

Survival 11 of 14

The Home—Parents and Children

#0435

Study Given by W. D. Frazee

I invite your attention to Luke 21. This 21st chapter of Luke is one of the great chapters on survival. We've already drawn from a number of its verses as texts on various aspects of this great subject of how to survive the great time of trouble that's ahead, and leave this world alive instead of being left on it dead. The 21st chapter of Luke, you remember, is largely taken up with the words that Jesus spoke to His disciples on the Mount of Olives. Matthew tells it in the 24th chapter of his Gospel. Luke has written it in the 21st chapter of his Gospel.

Last Friday night, we were studying verses 17 and 18 especially. This evening I would have you note the 16th verse:

“And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death” Luke 21:16.

In the great persecution that came upon the early church, and later the church in the wilderness during the Dark Ages, these words were fulfilled again and again. But they have a special application down here in the closing time of trouble. I'd like to have you notice the 10th chapter of Matthew for a parallel statement of Jesus concerning the persecution which those who will survive the wreck of the world must go through:

“And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endures to the end shall be saved” Matthew 10:21–22.

Here are the survivors, those who go through all this time of betrayal, persecution, and even death for Jesus' sake, they will survive this wreck of a world and be with Jesus in the glory land forever.

But I would have you notice the particular statement about the breakup of the home.

“...the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death” Matthew 10:21.

Hard to imagine, isn't it? But that's what Jesus predicts. And these words have been literally fulfilled in recent years in certain parts of the world.

In one of the great world divisions of our work, the enemy has caused an antichristian power to take over in a great way. One of our dear doctors and his wife were brought before a great audience, and there they were put on trial. Their little children of 10 and 12 years old were brought in to witness against them. Those children they stood up there before their parents and before that great audience and said, "Our father and mother are guilty. They deserve to die." They claimed that they had been agents of a foreign power. It was all a lie, but nevertheless there stood those little children stood with the blood-thirsty, satanic spirit of the unseen enemy, manifest in their faces, their words, their actions.

I want to tell you, my dear friends, it is no longer true that we must wait until people grow up and get old in order to see what the harvest is. Have you ever noticed in the autumn days, when the frost is nearing, that even little plants go to seed quickly? We are in the closing hours of harvest time, and every plant is going to seed. Children today are either going to be old, mature Christians, or they're going to be old, mature sinners before Jesus comes. I'm talking about those, of course, are old enough to have reached the age of accountability; I'm not talking about babies in the cradle.

The world about us today is filled with all kinds of evidence that this is so. I shall not weary, or bore you, or make you sick with the awful recital of what is happening today out in the world around us. We're all too familiar with it. My point is, the Bible predicts this very time, and it tells you and me how to have an experience of survival, not only individually but our families together. This is what I want to study with you tonight, and tomorrow night, is the survival of the Christian home in these closing hours of earth's history, when the world is breaking up, and all ties of the home will be dissolved, as hate and selfishness take over.

Turn to another prophecy dealing with our times in 2 Timothy. The words of the scripture are very specific, describing the last days.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..."

What is one word that describes loving ones self? Selfish or selfishness—that's it. This is the problem. The last days are perilous because everybody is what? Selfish.

"...covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection..."
2 Timothy 3:1–3.

Now I suppose that there has never been a time in the history of the world since Adam and Eve rebelled in Eden, and Cain killed his brother but that there have been cases of disobedient children. This is a problem that parents have had to deal with for 6,000 years. But there is to come a time, says inspiration, when disobedient children will be so prevalent, when disobedience will be so widespread that it will

constitute what? A sign of the times. And when you see blazoned across the newspaper's headlines of these riots of young people; when you see these pictures of youth entering and trying to take over great universities; when you see these various pictures that show the rebellion of the modern generation, remember it is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. This is evidence that we are witnessing the breakup of civilization. The Judge is at the door. Jesus is about to come. My question is, friends, will your home survive? Will your children survive?

We hear about the generation gap: the gap between the older people and the young people. As I shall show you tonight, this is an invention of the Devil. If you have the least idea that any attention ought to be given to such teaching, and room left for that, listen to the Word of God as we study it tonight, my friends. Listen to the Word of God. Turn to the last page of the Old Testament, Malachi 4. God has not given one Gospel for old people to be saved, and another one for children and young people to be saved by—not at all my friends. Malachi 4, the last words of the Old Testament. The prophet looking down the ages to these last hours makes a prediction and a promise:

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” Malachi 4:5–6.

