

said, Do something to help us; give us some message from the Lord. And Elisha said, Bring me a musician, and the musician played. After the musician played, Elisha said the Lord says you go over in this direction here and you'll find water. They went over in that direction and just then up in the mountains where they could not even see it there had been a big storm and water from those empty wadis came rushing down and saved the lives of the whole group.

You can easily read that as a magical story. They played the instrument. Elisha heard it and then Elisha was able to prophesy. The music put him into a state of mind where he was sort of frenzied and could give them what would be helpful. But I believe we can read it in the light of the rest of the Scripture and that those are both utterly incorrect interpretations.

Elisha's mind was so filled with the realization of the wickedness of the king of Israel and he could not quietly listen to the voice of God. The music helped to quiet his heart and his feelings and to do what God wanted done in the circumstances. It is very important that we pray that God will quiet our selfish or merely human feelings.

Number three. We should pray definitely that God will give us an understanding of His will. That we will find what really is His will, not merely what is most pleasant for us. How easy it is for us in making decisions to make this one because it has better purposes, it has a better future as far as we can see; it has a better salary connected with it; it is in an area we would like to be. How easy it is to do that.

Some react to that and say, We should always choose what is least pleasant for us. That is much better than to take the attitude -- we often see it satirized of the minister who claims to be looking for the will of God and actually he's looking to where he can get the biggest salary or where are the greatest prospects. We often hear it satirized. Alas it is all too true of all of us. How great are the selfish views in our hearts over which it is very difficult to gain the victory.

But we can go to the opposite extreme. There was a fine fellow in a small denomination out in the middle west who graduated from Princeton Seminary the same time I did and went to Germany the same time I did. He was aghast at the way Christian workers are often so selfish in their zeal. He said, I decided that if I had two positions offered I will always take the one with the least salary. If I have two opportunities, I'll take the one having the least fame connected with it. The least opportunity of making a name for myself.

That is far finer than the other attitude. But I think either attitude is the way to learn God's will. God wants us to see what way can we accomplish the utmost for Him. How can we put Him first? Of course we must not do that which gives us the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life and that which satisfies us. But neither should we automatically take the one