

Outline of the Messages for the Memorial Day Conference

May 23-26, 2014

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE HEAVENLY VISION

Message Four

The Vision of the Self

JL Hymns 840

Scripture Reading: Matt. 16:21-26; Luke 9:23-25; Rom. 6:6; 8:13; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17a

- Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- Matt 16:26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?
- Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
- Luke 9:24 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake, this one shall save it.
- Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?
- Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
- Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...

I. We need to see a vision of the self so that the self may be exposed and denied and that we may hate our independence from God and from the Body—Matt. 16:21-26; John 15:4-5; Philem. 8-14:

- Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- Matt 16:26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

- Philem 8 Therefore though I have much boldness in Christ to charge you what is fitting,
 Philem 9 Because of love I rather entreat, being such a one as Paul the aged and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus.
 Philem 10 I entreat you concerning my child, whom I have begotten in my bonds, Onesimus,
 Philem 11 Who formerly was useless to you but now is useful both to you and to me.
 Philem 12 Him I have sent back to you-him, that is, my very heart-
 Philem 13 Whom I intended to keep with myself that on your behalf he might minister to me in the bonds of the gospel.
 Philem 14 But without your mind I did not want to do anything, that your goodness would not be as of necessity, but voluntary.

- A. The self is the soul-life with the emphasis on human thoughts and opinions—Matt. 16:23-25:
 Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
 Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
 Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
1. In Matthew 16:23-25 three terms are related to one another: *mind*, *himself*, and *soul-life*.
 Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
 Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
 Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
 2. Our mind is the expression of our self, and our self is the embodiment of our soul-life—vv. 23-25.
 Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
 Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
 Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
 3. Our soul-life is embodied and lived out by our self, and our self is expressed through our mind, idea, thought, concept, and opinion—vv. 22-23.
 Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
 Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- B. The self is the embodiment of Satan; the self is the essence of Satan in the soul, making the soul independent from God to express its self-opinion and self-will—v. 23:
 Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
1. The origin of the self was Satan's injecting his thought into the human mind—Gen. 3:1-6.
 Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?
 Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
 Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.
 Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die!
 Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.

- Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.
2. The soul became the self when something of Satan was added to the soul; the thing that was added to the soul was the thought, or the mind, of Satan—Matt. 16:23; 2 Cor. 11:3.

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

2 Cor 11:3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.
 3. The self is the soul plus the satanic mind—Matt. 16:23, 25.

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
- C. If we have a vision of the self, we will see what the self is—the self is the soul declaring its independence from God—v. 23; Luke 14:26; Job 42:5-6:
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and moreover, even his own soul-life, he cannot be My disciple.
- Job 42:5 I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, / But now my eye has seen You;
- Job 42:6 Therefore I abhor myself, and I repent / In dust and ashes.
1. Due to the fall, the soul created by God declared independence from God—Gen. 3:1-6:

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?

Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die!

Gen 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make oneself wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.

 - a. Man took the thought, the idea, of Satan into his soul, resulting in the soul becoming the self, which is independent of God.
 - b. The soul is especially independent of God in the opinion and in the will—Matt. 16:22-23:

Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

 - (1) The self is something of Satan in the soul expressed through the opinions—v. 23.

Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.

- (2) We have opinions as the incarnation and manifestation of the self because we are independent of God; the more we are independent of God, the more we have opinions as the manifestation of the self.
2. Whenever we do something by ourselves without depending on God, we are in the self—vv. 22-23; cf. Phil. 3:3.
- Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,
3. Being independent of the Body is equal to being independent of God.

II. The hindrance to seeing the vision of the Body and to practicing the Body life is the self—Col. 1:18; 2:18-20, 23; 3:15:

- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:18 Let no one defraud you by judging you unworthy of your prize, in self-chosen lowliness and the worship of the angels, dwelling on the things which he has seen, vainly puffed up by his mind set on the flesh,
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 2:20 If you died with Christ from the elements of the world, why, as living in the world, do you subject yourselves to ordinances:
- Col 2:23 Such things indeed have a reputation of wisdom in self-imposed worship and lowliness and severe treatment of the body, but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.
- Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- A. The Body is versus the self, and the self is the enemy of the Body—Matt. 16:18, 23.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
- B. Because the self is something independent of the Lord and of the Body, the self is the greatest problem to the building up of the Body—Col. 1:18; 2:1-19, 23:
- Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col 2:1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those in Laodicea, even all who have not seen my face in the flesh,
- Col 2:2 That their hearts may be comforted, they being knit together in love and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ,
- Col 2:3 In whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
- Col 2:4 This I say that no one may delude you with persuasive speech.
- Col 2:5 For even though I am absent in the flesh, yet in the spirit I am with you, rejoicing and seeing your order and the solid basis of your faith in Christ.
- Col 2:6 As therefore you have received the Christ, Jesus the Lord, walk in Him,
- Col 2:7 Having been rooted and being built up in Him, and being established in the faith even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
- Col 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- Col 2:10 And you have been made full in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.
- Col 2:11 In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, in the putting off of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,

