

Inquire of Me

Q&A Session with Elder Frazee

#0519

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—March 23, 1976

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. And I want you to see one line here in Isaiah 21 verse 12.

What's the word repeated with two syllables?

[Audience] Inquire.

What does that mean? Ask. What punctuation mark do you use for that?

[Audience] Question mark.

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'm 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's 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'm 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're going to get out quite early tonight. But knowing human nature, I know there'll *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'll help me, as fast as anybody gets a question written out if you'll hold up your hands, Steve will pick it up and bring it up here, and we'll start moving. And that'll give the rest of you an opportunity to finish your question. Remember, nobody has to ask anything. It's just a question that's 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 “all” is underlined.

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

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” Luke 14:26–27.

The 33rd verse:

“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple” Luke 14:33.

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

“Thou shalt have no other gods 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 Teachers*, 495:

“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’s 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’m glad somebody put that in because I hear that question occasionally. It’s 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’ll give you a few thoughts.

The power of choice is supreme in every human life. The power of choice is 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. No.

If God had wanted to establish factories where all the product was like the pattern, He could have done it. Detroit does it, and God could have done it. Now, this is not all the answer to your question, but unless what I’ve 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? A 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. No, it didn't prove that. 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 murderer and Abel the first martyr. How come? They were in the same family. They attended the same worship, same vesper services, heard the same chapel talks, and one of them became the first murderer 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 isn't all the answer to this question. Let's bring it a little closer home. One reason we've 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 that 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 administrators and our parents are still not perfect but on the road, we trust.

You know, I sometimes marvel that God lets some people have children. Did you ever wonder about it? Did some of you ever wonder why He let you have them? Yeah. Now, one of His great reasons is that He lets these opportunities and privileges and problems challenge us to seek the Lord.

And I'll tell you this, friends, I've prayed and wept literally with many a parent. And I've wept as a parent. And I know by my own experience and sharing the experience of other parents that some of the heartbreaks 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 who 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'll tell you this, dear friends, and I say this with no thought of being successfully challenged. By and large, the fathers and mothers at Wildwood have more

opportunity to spend time with their children than the average outside the gate, either in the world or the church.

If there's 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, or Chicago, in Texas, or Maine, that have the opportunity for parents and children to be together at meals as often as most of 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 well-meaning parents 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's the answer to overeating 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've had enough bread. You've already had too many varieties, so no more."

That could be helpful. It could even be educational. But probably, very few people would welcome that method, and I'm 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're up against a tremendous job wherever you are on this planet, to try to save your children for God. And dear children, some of *you* are listening to what I'm saying. I'm 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'm glad for this one. And 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've 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, 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 a world...”
Great Controversy, page 21.

“For the conversion of one soul we should tax our resources to the utmost” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6*, page 21.

I'll tell you, friend, if it's *your* boy or *your* girl that's 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'll 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's here. It's within reach. Nobody *needs* to be lost. Everybody *can* be saved. It's 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's never happened in 6,000 years. It won't happen in this last tragic hour. But thank God, there'll be a few like Joseph, there'll be a few like Daniel, there'll be a few like Enoch. And you, my friend, can be one. You dear boys and girls can be among them. That's why God brought you here. And you parents, what a solemn responsibility.

Volume 4, page 204, now I'm going to read this exactly as it's written, except instead of reading “Battle Creek,” I'm going to read “Wildwood.” The word “Wildwood” isn't in here. It's a blank here in the book. It's talking about Battle Creek. And remember, I'm going to read “Wildwood.”

And if there were some way of enforcing this sentence that I'm going to read, it would help some, but just who'd 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 100 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’ve tried everything else. I’ll 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’re 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 your self...” This is either “self-centeredness” or “self-contentedness.” Anyway, it’s yourself. “What should you do if you want to surrender to Christ but can’t seem to abdicate from yourself?”

Well, let’s see, *Volume 5*, page 513:

“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...” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5*, page 513.

Next page, 514:

“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.*

The questioner has asked, “What do you do when you want to surrender to Christ but can’t seem to abdicate from your self-contentedness or self-centeredness?”

Listen folks, you decide to give yourself to God just like you make other decisions in life. You all decided to come here tonight. And 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...” *Ibid.*

...that's *all* you can do, but you must do *all* of that. That's 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.”

[Recording ended in progress]