

# Get a Lawyer

#0746

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 6, 1982

Recently in another place, I was visiting with a friend of mine. And as I heard his problems, there came to me the definite conviction that what we needed to do was to get a lawyer. And that's what I want to study with you about tonight, "Get a Lawyer." There may be somebody else here that needs to get a lawyer.

When does a man need a lawyer? Well, he needs a lawyer when his problems are beyond his ability to handle, and he believes the lawyer can do something for him that he can't do for himself.

For example, suppose you're arrested, whether it's proper or improper, you land in jail. It might be a good thing to get who? A lawyer, that's right. Or suppose that your financial affairs are in such bad shape that it looks like you're going to go bankrupt. It may be that you need a lawyer to help you with that problem.

It might be something more of a happy situation. You may have been left with a large legacy involving a large number of properties, money. And you might need a lawyer to help you handle that legacy. And you will agree with me that the greater the value the more important it is for you to have good legal counsel.

Then, there are men in various levels of responsibility that employ a lawyer merely to advise them to keep them out of trouble. The president of the United States has a man who is his personal legal counsel. And the presidents of great corporations involve that kind of help.

And the man who's legal counsel under those circumstances, he will be asked again and again, "Should I do this or should I do that?"

And his work is to help his client keep out of trouble, instead of waiting until they get sued, or arrested, or otherwise has a problem.

There are those who consider themselves defrauded. Jesus told about a woman who came pleading to the judge and saying, "Give me justice of mine adversary [a paraphrase of Luke 18:3].

Sometimes when a man has been defrauded, he gets a lawyer to represent him and try to get justice. Or he may feel there's cause for libel. In other words, here's a man whose character has been defamed. He may get a lawyer to help him get exoneration, vindication and damages. For all these things, and various other things you can think of, men get lawyers.

Now, why does a man get a lawyer in any or all of these circumstances? Well, first of all, the lawyer knows the law, doesn't he? That's his job is to know the

law. He knows a thousand things about the law that other people might not happen to think of.

Second, he has access to the court. He is accepted to practice before the court.

And third, he has experience. He has knowledge, he has standing or access, he has experience.

Now, how do you use a lawyer? First of all, you have to employ him, you have to secure him. Lawyers don't go around and lasso people and pull them in their offices and say, "I'm going to represent you."

You have to call them up, make an appointment. Sometimes you have to give them a fee in advance. At any rate, you have to secure the lawyer.

Second, and this is very important, you must tell him all the facts. If you withhold some of the facts, he can't do a very good job. You have to tell him the sad facts as well as the glad facts, the bad ones as well as the good ones, the ones that reflect upon you, as well as those that give you a good reputation. You have to tell him *all* the facts if he's going to do a good job.

Third, you have to follow his advice. If you don't want to follow his advice, you've got to let him go and get somebody whose advice you *can* respect and follow. Because if you pay a man to be your lawyer and not follow his advice, it would be like paying for a dinner and then refusing to eat it.

And fourth, and this is so important, leave your case in his hands.

You know, a good lawyer tells his client, and a good client follows it out, that if he's contacted by the opposing party or the opposing lawyer he's to do what? Say nothing, say nothing. Who will do the answering? His lawyer, the attorney. Unless you're prepared to do that, don't look for a lawyer. Be your own.

Now, you know of course, what I'm thinking about in all this, don't you? I'm thinking about Jesus.

Let's turn to 1 John, the second chapter, and the first verse. Brother Cook's going to read it for me:

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" 1 John 2:1.

Now, what's the word in here that means lawyer? "Advocate." Is it used today? Oh, yes. The word "lawyer," of course, suggests somebody who's acquainted with works with the law. The word "advocate" comes from words meaning to speak for. An advocate is one who speaks for us. Is Jesus our Advocate, our Representative? Oh, I thank the Lord for this, don't you? So Who's my lawyer? Who's your lawyer? Jesus. Thank the Lord.

Let's think of some more situations that we might meet along the way. Do we have a court to meet that we've been, as it were, arrested, indicted, and are we bound over to the court? We'll either have to get a good lawyer, friends, or face the consequences. But thank God, Jesus is an Attorney Who has never lost a case. Isn't that wonderful? Wonderful.

I was thinking about this matter of representing us in bankruptcy. I've never gone through bankruptcy financially, but friends, we're all bankrupt spiritually, aren't we, with no way to recover. But thank God, we have an attorney that can bring order out of chaos, victory out of defeat, success out of failure, and eternal life out of death. I think that's wonderful, don't you?