- Col 2:12 Buried together with Him in baptism, in which also you were raised together with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- Col 2:13 And you, though dead in your offenses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our offenses;
- Col 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.
- Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
- Col 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col 2:18 Let no one defraud you by judging you unworthy of your prize, in self-chosen lowliness and the worship of the angels, dwelling on the things which he has seen, vainly puffed up by his mind set on the flesh,
- Col 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.
- Col 2:23 Such things indeed have a reputation of wisdom in self-imposed worship and lowliness and severe treatment of the body, but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.
1. When we have the self, we do not have the Body—Matt. 16:24.
 Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
 2. When we have the Body, we do not have the self—v. 18; Eph. 4:16.
 Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- C. We should deny ourselves and identify ourselves with the Body; if we do this, the life we live will fully be the Body life, and the Lord will gain the expression of His Body—1 Cor. 12:27; Col 1:18; 3:15.
 1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.
 Col 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ arbitrate in your hearts, to which also you were called in one Body; and be thankful.
- D. In order for the Body to be built up, the self, the independent soul, must be condemned, denied, rejected, and renounced—Matt. 16:18, 21-26; Luke 9:23-25.
 Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 Matt 16:21 From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.
 Matt 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, God be merciful to You, Lord! This shall by no means happen to You!
 Matt 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of men.
 Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
 Matt 16:25 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.
 Matt 16:26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?
 Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
 Luke 9:24 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake, this one shall save it.
 Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?

III. We should deny the self, take up our cross, and follow the Lord—Matt. 16:24:

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

A. For a person to overly care for himself is for him to love the self and to always look at, think about, and consider himself—2 Tim. 3:2.

2 Tim 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boasters, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

B. To deny the self is to forget about our self and to forfeit our soul-life; losing the soul-life is the reality of denying the self—Matt. 16:26; Luke 9:24-25.

Matt 16:26 For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

Luke 9:24 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake, this one shall save it.

Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?

C. We need to see how to deny the self, to deal with the self:

1. We need to have the revelation that our old man has been crucified with Christ—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

2. After seeing this revelation, we need to recognize and accept this fact.

3. We need to apply to ourselves the death of Christ that He accomplished and that we have recognized; this is the correct meaning of bearing the cross—Matt. 16:24:

Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

a. This application must be carried out in the Spirit—Rom. 8:13.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.

b. When we live and walk in the Spirit, the Spirit applies the death of Christ to us—Gal. 5:16, 24-25; Rom. 8:4, 13.

Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:24 But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts.

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.

4. To bear the cross is to remain under the killing of the death of Christ for the terminating of our self, natural life, and old man; in so doing, we deny the self so that we may follow the Lord, the resurrected Christ, as the life-giving Spirit in our spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17; Gal. 5:25.

1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

IV. It is crucial that we deny the self and take Christ as our person for the church life as the living of the one new man—2:20; Eph. 2:15; 4:24; 3:17a; Col. 3:10-11:

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,

- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- A. In the one new man there is only one person—Christ—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17a.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- B. It is vitally important for us to know that our spirit is the inner man and that the person of this inner man is Christ—Rom. 8:16; Eph. 3:17a:
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
1. If we would take Christ as our person, we must see that our spirit is not merely an organ—our spirit is our person—1:17; 3:16-17a.
- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
2. We should deny our self, our own person, and live by our spirit, our new person—Matt. 16:24; Rom. 8:4; Eph. 3:17a.
- Matt 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.
- Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- C. For the church life as the living of this new man, we must reject our old person and live by Christ as our new person—Luke 9:23-25; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20.
- Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.
- Luke 9:24 For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake, this one shall save it.
- Luke 9:25 For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world but loses or forfeits himself?
- Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- D. We need an absolute consecration of handing ourselves over to the Lord and yielding our person to Him so that He can be our person; our consecration is to take Christ as our person—Rom. 12:2; 14:7-8; Eph. 3:17a; 2 Cor. 5:15.
- Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.
- Rom 14:7 For none of us lives to himself, and none dies to himself;
- Rom 14:8 For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live or we die, we are the Lord's.
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- 2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.