Ah, my friend, a curse is coming. It's already here: The curse of the breakdown of the home, the breakdown of civilization, the breakdown of authority in church and state because of the breakdown of the home. But God in His tender mercy, His wonderful love He promises to send a message spoken of here as the work of Elijah the prophet. What will he accomplish? He shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers.

I wonder friends, and I trust I shall not be misunderstood; I wonder if there'll be any meetings miles apart or even yards apart when this prophecy is fulfilled? I say to you that one of the great needs of this hour is a message that draws parents and children together into a Christian experience which is built around the family altar. Not with a religious experience in which the young run as clubs and groups by themselves with little regard for parental authority. Oh, no friend, this is not the program.

Dear young people and children hear the Word of God from the Bible tonight, and parents hear it, and do not be misled by this idea that the way for young people to be saved today is to have a lot of fun. Oh, no. The way for young people to be saved today is the way that both young and old have always been saved—Through repentance, sorrow for sin, and faith in the shed blood of Jesus, and an experience which draws us back to harmony with the law of God. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord, and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

Oh my dear parents, you cannot turn this responsibility over to either church or school and wash your hands of it. The church and the school are to be your allies, your aid, but the primary responsibility is with you, dear fathers and mothers. God has promised you the help of the Great Father in Heaven. His father-heart longs for every one of these children, and He will help you, dear parents, to be to your children what He is to you. He promises to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. And oh, the other part of the promise is so sweet, so precious. It says, He will turn the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Dear children and young people, will you let God fulfill this promise in you? Will you let the Holy Spirit turn your hearts to your fathers and mothers? Will you let Jesus put love in your hearts so that you love to obey what father and mother say? So that you have no interest in young companions who seek to draw you away from parental authority?

Ah, my friends, such an experience today would be a real conversion. I tell you, I care not if your children are baptized, baptism will not accomplish this. Don't misunderstand me, baptism is a part of God's plan of salvation, but there are thousands of children these days who have been dipped in the water who know nothing of the experience I'm studying from God's book. They were disobedient before they were baptized. They are disobedient after they're baptized. And we look in vain for the fruit that ought to be born on the Christian tree. Concerning those who shall survive this wreck of a world, it is written:

"Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" Revelation 22:14.

We're told by inspiration that the peace of the ransomed will never be marred by disobedient, unruly children. Children and youth today may stir up all kinds of trouble in this wicked world, but they will never stage a riot on the golden streets of Heaven. They will never spoil a religious service there as from one Sabbath to another, the ransomed come to worship at the feet of Jesus.

If we are to live in the joy of eternal peace there as united families, shall we not let God give us an experience of peace in united families here?

Thousands of parents today have given up the job thinking it's impossible. Thousands have succumbed to the idea that this is a new age, a new time, that there's a new morality. Let me tell you, friends, there's nothing new about it. It's as old as Sodom and Gomorrah, as old as the antediluvian world. The spirit of rebellion against all law, human and divine, had its origin in the heart of Lucifer when he rebelled against the government of God, and he is seeking to infect our own homes, the homes of the remnant.

This promise is for you and me. Elijah has come. If we listen to the prophet, the prophet of God for these latter days, the hearts of parents will be turned to the children, and the hearts of children will be turned to their fathers. But we'll not get

such a spirit looking at TV or listening to the radio unless it be in these rare broadcasts where the message of God for this hour is being sent.

Do you know what a youth director in one of our large junior camps told me as I sat at the table with him at a large junior camp? He said, "Elder Frazee, the young people, the children who come to this junior camp are not far behind the national average of worldly children in looking at TV. He said that we have to spend the first half of the week that they are here at this junior camp in just trying to sober them up and quiet them down from the spirit which has been in their hearts and minds through looking at TV, TV, TV—half a week is gone before we can do much. And most of them at the end of the full week go back to what? What they came from, my friends.

Is that Elijah the prophet? Will that turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to their fathers? No, it is smiting the earth with a curse. God help us to weep between the porch and the altar for ourselves, for our children, and for the families of our neighbors and friends. What do you say, my friends? God help us to do it. All Heaven is waiting to help us.

Now, what does this Elijah the prophet mean? Does it mean that the literal Elijah from back there in the mountains of Gilead is to appear down here? Not at all. Jesus shows clearly that this work was fulfilled; this prophecy was fulfilled first of all in the work of John the Baptist. In these latter days, in the Advent Movement, God has given us an inspired prophet to do this same work of reform that Elijah did back there in the days of Ahab. If we listen to the testimonies of the Spirit of God, we shall come under the influence of the Elijah message.

