

Out of the Mouths of Babes

#0676

Study given by W.D. Frazee—February 1, 1963

Dear friends, if we will stand up for Jesus, He will stand up for us. Won't He? That is the plan. He asks us to be absolutely and completely for Him in this world as He is for us in the presence of God.

Something happened half way around the world just a few weeks ago. In Moscow, the capitol of Russia, a number of people pushed their way past the Russian guards and came into the American embassy. They begged for asylum. They were people who were trying to escape from Russia. They were Evangelical Christians, men women and children.

The United States Government felt it had to turn them back to the Russians. They left behind at the American embassy a number of documents including letters written by children to their parents. If the government in Russia finds that children are being educated in religion in a way the government does not wish, the government has a ready remedy for that. It takes the children away from the parents.

Some of you saw in the newspapers a few months ago a report from South Russia where some Seventh-day Adventist children had been taken away from their parents because the parents were not sending them to the public school on Saturday. The government said they would be put where they would be in school every day. These children I am telling you about now had been taken away from their homes and put into government boarding homes.

One of them is a twelve year old girl. This is what she wrote to her father:

"Dear Papa, When I feel sad and bitter I write to you and sing songs. When we go to eat, everybody stands around me and will not let me say grace. I tell them I will not eat until I ask God's blessing" *News Week*, January 28, 1963.

This same little girl, writing to her mother said:

"Mama, the director shouts at us. The deeper the grief the closer we are to God. Pray that we stand firm" *Ibid*.

This little twelve year old girl has a sister just eight years old. She wrote a letter to her parents. She said:

"I cry at night. The boys here beat me. But don't worry. God still keeps us" *Ibid*.

A little boy seven years old wrote:

“Mama, the boys here beat me, but I bear everything.
Mama, I beg them to let me go home, but they will not”
Ibid.

What do you suppose I was thinking about as I read that? Why do you suppose I brought this here? What are the thoughts that run through your mind? Parents and children, as you listen to those experiences, what do you think about? I tell you, there are some times ahead of the boys and girls and young men and young women who are here that we would do well to think about. The servant of the Lord wrote:

“Parents, believing parents, your children will have to fight decisive battles for the Lord in the day of conflict” *Child Guidance*, page 492.

My text this evening is Psalm 8:2:

“Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightiest still the enemy and the avenger.”

When men think of strength they do not usually think of children. Especially little children. But God's ways are often different from man's ways. His thoughts are often found to be high above the thoughts of men. God is going to work a work in our day that but few anticipate. He is going to take some children and youth down here at the end of this world's history and surprise the great men of this earth.

Those children and young people are in training now. Although they are going to witness as youth and as children, that does not mean they are going to witness untrained or unprepared. Far from it. Instead of doing their work without training, they are going to have special training, and they will have to have it earlier and more intensive than might seem to be necessary in ordinary times. So it is written that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth (Psalm 144:12).

The idea is that childhood and youth is the light time, the frivolous time, the giddy time, the unsteady and unsettled time. It is the time to run around and have what is called a good time. Conversely, adult life is supposed to be the time when people settle down and become steady and dependable and trustworthy and responsible. But when the great crisis breaks upon us it is going to find some youth who are already prepared to stand as stiffly as any adult. It is going to find some children who will surprise and amaze the greatest men of this world.

Believing parents, your children must fight decisive battles for God in the coming conflict. In a sense, the whole Bible focuses on the last hour, the crisis hour when all the world is siding with Satan who is massed against and attacks the church of God standing with Michael and His angels.

That is the reason we have those hero stories. Joseph who stood for God when he was just seventeen. Daniel who met the greatest test of his life when he was just eighteen. That little maid who was carried captive from Israel over into Syria. We do not know her age. We do not know her name. But as a slave, she witnessed for God in the home of the captain in the army of Syria. At the risk of her life Esther stood up, and under God saved her nation and race. John the Baptist dared to witness for God even in the face of a king that was rebuked by his straight testimony. All of these in their youth and their teens bore the banner of victory on the side of God.

There are young people today who will follow in their train. I repeat, those stories in the Bible are meant to inspire the children and youth of today with the assurance that by the grace of God they can do it too. Nearly all of those who I have mentioned found it necessary to witness for God alone, separated from the help and encouragement and instruction of their parents or anyone else who might help them. Who encouraged Joseph on that long trek to Egypt? Who came around and gave him words of cheer as he stood true in Potiphar's house day after day, year after year? Nobody but the unseen angels.

All that Joseph ever got from parents and teachers he got before he was eighteen. Not a line after that. Not a letter. Not a prayer. Nothing. All he got for God he got before he was eighteen. Thank God that was enough. He got enough in his soul that he kept building and building on it. He was true.

All that Daniel got from parents and teachers he got before he was eighteen. Think of those days doubtless walking chained to fellow captives over the hot desert sand, finally arriving at Babylon. Will he stand or will he conform? Will he be different at the risk of ridicule and persecution and the risk of his life? Will he stand or compromise? Will he wilt? Will he go along? Thank God he stood. And three other men said they would too.

