

Medical Missionary Work 3 of 3

#0250

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

The second Chronicle, the 25th chapter, we have a very interesting story. You know, the Bible says that what things soever were written afore time, were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

In this 25th chapter of 2 Chronicles, we read about the experience of Amaziah. In the 5th verse, he gathered all Judah together, and he had 300,000 choice men able to go forth to war. Then beside that, he hired 100,000 mighty men of valor out of Israel for 100 talents of silver. Now notice, he had 300,000, he hired from the neighbor, apostate Israel, 100,000 more for 100 talents of silver.

The seventh verse:

“But there came a man of God to him, saying, O king, let not the army of Israel go with thee; for the LORD is not with Israel, to wit, with all the children of Ephraim. But if thou wilt go, do it; be strong for the battle: God shall make thee fall before the enemy: for God hath power to help, and to cast down. And Amaziah said to the man of God, But what shall we do for the hundred talents which I have given to the army of Israel? And the man of God answered, The LORD is able to give thee much more than this” 2 Chronicles 25:7–9.

There are several lessons that throng in upon us as we read this. First, he should have asked counsel of God, when? Before. Second, it isn't a good thing to confederate, not only with the world, but even with those who bear the name of the people of God, when because of their apostasy, the Lord is not with them. We need a great deal of discernment to know how to apply this in a way that is not bigoted and narrow on the one hand, or too broad on the other. The third thing we notice here is that even when we have gotten into a hard situation, thank God, we can back out. Now we need that.

Do you know why people that build cars put a reverse gear in the car? There are times when the only way out is to back out. Can you back out? Oh, a leader should never back out? Well, Amaziah was the leader. But the Spirit of prophecy said, Amaziah, you'd better back out of this.

“Oh,” but he said, “Look at all the money we've already invested.”

Yes, the prophet said, I know about that. But the Lord is able to give you much more than this.

It pays to listen to the Spirit of prophecy even when it means to back up and back out. Right?

You'll notice that the result of it was that the ones that were not allowed to go, their anger was greatly kindled. They didn't like it at all. At any rate, God blessed, and he went ahead with the program as God had planned.

Now, this morning, I'd like to have us think for a little about this matter of following the Lord in every detail.

While we're here in 2 Chronicles, let's go to the 20th chapter and the 20th verse. Here is another wonderful story. This was when Moab-Edom and Ammon came against Judah, and Jehoshaphat sought the Lord earnestly, and the Lord heard him. He told him to put singers before the army as they sent out. The last part of the 20th verse, Jehoshaphat said:

“...Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem;
Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established;
believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper” 2 Chronicles 20:20.

How does prosperity come? Listening to the prophet. And God has given us, in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, so much precious counsel. This is what He wants us to study.

I'm so glad for this book *Medical Ministry*, aren't you?

“I am instructed to say” *Medical Ministry*, page 61.

What does she mean, “I am instructed to say?” This isn't some idea that popped into her head.

“I am instructed to say that in our educational work there is to be no compromise in order to meet the world's standards. God's commandment keeping people are not to unite with the world to carry various lines of work according to worldly plans and worldly wisdom. Our people are now being tested as to whether they will obtain their wisdom from the greatest Teacher the world ever know, or seek to the god of Ekron. Let us determine that we shall not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God, and who will not harken to His commandments...”

“There is danger in attaching themselves to worldly institutions, and working under the ministrations of worldly physicians” *Ibid.*, page 62.

This is why we have a total Seventh-day Adventist staff. That's right; this is it. And there's danger. Have we reached the time when literally thousands of people are not afraid of this danger? Oh, yes. Scores of institutions, where the world and

the church are all mixed up. We've come to a time when it's to weep about, when it's considered a wonderful goal to have a certain *percentage* of the total staff to be Seventh-day Adventist. The objective of a *total* Seventh-day Adventist staff has long been surrendered as impractical and impossible.

