

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Five : Living the Life of the One New Man instead of Our Culture by Learning Christ as the Reality Is in Jesus

I. Overview:

Our standard of living must not be according to our culture but according to the reality in Jesus, the reality lived out by the Lord Jesus when He was on earth. Jesus lived a life in which He did everything in God, with God, and for God. We need to learn Christ and be taught in Him to live a life of reality; to learn Christ is simply to be molded into the pattern of Christ, that is, to be conformed to the image of Christ. The living of the one new man should be exactly the same as the living of Jesus; Christ's human living was man living God to express the attributes of God in the human virtues. We need to deny ourselves, be conformed to Christ's death, and magnify Him by the bountiful supply of His Spirit. In the performing of the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish, the Lord trained His disciples to learn from Him. Matthew 14:19 says that He took the five loaves and the two fish, looking up to heaven. Regardless of how much we can do, we must realize that we need the Sender's blessing upon our doing so that we can be channels of supply by trusting in Him. If we are going to be used for the Lord always in His recovery, our self has to be denied, our purpose has to be rejected, and our ambition must be given up.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. What is the reality in Jesus?

It is the real situation of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels, a life filled with truth, reality. This reality no doubt is the very reality in Jesus. Our standard of living should not be according to the law or according to the standards of society; it must be according to the truth in Jesus, the reality lived out by Jesus when He was on earth.

B. Why do we say that Christ is not only life to us but also an example?

We learn from Him according to His example, not by our natural life but by Him as our life. Jesus lived a life always doing things in God, with God, and for God. God was in His life, and He was one with God. We, the believers, regenerated with Christ as our life and taught in Him, learn from Him as the reality is in Jesus.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that we have already put off the old man and have put on the new man.

Our old man was buried in the waters of baptism. Hence, we have put off the old man. Furthermore, as we rose up from the water in resurrection, we were clothed with the new man. Hence, we have also put on the new man. Therefore, we have been taught in Christ as the reality is in Jesus that we have put off the old man and put on the new man.

B. Expound Ephesians 4:23 tells us to be renewed in the spirit of our mind.

Based upon the accomplished facts of the putting off of the old man and the putting on of the new man, Ephesians 4:23 tells us to be renewed in the spirit of our mind. The spirit here is the regenerated spirit of the believers mingled with the indwelling Spirit of God. Such a mingled spirit spreads into our mind, thus becoming the spirit of our mind. It is in such a spirit that we are renewed for our transformation.

Day 3 —

A. Describe that as the God-man how to express God, the Lord Jesus lived on earth.

As the God-man, the Lord Jesus has the divine nature with its divine attributes to be His content and reality for the expression of God. He is a genuine man with the real human nature and the perfect human virtues to express God. However, in order to express God, He must have God as His content and reality. The God-man is both the "glove" and the "hand", for He has both humanity as the container and divinity as the content.

B. Expound the condition of the Lord living on earth.

The Lord Jesus did not seek His own will indicates that while He was living as a man, He was not living by His own mind, will, and emotion. This means that He was not living by His own life. The God-man lived as a man, but He did not live by His own mind, will, and emotion. The Lord Jesus had a genuine man's living by God's mind, will, and emotion to express God in God's attributes.

Day 4 —

A. Explain in 1 Peter 2:21, which tells us that Christ left us a model.

Christ in His human living left us a model for us to copy. In Philippians 3:10 Paul says that he lived a life conformed to the death of Christ. Paul put himself into that death-mold to be conformed there. His old life was conformed to the image of the death of Christ by the power of Christ's resurrection.

B. What is the difference between human virtues taught by Confucius and Christian virtues?

The human virtues taught by Confucius are the product of human effort. Those virtues do not have anything of God essentially. But the genuine Christian virtues taught by the Bible are not the result of human effort. The Christian virtues taught by the Bible are very different from mere human virtues. The difference is that the nature of Christian virtues is the nature of God.

Day 5 —

A. How does the Lord train the disciples by the miracle of five loaves and two fish?

Jesus trained His disciples to learn from Him by miracle. He took the five loaves and two fish and when He was going to bless them, He looked up to heaven. Looking up to heaven indicates that He was looking up to His Father in heaven. This indicates that He realized the source of the blessing was not Him. He was the sent One. The sent One should not be the source of blessing. The sending One, the Father, should be the source of blessing.

B. What does the spiritual principle indicate to look up to the Father in heaven?

His looking up to the Father in heaven indicated that as the Son on earth sent by the Father in heaven, He was one with the Father, trusting in the Father. Whenever I speak for the Lord, I must have the sensation that I am one with the Lord, trusting in Him. We should never go to minister the word by remaining in ourselves. The blessing comes only by our being one with the Lord and trusting in Him.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the first God-man seeking not His own glory but Father's glory.

In the service we render to the Lord in the church life, there is always our ambition; a brother may have the ambition to be an elder. We are all fallen descendants of Adam and sick of the same disease, the same sin. By the Lord's mercy I have learned the secret of dealing with my self and my intention, and this has helped me to deal with my self-glorification.

B. What are the three big destroying worms needed to be vigilant?

We need to see that our self, our purpose, and our ambition are three big destroying "worms" in our work. If we are going to be used for the Lord always in His recovery, our self has to be denied, our purpose has to be rejected, and our ambition must be given up. We should not have our own purpose; instead, we should have only the Lord's will.

III. Conclusion:

Brother Nee's message of "Hope for God's blessing" is a great help to all who serve God. He said, "All our works are by the blessing of God because only He is the source of blessing." Miracles are produced by the blessing of the Lord. Whenever the Lord's blessing comes, the bread will be changed and even get increased. This miracle is based on the blessing of the Lord. As long as there is a blessing with us, the five loaves and two fish can provide for five thousand people. If there is no blessing, even a bread of fifty denarii will be not enough for the many. What can be called blessing? Blessing is God's unlimited work beyond what we deserve. Five loaves and two fish have satisfied the five thousand people with leftover of twelve baskets; it is called blessing. We live on the earth not to do all right things, but anything to be blessed by God. We should judge ourselves severely. Remove the hindrance of not being blessed, and be a person blessed by God.