

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Five : God's Intention with Job—a Good Man Becoming a God-man

I. Overview:

Job was a good man, expressing himself in his perfection, uprightness, and integrity; but God's intention was that Job would become a God-man, a man of God, filled with Christ, the embodiment of God, to be the fullness of God for the expression of God in Christ. God's stripping and consuming were exercised over Job to tear him down that God might have a base and a way to rebuild him with God Himself so that he might become a God-man in order to express God. The incarnation of Christ produced a God-man, who lived a human life filled with the divine life as the content. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, although He was a man, He lived God and expressed God in everything; His human living did not express humanity but divinity in the divine attributes becoming human virtues. Through His resurrection, this God-man was reproduced as the many God-men to produce a new kind; this new kind is God-man kind. We need to deny ourselves, be conformed to Christ's death, and magnify Him by the bountiful supply of His Spirit.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Describe Job the man's situation.

Job the man was perfect and upright, and he feared God and turned away from evil. Being perfect is related to our inner man, and being upright is related to our outer man. Furthermore, to be upright means that we are not crooked or biased. In addition to being perfect inwardly and upright outwardly, Job feared God positively and turned away from evil negatively. Integrity is the total expression of what he is.

B. Expound Job having integrity yet not fulfill God's purpose.

It was not easy for God to gain a person like Job who feared God and turned away from evil. Yet what Job had attained was altogether vanity. It did not fulfill God's purpose, and it did not satisfy God's desire. Thus, God was lovingly concerned for Job. Ethically speaking, Job was very good. Only God knew that Job had a need, that he was short of God.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the Bible not building up the natural man, rather building up a God-man.

The God-men not only have two lives, but they also have two natures, humanity and divinity. Religion always cultivates man's natural capacity in order to build up the self. Education does the same thing; it merely builds up the human being. The Bible does not build up the natural man; rather, it builds up a God-man.

B. Expound our teaching being to raise up God-men in the Lord's recovery.

There is such a fact that the divine life is mingled with our human life. Therefore, we must learn how to live not by our human life but by God's life mingling with our human life to make us divine. One day I saw that only God can be holy, and that what God wanted was to enter into me to be my contents, to be my holiness, to be my "gold."

Day 3 —

A. Explain the Lord living a life on earth, that was both human and divine.

Because the Lord Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit with the divine essence, He possesses the divine nature with the divine attributes. Because He was born of a human virgin with the human essence, He possesses the human virtues. Therefore, while He was on earth, He lived a life that was both human and divine. He lived a human life, but in that life the divine attributes were expressed.

B. How can we live a mingling life with the divine attributes and the human virtues?

Today the Christ who lives in us is still the One who possesses the human virtues strengthened and enriched by the divine attributes. While He was on earth, He lived a life that was a composition of these two. From the time of His resurrection He has been seeking to live in the believers the kind of life He lived on earth. Today Christ within me is still living a life that is Christ who lives in me.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the Lord living on earth not only as God but also as man, being a God-man.

God desired to become a man, living on earth as a God-man. He lived on this earth not only as God but also as man. He lived as a God-man, yet not by the life of man but by the life of God. So His human living was not lived out by the human life but by the divine life.

B. Explain that to follow Jesus is to be a xerox copy of that first God-man.

Intrinsically speaking, to follow Jesus is to be a xerox copy of that first God-man. To follow Jesus is to live the life of a God-man, not by the human life but by the divine life, so that God may be expressed, or manifested, in the flesh in all His divine attributes becoming the human virtues, which all become your human virtues.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what the beginning of the God-man living is.

Our second birth caused us to enter into the kingdom of God to become the species of God. We are born of God, so we are gods belonging to the species of God. We should always remember that we are God-men belonging to the species of God. We need to see that we are God-men, born of God and belonging to God's species. This is the beginning of the God-man living.

B. Expound how to produce the mass reproduction as He was a grain of wheat.

The Lord Jesus, the God-man, said that He was a grain of wheat falling into the ground to die in order to become many grains. These many grains are actually many gods as the reproduction of God. The first grain—the first God-man—was a prototype, and the many grains—the many God-men—produced by this one grain through death and resurrection are the mass reproduction.

Day 6 —

A. Explain how we can be such duplicates, such reproductions.

First, we need to be reborn of the pneumatic Christ in our spirit, and then we need to be gradually transformed by the pneumatic Christ in our soul. Then spontaneously we shall live Christ, the God-man, by the bountiful supply of His Spirit, taking His mind and shining the word of life as luminaries reflecting His brightness. We shall also be found in Christ.

B. Expound the work of the Spirit in us.

The Spirit as the extract of Christ contains the element of the highest standard of morality. As the Spirit moves within us, the element of the highest human virtues also moves in us. The Lord does not rescue us from our temper by doing something miraculously. Instead, He rescues us by moving in us and mingling Himself with us as the One who indwells in us with all His elements. In this way He saves us.

III. Conclusion:

The Gospel of Luke reveals the constitution of God-man; from the conception, birth, and growth of the Man-Savior, we saw in Him processing not only human essence, but also divine essence, and His divine attributes were expressed in His human virtues. The Gospel of John shows us the God-man living; when He lived on earth, His living was not lived out by the human life, but by the divine life. He does not do His own will but does the will of Father. He does nothing from Himself, except what He sees the Father doing. He seeks not His own glory but the glory of Father. The reproduction of the God-man living a crucified life, denying himself, taking up the cross and following the Lord, by the power of His resurrection, being conformed to His death, through the petition of the body, and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, makes us living a life of the first God-man on the earth.