

king of Israel, the king of Judah and the King of Edom--went on an expedition together against the King of Moab. They got into a situation where their armies were about to be destroyed through lack of water. They found that the prophet Elisha was in the group. They called him in. King Jehosaphat said, I would like to find out from a prophet of God. Elisha was not from Jehosaphat's kingdom. I don't know ~~why~~ whether Jehosaphat had ever heard of Elisha. But they called in Elisha and said, Will you tell us what the Lord wants us to do in this this situation? Elisha said, I can't tell you anything in front of that wicked king of Israel. I can't say anything."

They begged him to see if God would give them deliverance in this situation. Elisha said, Bring a minstrel and a minstrel came and played and Elisha told them that God was going to deliver them. That He would make it rain off in the distance where they would not even know it was raining, but the water would come pouring down and their days of lack of water would be ended. Some ~~of the~~ have thought, This is magical. Making music and Elisha gets a message! This does not sound --this is just an old fable, an old magical event! I don't think so at all. I think there is a lesson for us in it. I think Elisha's mind was in turmoil, so unhappy and uncomfortable in this situation. He needed something to calm his mind, something to quiet his thoughts.

You need to be quiet and know that He is God. You need to stop ~~w~~ worrying about things. Stop fretting about decisions that have to be made and be calm before God. Quiet the purely human feelings. I was one time in the Grand Canyon in the hotel there and my wife, and I looked up and saw coming into the room a fellow I had known in seminary. I was happy to see him. I waved at him, and he came over and he and his wife sat ~~a~~ with us and he told us how well he was getting on. He said, I am now pastor of the large church in San Diego, CA. He said it was a considerable sized church when I went, but it has grown tremendously, since I've been there. He said, You know what I did? He said, They had quite a staff there of visitors. These people are paid to visit the members of the church and ~~free~~ friends. He told them, When a person visits our church and you go and pay a visit to them, if after your visit they come back to the church again, we will pay you an extra \$5.00. But if they come back not only to another service, but to another church meeting like prayer-meeting or some other special meeting, we will give you an extra \$10.00. Oh, he said, How those folks have been working! He said, Our church has just been growing as these people have ~~been~~ been going out and visiting these people us once to encourage them. to come back.

My wife was quite disgusted. But I got to thinking, Suppose someone were to say to you, For every people whom you lead to a knowledge of Christ so that he turns to Christ and receives Him as Saviour, I will give you \$1000, would you be more active in Christian work than you are now? Would you be more energized to go out and speak for Christ than you are now if you were given \$1000 for everyone who made a decision to take Christ as a result of your talking to them? Think about that seriously. God wants us to get our merely human feelings quieted before Him and to realize that if we truly love him, His glory and His purposes should be so prominently before us that the selfish purposes and thoughts that fill our minds so often will fade into comparative insignificance.

Now that does not give the answer to many problems. But without it it is a question whether you can get the answer. What does God want you to do?