But now, dear ones, let me ask you something; you will all agree in the answer to this: Is merely having the name on the church book the goal? What is the *reason* for having a total Seventh-day Adventist staff? Isn't it so that everyone is a living, vibrant Christian capable of receiving from Jesus and passing on to the patient and the student? Is that it? Yes. And you notice in what we read in 2 Chronicles, chapter 25, that God did not want even the children of Ephraim to go with that army of Judah. They had their golden calves that they were worshipping. And I want to tell you something, friends: There are too many members of the remnant church, and too many institutions of the remnant church, that are worshipping golden calves. And God says, "Be careful. Don't get into that. Don't *assume* that kind of help is what you need."

Now I'll be frank with you, I don't know all the reasons why our minds are led to this, and I doubt if anybody here does. But I have found by long experience that God often burdens our minds to study something to get us ready for something we're going to meet a few minutes later or days or weeks later. And the best time to prevent an accident is before it happens. If you and I will study the Spirit of Prophecy, and be *afraid* of worldly education and worldly institutions and worldly physicians and worldly educators in any line; God wants to make this little place truly a center in which light will radiate in many directions. I want to measure up, don't you? I'm sorry that I've been so slow.

Now you take in this matter of equipment. My mind was led yesterday to look up something in a little book that Elder Burden got out in Loma Linda back before most of us here were born; printed in their little press. This is called the *Medical Evangelistic Library*. There were several numbers of this, this tiny little booklet, but in it, much of it is quotations from the *Testimonies* that Sister White sent Elder Burden.

I want to read just a little here this morning. Let me say so that I won't be misunderstood: I do not have any specific thing in mind. For one thing, I'm not sufficiently acquainted with all the equipment that we have to be a judge. Number 2, I'm not sufficiently knowledgeable to know what we need and what is most important. So I'm not in any way sitting on the judgment seat when I read this. But having said that let me say, I believe the reason the Lord gave these warnings is because somewhere we need them somewhere along the line.

Did you ever have a corn on your foot, and somebody happens to run against it? How do you feel? You feel sore. Why is it? Well, there are two reasons: One is somebody ran his foot against your foot, but the basic reason is because you have a corn. And if, when we listen to the words of the Spirit of Prophecy, we feel the slightest irritation inwardly, we can well wonder whether or not we have a *corn*. Do you get my thought? Our vision should be such that every ray of light is a joy to us.

So, with this in mind I read. Now, this was written back in 1906, when they were just starting Loma Linda:

“For several days I thought of writing to you. I may have written to you regarding the equipment of your treatment rooms, but fearing that I have not, I will come right to the point. When we were at the Paradise Sanitarium we were conducted through the new treatment rooms. One room was elaborately fitted up with electrical appliances for giving the patients treatment. That night I was instructed that some connected with the institution were introducing things for the treatment of the sick that were not safe. One was conversing with the doctors, and with great earnestness was saying, ‘Never, never carry out your wonderful plans.’ There have been various mechanical devices brought into the treatment rooms that are expensive. Several things have been mentioned that have been brought into the sanitarium which were not necessary. The amount of money which some of these machines cost, and the salary which much be paid to the one who operates them, should be taken into consideration” *Medical Evangelistic Library*, Number 5, page 18.

I’m reading about a treatment room. I’m trusting the Holy Spirit will apply it to all our work—to our printing work, our tape recording work, and to every phase of our operation. I know what it means to farm on this place when there was no mechanical equipment of any kind. Many of these fields I’ve plowed again and again with a mule. And hundreds of these roads I’ve gone up and down with a hoe. I’ve seen many students, many of them, in the cornfield together hoeing corn. Rotor tiller? No. Tractor? No. Mule power and man power? Yes. And we raised quite a bit of food.

I’d like to have us think then of our total program. Don’t misunderstand me. I don’t mean that if I was a dictator, I’d banish all the mechanical equipment. That isn’t what I’m getting at.

There are three things we want to keep in mind: First, we are preparing students to work right up to the close of probation. Second, all these mechanical things cost money that has to be earned somewhere. Expensive equipment, whether in the print shop, the tape recording, the farm, the treatment rooms, our medical facility, all that costs money. It costs money. Third, the more sophisticated our equipment, the more we narrow down the number of people who can use it. How many people can drive a tractor? It isn’t safe to turn everybody loose with a tractor. Almost anybody can be turned loose with a hoe or a spade. Do you see what I mean? This is very important.