And then, I was thinking about this matter of my Lawyer representing me in connection with the legacy. Do you and I have a legacy? Are we heirs of God? I'll tell you, friends, unless we have somebody to represent us that knows what he's after, what he can do for us, and follow His instructions, there's a great enemy that's determined to swindle us out of our inheritance. He's doing it for most of the people of this world. Like Esau, they'll sell their birthright for a mess of pottage. Isn't it too bad? Ah, thank God for a lawyer who can represent us in this matter.

And then, to advise us in various things to and keep us out of trouble. I'm so glad that my Lawyer is interested not just in getting me off the hook when I've failed or just in getting me out of prison. But He's interested in *keeping* me out of prison. In other words, He is a keeping Savior as well as a forgiving Savior.

Does He know the law? Oh, yes, He's the lawgiver.

"There is one Lawgiver, Who is able to save and to destroy..." James 4:12.

Does He have access to the court? Turn and read Hebrews the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter and the 24<sup>th</sup> verse. Brother Cook's going to read that one for me, too.

"For Christ is not entered into the Holy Places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"  
Hebrews 9:24.

What word is used here that's often used in a legal sense? Appear. In fact, in some courts, dear friends, you cannot come yourself. Your attorney must appear in your behalf. If you're there, the attorney must do the speaking for you.

Ah friends, our lips are sealed when we face the Judge of the universe. But there is somebody with wounded hands standing there ready to represent us, to take our names on His lips, to appear for us in the presence of God.

Let's turn over to Daniel the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 9–10. Take a look at the court scene, the supreme court of the universe. The date of Daniel 7:9–10 is October 22, 1844. This is when the Father and the Son moved into the Most Holy Place for the

work of the investigative judgment. I want you to see the judgment scene as the supreme court of the universe takes up its session.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down...” Daniel 7:9.

That word “cast down” there means “placed.” It doesn’t mean “overthrown.” It means “placed.” Some of the other translations will give it. This is the moving of the thrones from the Holy to the Most Holy.

“...and the Ancient of days did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire” Daniel 7:9.

His what? His wheels. What are wheels for? Moving. All right.

Next verse:

“A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened” Daniel 7:10.

Here we see the legal language, the court scene:

“...The judgment was set, and the books were opened” Daniel 7:10.

Now, look at verses 13–14, here is One, our Advocate, appearing for us:

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” Daniel 7:13–14

Thank God. He longs for His people, His kingdom, to be His. That means He wants you and me with Him. But the sin problem must be settled. In other words, dear friends, let’s face the reality of it. Jesus must do more than get us off the hook, as far as punishment is concerned. He must be able (don’t miss this). He must be able to guarantee to the court that His clients will never embarrass Him or God, His Father, anywhere in this universe. That’s quite a task, isn’t it?

Has anybody that you counted on to represent you right let you down sometimes? Jesus is depending on you and me to represent Him here in this world

while He represents us there. We're in training for the throne. We're in training for that wonderful trip all through the universe of God.

And this is what the investigative judgment is all about. This is what the cleansing of the sanctuary is about—the development of a people who will pass the judgment because their lives have been so changed by the wonderful power of the Gospel that they will not embarrass their attorney anywhere in this universe.

Does He have experience? Oh, yes. Let's turn to Hebrews the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter verses 1–2; then on to the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter. A prophet, you know, is one who represents God to the people, but a priest is one who represents the people to God. He's an advocate, an intercessor, an attorney, if you please.

All right. Brother Cook, if you'll read Hebrews 5 verses 1–2. Notice how His attitude there is toward others:

“For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that He Himself also is compassed with infirmity” Hebrews 5:1–2.

Yes. Did Jesus come and take our infirmities, meet our problems, so that He could be our attorney and recognized as such at the bar of God? Oh, yes. He has experience here on this earth in meeting the sin problems that you and I meet. And bless the Lord, He has access to the supreme court of the universe.

In fact, He's the only attorney that's qualified to practice at that court. It's either Jesus our attorney, or we don't have one.

Now, let's think of those four things where we agreed we need to involve an attorney. The first is to secure an attorney. Have you asked Jesus to be your lawyer? Have you? Now, He wants to be. He's secured the right to practice. But He can't represent you unless you employ Him.

Second, have you told Him all the facts? 1 John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter and the ninth verse, all together:

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”  
1 John 1:9.

