. Isn't it wonderful? There again, is the mystery of human choice.

My, my, if we don't get to any of the other questions, I am glad for this one. One other thing I must say, before I leave this one. You would think, to hear some rumors that fly about, that all parents who have ever had children, of whatever age here at Wildwood, have lost them to the Lord and the work. Well, I have been here longer than most any of you, and I know better than that. I can point you to those who are carrying heavy burdens in the Lord's work, who were children on this campus. And I thank God for it. The minority? Yes, yes, the minority. I wish it were the majority, I wish it were all, the loss of even one soul is a calamity, infinitely outweighing the gains and treasures of the work. For the conversion of one soul, we

should tax our resources to their utmost. I will tell you friends, if it is your boy or your girl that is lost, it would make no difference in your heartbreak, if 99 percent of all the others had been saved. Am I correct? Ah, yes, ah yes. But now, we shall not find help in recrimination or in criticism, or kicking the ladder, by which some have risen, we will not do that. Because some people choose to drown in the lake, is no reason for kicking the lifeboat, or throwing away the oars, or the lifeline. Thank God, the lifeboat is here, boys and girls, fathers and mothers, it is here, it is within reach. Nobody needs to be lost, everybody can be saved, it is within reach, but it takes reach, it takes reach.

There is no way to create an environment, in which automatically, all who come within that influence are transported to Heaven. Impossible, it has never happened in 6,000 years. It won't happen in this last tragic hour, but thank God, there will be a few like Joseph, there will be a few like Daniel, there will be a few like Enoch, and you, my friend can be one. You dear boys and girls, can be among them. That is why God brought you here, and you parents, what a solemn responsibility.

Volume 4, page 204. Now I am going to read this exactly as it is written, except instead of reading "Battle Creek" I am going to read "Wildwood." The word Wildwood isn't in here, it is a blank, here in the book, talking about Battle Creek. And remember, I am going to read "Wildwood." And if there were some way of enforcing this sentence that I am going to read, it would help some, but just who would get in, would be another question:

"No family is justified in bringing children to Wildwood who are not under the control of their parents" *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 4, page 204.

Dear parents, would you have gotten in, if that had been strictly and one hundred percent enforced? What does it mean, for children to be under control? Why, it means, that when the father says "get up," they get up and when he says "sit down," they sit down. When mother says "come here," they come, and when she says "go on an errand," they go, without question, without whining, without complaining.

"No family is justified in bringing children to Wildwood who are not under the control of their parents. If their parents have disregarded the word of God in the matter of instructing and training their children, Wildwood is no place for them" *Ibid.*

But do you know, there are people who think Wildwood is just the place, for people like that. "Why sure, I have tried everything else, try Wildwood."

"Let such parents take up the neglected work of restraining and disciplining their children before they venture to impose them upon the church at Wildwood" *Ibid.*

Study that chapter, if you are perplexed over the question that has been put in.

Well, we spent quite a bit of time on that one.

[Third question from audience] “What should you do if you want to surrender to Christ but can’t seem to abdicate from yourself....?” This is either “self-centeredness” or “self-contentedness,” anyway, it is yourself. What should you do, if you want to surrender to Christ, but can’t seem to abdicate from yourself?

Well, let’s see. *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5:

“You will be in constant peril until you understand the true force of the will....Your feelings, your impressions, your emotions, are not to be trusted, for they are not reliable,... But you need not despair. It is for you to yield up your will to the will of Jesus Christ; and as you do this, God will immediately take possession...You cannot control your impulses, your emotions, as you may desire; but you can control the will.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, page 513-514.

Now further down the page, the dear Lord takes the pains to tell us exactly what to say:

“Will you not say, “I will give my will to Jesus, and I will do it now,” and from this moment be wholly on the Lord’s side?”
Ibid.

Listen folks, you decide to give yourself to God, just like you make other decisions in life. You all decided to come here tonight. You decide to give yourself to Jesus, just that way. And to say, I will give my will to Jesus, and I will do it now. That is all you can do, you must do all of that. That is the way, you surrender to Jesus.

Now, on that same page, it tells you the next thing to say, having said this:

“Say, “I will believe, I do believe that God is my helper,” and you will find that you are triumphant in God. By steadfastly keeping the will on the Lord’s side, every emotion will be brought into captivity to the will of Jesus” *Ibid.*

So don’t consult your feelings, just say “I will, I will give my will to Jesus and I will believe He accepts me.”

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