Dear children and young people, it is a wonderful thing to have settled in your heart that it is possible for you to get enough right now to make you ready for the crisis hour that may come tomorrow. Dear parents and teachers, you and I must be so fully settled in the truth that it is possible for us to teach our children and youth that they can do valiant service for God in their childhood and youth as soldiers in the army of God.

Stand up for Jesus ye soldiers of the cross. Will we do it? Will you children and young people do it? I can tell you this, dear friends, the child of today shows the man of tomorrow. The example of faithfulness that Joseph gave in Egypt he had been given in his father's house. The loyalty Daniel showed down in Babylon he had given evidence of in Jerusalem.

“And many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings” *Education*, page 262.

It is going to happen. "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightiest still the enemy and the avenger." It is going to thrill the universe to see the children of this movement stand for God when all the world is against them.

I wish everybody was going to stand. Everybody could. Full provision has been made, but everybody will not. We are told:

"To stand in the defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason" *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 136.

We will never be in the majority. We will be in the minority as far as this world is concerned if we are on God's side.

Character is not developed in a crisis. It is only revealed in a crisis. Joseph's character was not made that day at Dothan and on the road to Egypt, but it showed up then. It was made in the early years in his father's tent as he stood true to God when his older brothers were doing wrong. Instead of uniting with them he tried to reason with them. When they would not listen, he reported their evil doings to his father. What did he get because of that? He got persecution and hatred.

I wonder if there is some child or young person here brave enough to do that. Boys and girls, young men and women, very often you see others breaking some rule of the home or school. Unless you understand this principle you will do one of two things. You will either enter into the law breaking, glad for the chance of having that kind of thrill, or else you will play neutral. You wouldn't do it because you know it is wrong, but neither would you get yourself into trouble by standing up against that wicked thing. In playing neutral, whether you know it or not, you are preparing yourself to go down in the awful crisis just ahead.

Why not make up your mind that you are going to be like Joseph? When you see a friend or a classmate or a fellow student doing the wrong thing, in earnest prayer try to help that student see the beauty of obedience and the joy of loyalty. If you can't succeed, report the matter to someone who can do something about it.

You say you would not tattle. Do you know what holds together the gangs of New York city? It is that very principle. Don't squeal. And what a code of honor many children and youth have. God help us to send that code back where it belongs to the gangland of the great cities. It does not belong on any campus of one of God's institutions. It does not belong in any Christian home. If you cannot help the young man or young woman that is going down the slippery road to hell, why not in the name of Jesus, and for the sake of the person you are trying to help, summon some help? Why not get reinforcements and make an all out effort to stop the sin and save the sinner?

Ah, you say, I am afraid I would spoil my influence with Harry or Alice if I would do anything like that.

You are spoiling your influence if you either unite with them in breaking the law, or by what you call being neutral. You give the impression you would not do what they are doing, but you will not get in their way. They can count on you. You will not squeal on them.

That will never make a Job. It will never make a Daniel. It will never make an Esther. It will never make a little girl over in Russia who writes of the beatings children are receiving for trying to say grace before their meals. No. It will never make a hero, because it is born of cowardice.

As I was thinking about what we need in order to live out what we are studying, one of the words that was forcibly impressed on my heart was brave. Joseph was brave when he faced his older brothers and pled with them not to keep on with their wickedness. When he could not get any results with them he went to his father and told him there were some things he ought to know. He told his father that Gad and Asher and Issachar and some of the other brothers were doing some things that are not right. He had tried to help them, but they will not listen. Maybe they will listen to their father.

That took bravery. And don't think they did not remind him of it the day they saw him coming to Dothan. Don't think they did not taunt him with it when they threw him in the pit. They were angry because that boy had the courage to report their evil deeds to their father. But of such stuff are heroes made.

If you have found an easier way, know it is not God's way. You may think it wise to keep yourself out of trouble and keep the culprit out of trouble. Like Ruben you may think that by and by you will come around and pull someone out of the pit, but like Ruben you may find your opportunity gone forever. Oh, that God may help young men and women to have done with all such.

Be true. Be open hearted with the people you ought to be open hearted with. Be open hearted with your parents, your guardians, your teachers, those who have a burden for your soul.

Occasionally there is some faculty member or some parent who does not understand this. They smile indulgently on the disobedience of students. I warn you, you are contributing to the failure of children and youth as God is trying to prepare them for the crisis hour just ahead. Do not think that your weak-kneed, sentimental catering to their fancies is going to get them ready for the battle. It is not so. With softness you are getting them ready for defeat.

It is written in the book of Psalms, "Thou hast shown thy people hard things." Too many people are running things through the blender so the spiritual teeth get nothing to chew, and all you have to do is drink it down. We need some hard things. Our young people need some hard things. Our children need some hard things.

One of the hardest things to learn is the lesson of obedience, when to obey means to do the thing we do not like to do. Jesus learned obedience by the things

He suffered (Hebrews 5:8). Do not think your children and youth are going to learn obedience in a less painful way than Jesus learned it.

Too many parents and teachers today are caught in the philosophy of modern age which seeks to make everything fun. Arithmetic is fun. Grammar is fun. Geography is fun. I suppose doing the dishes and digging the ditch is fun. But I wonder if we will look to where God is trying to show us some hard things.