Here is this book *Ministry of Healing*. This isn't just a book on how to get well if you're sick. It's how to live all the way through. There's a wonderful section in there on the home. Parents, have you read it, studied it? Young people, have you read it, studied it? Study it on your knees for your life. Survivors will find in this book, *Ministry of Healing*, a manual of instruction. And this subject is not left out—how your home can survive.

Then here is this wonderful volume *The Adventist Home*. Wonderful pages full of precious instruction on how to have a successful home instead of a broken home. Then here is this companion volume, *Child Guidance*. Do you have it? Where is it? On your shelf? In your heads? Has it gotten into your hearts and habits?

These are the questions. If we study these inspired volumes: *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*; the book *Education*; the volumes of the *Testimonies for the Church*, every single one of the nine volumes has special counsels to parents and children. Listen friends, we are a rich people. We are a blessed people. But by the same token, we have a great responsibility. If we listen we will hear the voice of Elijah the prophet calling the hearts of parents to their children; calling the hearts of children to their parents. Oh, let us make our family altars more than just a routine, a ritual, a formal time of snatching a few moments to read some prepared reading. Let us as parents and children meet together at the appointed place and time of prayer and study and find God's way of life, what do you say?

Now turn over to Isaiah 8, and I want to show you a brighter picture in these closing hours of human history. Here are some children who are signs of the times, but of a different character. They're not the disobedient, unruly ones of 2 Timothy 3. Here are signs and wonders. Children, you dear boys and girls, and young people today who are here tonight, I hope that you will be among these signs and wonders that I'm going to read about here. And parents, I can wish you nothing greater and more wonderful than you will be able to say what I am going to read, but before I read it, I'm going to get the setting. You'll notice from the 9th verse, it's the time when the people and the nations are associating together. It's the time of the United Nations. It's the time of great confederacies according to the 11th and 12th verses—Men binding themselves in bundles, in labor unions; the churches getting together in the ecumenical movement; nations banding together; all sorts of confederacies. It's the time in the 16th verse when God has sent a special message to put the seal back in His holy law. What is the seal? The Sabbath. It is the time when the people of God in the 17th verse are waiting for what? Waiting for the coming of the Lord. Do you know this time? Ah, this is our hour, our day. Now notice in the midst of these world conditions, and as a part of the great world message putting the seal back in the law among the people who are looking for the coming of Jesus, here the 18th verse:

“Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given
me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD
of hosts, which dwells in mount Zion” Isaiah 8:18.

Yes, here are some children that are sighing. Not by being disobedient, but by being obedient. Not by breaking the law, but having it sealed to their hearts. The 16th verse, isn't that a wonderful promise, a wonderful prophecy? Dear fathers and mothers, will your boy, your girl, be among these wonder children? There won't be very many of them, but there will be enough to demonstrate that God's way of life is good for the last generation as well as the first, that it is good for the boys and girls as well as the fathers and mothers. There will be some children, like John the Baptist, who are different from the young people around them. There will be some children like Jesus in Nazareth, who quote the scripture as the reason why they don't do things in work or play, at home or otherwise like the children around them. They'll be different.

Can your child qualify as a sign, a wonder? An obedient child today is a wonder, isn't he? May I say something to the young people in their teens and twenties? Whether you realize it or not, you have grown up in a generation that knows practically nothing of obedience. If you learned it, you are a rare exception. And do not think that you can go to Heaven merely because you've gotten old enough to assert your way and choose your program. Do not think that you can go to Heaven without learning the lesson of obedience, oh, no.

If your parents, God forgive them, did not teach you these lessons when you were 1 and 2, and 3 and 6, and 8 and 10, and 12 years old, God help you to realize that you must learn them before the great white cloud appears. And if your parents are so weak and sentimental, and not understanding these principles we're studying tonight; that they have let you get by without learning the lessons of obedience, and

still do not require you to be obedient, then ask God to help you to get into some situation where you'll have to learn this lesson. Get down upon your knees and pray to God that He will help you to find an experience, a situation where you are under law, under direction, and learn to love it.

I know that to some the answer will be, "This is a hard saying, who can hear it?" But I'm giving you the Word of God. Do not think that merely because you are old enough for society to recognize you, old enough to vote, old enough to make your own decisions, that this enables you to skip the assignments that God in Heaven gave you when you were little, and you didn't learn. You must learn these lessons. You must listen to Elijah. You must learn to obey. Why do I know this? It is written concerning those who survive:

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus"
Revelation 14:12.