Now, there’s another reason for all of this. The simpler our methods (Volume 7, page 215), the more we will accomplish. God delights to use simple methods in the treatment of the sick and in all we do because that way, He gets the glory. He gets the glory.

So, Sister White continuing writing to Elder Burden:

“Now I am certain that great care should be taken in purchasing electrical instruments and costly mechanical fixtures. Move slowly, Brother Burden, and do not trust to men who suppose they understand what is essential, and who launch out in spending money for many things that require experts to handle them” *Ibid.*

Someone has told, facetiously, of a young mother who added this labor-saving, time-saving device, and finally she had such a bunch of them. Somebody asked how she was getting along. She said fine, except that she would have to go to work to pay the money for the maintenance men to keep them all operating. We smile at that, but people that have to pay the bills don't smile. And maintenance of all these gadgets in the homes and the institution, it takes a lot of money, and it will take more as time goes on.

We've come to the jet age, the computer age, but God's work is going to be finished in another direction—the utmost simplicity. I read on:

“Several times I have been instructed that much of the elaborate costly machinery used in giving treatments did not help in the work as much as is supposed. With it we do not get so good results as with the simple appliances we used in our earlier experience. The application of water in various simple ways is a great blessing. I shall have more to say about these matters later, but I wish now to say that all patients should keep out of doors as much as possible. Many will be benefited by sleeping in the open air. [This was in Southern California.] Keep the patients out of doors as much as possible, and give them cheering, happy talks in the parlor with simple reading and Bible lessons, easy to be understood, which will be an encouragement to the soul. Talk on health reform, and do not you, my brother, become a burden-bearer in so many lines that you cannot teach the simple lessons of health reform. Those who go from the sanitarium should go so well instructed that they can teach others the methods of treating their families. There is danger of spending far too much money on machinery and appliances which the patients can never use in their home lessons” *Ibid.*

Now here is a pretty fine strainer to put this through. Let me re-word it to say the lesson I get from it. The lesson I get is the more we can use the equipment that the patient can use when he goes home, the nearer we're reaching this objective. Is that right? Thank the Lord, friends. This applies all along the line. When we think of our students going out here, we want in our medical work, in our agriculture work, and in every phase of our program as far as possible, to use equipment which people can use in West Virginia, in Colorado, in Canada, in Zambia, in India, in Texas. Am I correct? Yes. Now, don't misunderstand me, I don't want to be an

extremist and I don't want anybody here to, but I'll tell you honestly, I don't think we're very close to that ditch. I think our human tendency and the influence of the education which we've received, is to get us too close to the other ditch that this is warning against. So, there is danger of spending far too much money on machinery and appliances that the patients can never use in their home lessons.

“They should rather be taught how to regulate the diet so that the living machinery of the whole being will work in harmony” *Ibid.*

You'll be interested in the next sentence; this is 1906:

“Let them become intelligent in regard to the importance of laying aside corsets and shortening their skirts. Such lessons will be to the women of more value than they can estimate” *Ibid.*

May I repeat, I have no particular thing as a target? There's no particular piece of equipment in any phase of our work that I'm hitting at. First, I'm not acquainted enough with the equipment. Second, I'm not knowledgeable enough to know what we need and what we don't need. But the Holy Spirit will help us all as leaders here this morning to get a renewed vision of the beauty of simplicity, and the importance of training our students in methods which they can use in the jungles of Central America, in Africa, and in Appalachia, as well as being able to meet the sophisticated patients of the upper strata that we get here from time to time.

Now I'd like to go to another experience here in the Old Testament. This one's about Rehoboam. 1 Kings 12. You remember that because of the apostasy of Solomon, things went from bad to worse in the total kingdom of Israel, and the Lord had to allow the kingdom to be divided at the time of the death of Solomon. The precipitating cause of this was the arrogant nature of the young king, Rehoboam, as he took the throne. When the ten tribes revolted, Rehoboam assembled all the army to go up and fight and bring back the ten tribes.

“...the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the LORD, and returned to depart, according to the word of the LORD”
1 Kings 12:22–24.

Here's another case where the whole army was assembled ready to go out and fight, and one man, a prophet, not the king, not a priest, stood up, and the king and his counselors and the whole army stopped their whole plans. With all their apostasy, sometimes they showed quite a bit of respect for the Spirit of prophecy. The Lord help us to do as well.