Don't misunderstand me. There is a great deal of pleasure in doing what God says. There is a great deal of joy in the way of obedience. In fact, it is the only true joy. But it isn't what is meant by the world when the world says fun. It is not the froth and foam of mirth and folly.

It is in an entirely different article. It is a deep-seated satisfaction in knowing that we have done right and done what is required of us. It is a joy that all the fun and folly in this world cannot compare with.

Do you know where we learn these lessons boys and girls? We learn them the way Jesus learned them. From day to day on the hills of Nazareth Jesus was looking for opportunities to be alone with His heavenly Father that He might in the study of the Word and in prayer gather the strength that would make Him able to face the temptations which Satan was continually urging upon Him.

He had hard things. He had a hard life. He lived in a home with older step-brothers and step-sisters, and not a one of them was trying to help Him spiritually. Not a one of them did help Him spiritually. They took advantage of Him. They opposed Him. They persecuted Him, even when He was little. But day by day Jesus was alone with His Father asking God to help Him to be true, to be brave, to be loyal, and to be loving and unselfish.

We are told that every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did, and get help as Jesus did. I will read for you a matchless statement. Listen:

“It was in hours in solitary prayer that Jesus in His earthly life received wisdom and power. Let the youth follow His example in finding at dawn and twilight a quiet season for communion with their Father in heaven” *Education*, page 259.

Let us find these quiet times alone with Jesus as we get down on our knees and talk while He listens, and listen while He talks. There is no other way to build these characters. There is no other way to live this life. Dear parents, unless your children learn these lessons, they will fail in their final examinations. Children, unless you pass the daily test, the final test will find you unprepared. Oh, I want every one of you to pass. I want you to be like Joseph. I want you to be like that little maid who was carried off to Syria. Perhaps sooner than you think some of you are going to be separated from home and kindred. All alone you must witness for God. I like this encouraging statement:

“As Jesus in the temple solved the mysteries which priests and rulers had not discerned, so in the closing work of this earth children who have been rightly educated will in their simplicity speak words which will be an astonishment to men who now talk of ‘higher education.’ As the children sang in the temple courts, ‘Hosanna; blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,’ so in these last days children’s voices will be raised to give the last message of warning to a perishing world” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 202.

That scene is taken from the day Jesus came from the Mount of Olives riding the colt. With the children singing His praises He passed into Jerusalem and went into the temple. There He cleansed the temple, and the children filled the temple courts with songs of praise as He carried on His medical missionary work.

There were some who opposed it. The chief priests and scribes were displeased. “And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?” Matthew 21:16.

Down here today Jesus is going to have some people and children in whom He reveals His strength and His praise. They are going to be hard against sin. They are going to be strong as steel, but their hearts are going to be filled with the joy of praise to God. They are going to go through these trials not in a mournful, depressed, or dejected way. They are going to go through as Daniel and Esther did, triumphant in God.

Dear parents, your boy can be one of them. Your girl can be among them. Children and youth, your names are on the list of candidates. Many are called but few chosen.

Shall we learn to be brave? Shall we learn to be true and loyal? Shall we learn to be obedient. Shall we learn to take time every day to be alone with God no matter what else we miss? Shall we learn to win souls, taking an interest in others instead of thinking of ourselves? When I was thinking of these things a very practical reference came to my mind. Listen carefully.

“The young are often urged to do duty, to speak or pray in meeting; urged to die to pride. Every step they are urged. Such religion is worth nothing. Let the carnal heart be changed, and it will not be such drudgery... to serve God. All that love of dress and pride of appearance will be gone. The time that you spend standing before the glass preparing the hair to please the eye should be devoted to prayer and searching of heart. There will be no place for outward adornment in the sanctified heart” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, page 162.

That was written about a hundred years ago. Those who were going to follow Jesus need to spend less time with hair and more time with prayer. Think it over.

One says, I think I ought to look neat.

“For Christ's sake, whose witness we are, we should seek to make the best of our appearance.” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, page 96.

Carry this reference home. You and Jesus decide what it means. You and I didn't write it, and you and I can't change it, but we can meditate on it and pray about it. I long to see some children and young people who look like they are getting ready for the battle instead of ready for the parade.

Precious Lord, we pray that Thou wilt help every boy here to have an experience in standing like Joseph and Daniel stood. We pray Thou wilt help every girl here to have an experience like that little captive maid that went to Syria. Soon we shall be scattered over this world. Many of us, young and old, each one having to stand alone. Help us each one to get an experience all alone with Thee every day, dear Father.

May we catch the glorious triumphant challenge of the host of God as they march up the battlements of sin and take the heights for God in this last battle. And may that call spoil every selfish thought and every indulgent habit and every personal whim and fancy. May there stir within us the determination to be all out for God, and to do it now.

Oh, help us to think of what Jesus gave for us that we may give everything for Him. May the thought of His love poured out on Calvary so melt our hearts that we shall have done with compromise and every low, underhanded, neutral, Laodicean attitude. May we enter in with Jesus and be witnesses for Him. We ask it in His dear name. Amen.

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