You and I are a part of a movement that believes that no man in this world has the authority to change one letter of that law. Do you agree with me? There's a man over on the Tiber that says he can leave out a whole commandment and change another one. Do you agree with him? Then how dare *you* set aside the Fifth Commandment? It is written, say it with me:

"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God gives thee"
Exodus 20:12.

Turn now to the New Testament comment on this please:

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the First Commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou may live long on the earth" Ephesians 6:1-3.

Notice that honor includes obeying that's what this says, "obey." And as the inspired comment in the book *Patriarch and Prophets* says, in commenting on this Fifth Commandment, that this includes not only respect and obedience to our natural parents, but to those that God has placed over us in the church and in government. The Fifth Commandment is the basis of all authority in this world. If you have any authority as a parent, a teacher, a government agent, a church officer, you get it from the Fifth Commandment. The remnant will be obedient to every commandment of God.

Now friends, this is not something hard. This is truly the easy way. It is the way of the transgressors that is hard. It is the way of rebellion that is difficult. Underlying all of the Ten Commandments are the two great commandments of—love to God and love to fellowmen. We're told in these inspired comments, these volumes, that it is love which underlies all the law of God.

Unless parents are loving, they are not able to represent God to their children. If parents scold, if they fight, if they complain and murmur, if they get angry and lose their tempers, they can never turn the hearts of the children to the fathers. Parents, you and I have a great responsibility in showing the firmness of God to reveal His loving kindness.

It's too bad that so many have the idea that to be loving means to be yielding, to let children and youth have their way. It's also too bad that too many in being firm think they must be stern, hard, mean, and even cruel. God's law of love should be administered in love. It is in Heaven. It can be on earth. If we will seek for love enough to be kind while we're firm, and firm while we're kind, we can get ready some families that will survive.

I want to read you a beautiful little message that the Lord's messenger wrote to those members of a family who had been bereaved; in fact, I want to notice two of them. The first is in *Selected Messages*, Book 2. I read this to show that there's such a thing as the survival of a whole family as a family and that even death doesn't have to spoil it. Here is a message on these two pages written to the sorrowing family on the death of a husband and father. There's a message written to the wife and mother, and a message written to the children. In writing to them, Sister White points them to the pearly gates, the coming of Jesus, and she says to the children:

"Remember that the Lord loves you, and that each one of you can become a member of the family of God. If you are faithful here, when He shall come in the clouds of heaven, you will meet your father, and will be a united family" *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 266.

Then, this is a letter written to a brother, a husband, and father who had lost his wife. In writing to him and to the children, the Lord's messenger says:

"We will pray that you may have influence and success in guiding your little ones, then you, with them, may gain the crown of life, and that in the home above, now being prepared for us, you and your wife and children may be a family joyously, happily reunited, nevermore to be separated" *Ibid.*, page 263.

Isn't that a wonderful concept? Oh, that God may make every family represented here tonight a united family. Can you think of anything greater than you could ask the great Giver for? Won't it be a wonderful thing when the Savior comes parents to be able to look the dear Father in the face and with love and gratitude say to Him, "Behold, I and the children God has given me"?

This is something to live for. This is something that's worth missing everything in this world for, isn't it friends? And we'll need to miss most of what's in this world in order to have this experience. The world is going the other way. The world is going the way of the breakup of civilization, and the breakdown of the home. But I've shown you a better way. It's a steep way. It's a narrow way. It's a rugged way. It's the way of obedience through love. This love must begin in the hearts of

parents. And dear fathers and mothers, where we failed either in requiring obedience or in doing it in a loving way, shall we not get down and ask God to forgive us? Shall we not ask our children to forgive us? Shall we not ask them to unite with us in learning Heaven's way?

Dear children and young people, where we have been disobedient, shall we not ask God to give us a true sorrow for it? Let's ask God to help us to quit thinking it's smart to be rebellious, that it's the thing to be disobedient. Let's be willing to be the signs and wonders of Isaiah 8 instead of the signs of the times in 2 Timothy 3, what do you say?

May we bow our heads? Precious Lord, write on our hearts what we have heard from thy book tonight. Spoil this world for us. Unmask the Devil and his great last campaign to deceive us, with the rebellious spirit he started in Heaven. Give us a love for Thy law, the love for the home, the love for obedience. We ask it in Jesus' name, amen.

Copyright 2021. All rights reserved.

W. D. Frazee Sermons
435 Lifestyle Lane, Wildwood, GA 30757
1-800-WDF-1840 / 706-820-9755
www.WDFsermons.org
support@WDFsermons.org