Let's not hold back anything, friends. If He's going to do a proper job to represent me, I must tell him all the facts; put my case in His hands.

Third, follow His advice. Shall I do that? Oh, yes. Follow His advice. That's what the Bible is given us for. That's what the beautiful pages of the Spirit of Prophecy are given us for, the testimony of Jesus. He's the faithful and true Witness, so let's follow the advice of our attorney. What do you say?

And then fourth, let's leave our case in His hands. I like the way the messenger to the remnant puts it in *Selected Messages*, Book 2:

"We are not to be anxious about what Christ and God think of us, but about what God thinks of Christ, our Substitute" *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 32.

Isn't that wonderful? Once we put our case in His hands and leave our case in His hands, we're accepted just as much as He's accepted. He has made us accepted in the beloved.

You see, in some of these areas, we are led far beyond any dimensions that any human attorney can lead us. No earthly attorney has paid the ransom price with his own blood for his clients, has he? No. And no earthly attorney has the power to change the nature. Those two things lift Christ as a successful attorney, a successful lawyer. Anything beyond our human ministrations He pays the price Himself. He meets the penalty. And second, He changes the nature of His clients. I think that is wonderful, don't you?

Now, let's turn over to Isaiah the ninth chapter, verses 6–7. See if you discover a word here that's used in a legal sense many times.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace"  
Isaiah 9:6.

What word do you see here that's used often to acknowledge your attorney? "Counselor." Mr. John Smith, Counsellor at Law. Thank God, Jesus Christ is a Wonderful Counselor. He knows the law. He knows you. He knows the Judge. He knows every being in this universe. He is God, the Son of God. He is Man, the Son of man. Oh, what a wonderful Counselor we have. You'd think that everyone would run to employ Him as their attorney.

God help us. How many would like to send Him the word that this is what we desire?

I have a case at court, and court is set,  
How soon my case is called I may not know;  
But from the seat of justice dare not go  
Till sentence has been passed on me;  
And yet although my sins more red than crimson be,  
I have an Advocate Who pleads for me.

I have a case at court, and court is set,  
The Judge supreme is on the judgment seat;  
With trembling low I bow before His feet,  
Convicted by my own proud heart;

And yet will downcast eyes see not the Judge's face?  
My Advocate has never lost a case.

I have a case at court, and court is set,  
My straining ears have caught at last my name;  
Needs not the former charge to tell my shame,  
My heart cannot deny its guilt;  
And yet to hide my filthy garments out of sight,  
My Advocate provides a robe of light.

I have a case at court, and court is set,  
With tears the angel reads the charges there;  
And to the court my Counsel makes His prayer,  
For pardon please, admits my guilt;  
And yet the Judge divine in mercy sets me free,  
My Advocate has born the curse for me.

Thank God, Jesus is my attorney. Is He yours? I have put my case in His hands. Have you put your case in His hands? Let's leave it there.

I want you to see how to face the court without fear:

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him, because He first loved us" John 4:16–19.

The Father's love and the love of the Son has cast out fear that would make us scared of the judgment. Thank God for the Savior's love. And remember, it comes to us as we behold. We love Him because He first loved us.

Does your love for Jesus seem small? It is, but it is His love for you that you are hoping for in the judgment.

"Jesus loves me! this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so;  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong."  
*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, #190, first stanza (partial).

There is a very practical application of this. Somebody may have done you wrong. Somebody may have told a lie about you. Somebody may have defrauded you. Somebody may have spoiled your reputation. You had better get a lawyer. You had better not try to handle it yourself. You will get into trouble.

But if you are going to try to get Jesus, quit trying to be the attorney for the defense. Leave it with Him. Leave your case in His hands. He has a thousand ways of which you know nothing to bring you to glory and honor and success.

Lord, we thank Thee with all our hearts tonight for an Attorney who knows the law, who has access to the court, and who has infinite experience. We thank Thee for His record of success, never losing one case that has been put into His hands and left there.

Tonight we are coming with some very definite problems. Different ones have different problems, but Thou dost handle the whole range of problems, little and big, far and wide. Just now, we give to Thee that which is too hard for us. Just now, we leave in Thy hands the keeping of our souls, our reputations, our means, our possessions, everything.

Take care of us, and make us so conscious of this that we shall cease to worry about what happens to us and get busy helping Thee to get the problems of the world solved. We thank Thee in Jesus' wonderful 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](http://www.WDFsermons.org)  
[support@WDFsermons.org](mailto:support@WDFsermons.org)