What was the counsel? *Don't fight against your brethren.* One of the things I thank the Lord for in the development and progress of the work at Wildwood is that God has again and again impressed our hearts with this lesson of not fighting our brethren. There have been times when reports have been circulated that were seemingly damaging to the work here. We could have gotten out what the government calls a white paper and presented our case, and documented, and cleared ourselves of the charges. But while it might have stopped certain rumors, it would have put us in the position of seeming to *attack* others in the effort to defend ourselves. This is the way more than one offshoot has started. Thank God, He has kept Wildwood from going that route.

Now, dear ones, we're in a moment of favored attitude. There are many people who used to raise their eyebrows when they heard the name Wildwood, who now lift their hearts in thanksgiving. But as always, in the moment of prosperity, there lurks great danger. One of the greatest blessings God wants us to cherish is the lesson of unity, respect for and love for the church and its leaders, respect for and love for our fellow workers on this campus, and the leadership here in various lines, and respect for and love for our fellow workers scattered over the country and over the world as represented in these maps. We are not divided, all one body we. And as Paul says, using the illustration from physiology in 1 Corinthians, if one member suffers, what about it? We all suffer. I pray that God will give us all in our deepest hearts, a great love His people.

The world has its motivation. The world deliberately trades upon the motivation of selfishness of competition. An enterprising sales manager in the world will say to his staff, "Now, we're going to give a prize to the salesman who sells the most this Chevrolets this month." So they all work to do what? To get the *most*. But if you and I are salesmen on that team, and I see *you* talking to one of my customers, how do I feel? "Don't bother that fellow, he's mine. I'm about to close a deal on him." Do you see what I mean? Everything remotely like this must be emptied out of our hearts. Let God work through whom He will.

Somebody says, "But the brethren have made me responsible for a certain institution, or a certain department of that institution." Indeed. What for? Not to exploit anybody. Not to build up yourself at the expense of others. If you and I are leaders, we are to be leaders in love—leaders in generosity.

But what shall I do for the hundred talents of silver that I've expended? How was it we read in that opening passage? The Lord is able to give you much more than this.

I share an interesting statement, here the prophet says:

"There is a sentiment among our people opposed by some, it is true, but held by many that each one connected with God's service may be sharp, keen, and designing in order to make the best possible showing, indicating that his line of work is a success. Those who continue to hold to this idea will be bitterly disappointed when at the judgment they find that they have no place in the kingdom of God. False

principles will never prevail in heaven, and not one thread of selfishness is to be brought into any part of God's service in His work upon the earth" *Manuscript 96*, 1902.

We are to be shrewd managers, brethren, whether in the hospital, or the nutrition's center, or the press, the tape recordings, or in our home. We are to be shrewd managers, but that shrewdness—don't miss it—is to be exercised in saving that which would be wasted rather than whittling something off of someone else to build up my department, my phase of the work, my institution. Do you see the difference? This is the difference between Heaven and this earth. This is it.

I'm to be careful, never wasting a nickel. But when I see an opportunity to advantage myself personally, or my department, at the expense of some other person and his department, I am to lean in which direction? The other party.

That's a fact. This is the principle. There are many statements on this in the Spirit of Prophecy. And this is foundational in our total medical missionary program. The very essence of true medical missionary work is love, and love is not selfish.

So let's be very careful in all our departments to save, but never at the expense of our brethren. When we have opportunities where we can lean a little this way or that way, let's lean in the direction of generosity.

What about the 100 talents of silver? God is able to give you much more than this, much more. Oh, yes.

Sister White tells about a lady over in Australia that embraced the truth. She needed help, and she went as a patient, and then finally came and stayed with Sister White. Sister White took her into her home without any charge because the dear woman needed it.

In writing about this, Sister White says, "For years I have had these things presented before me, and I cannot forebear. Ten thousand times more prosperity will rest upon families and institutions who will work on these principles, and thus represent the character of Christ."

So, our emphasis this morning is on two great principles: One is simplicity, the other is love, unity and generosity. Simplicity and love.

[Testimony service]

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