

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message : David and Abigail Typifying the Warring Christ and the Warring Church

I. Overview:

First Samuel 25 is a record of David's dealing with Nabal and Abigail; we see Abigail's wisdom in appeasing David. David responded to Abigail's appeal by blessing Jehovah, who sent her to meet him, and also by blessing her, who kept him from entering into bloodshed. After Nabal's death David took her as his wife, his counterpart in warfare. David typifies the warring Christ in the midst of sufferings. David typifies the Lord Jesus as a man in His suffering on earth before His resurrection; David's suffering was for the conquering of the usurping enemies and the gaining of the ground for God's building. Abigail typifies the warring church, fighting for God's kingdom in the midst of sufferings. The type of Abigail portrays a believer who goes forth unto Jesus outside the camp, bearing His reproach. Our Christian life has two aspects, an inward aspect and an outward aspect. The inward aspect is typified by the Shulammite, and the outward aspect is typified by Abigail. When a believer in Christ comes out from within the veil, the inner chamber of fellowship, he is able to take the way of the cross and follow the suffering Jesus. Only those who enter within the veil can go forth unto Jesus outside the camp and bear His reproach.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how to apply the types of Abigail and Nabal to ourselves.

Abigail's previous husband was Nabal, which means "fool". Nabal despised, rejected, and opposed David at the time of his destitution. This typifies that our nature opposes Christ. One day, however, Nabal was struck down, and he died. This provided Abigail the opportunity to become David's wife. This indicates that when our corrupted nature was struck down, we became Christ's counterpart.

B. Explain the wisdom of Abigail.

Abigail was in appeasing David with her wisdom. She "hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread and two skins of wine and five sheep ready dressed and five measures of parched grain... and she put them on her donkeys". When she saw David and asked him to forgive her transgression, saying, "When Jehovah has appointed you ruler over Israel, this will not be a qualm of conscience to you, that you shed blood without cause or that my lord has avenged himself."

Day 2 —

A. State Christ with His bride to fight against the enemies.

In Revelation 19:11-21, Christ is revealed as the Word of God, King of kings, who returns to defeat and destroy Antichrist and the false prophet. After His wedding feast, Christ will come as a fighting General with His bride, the overcoming believers who are His army, to fight Antichrist, the kings under him, and their armies at Armageddon.

B. Explain Revelation 19 corresponding with Daniel 2.

Daniel 2:34 denotes that the great human image signifies the aggregate of human government, and the smiting stone signifies not merely the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ. When human government reaches the stage of the ten toes, it will fight against God directly. Thus, human government not only rebels against God, exalts man, and worships idols but also fights against God directly.

Day 3 —

A. Explain what the two categories of the afflictions of Christ are.

The afflictions of Christ are of two categories; those for accomplishing redemption, which have been completed by Christ Himself, and those for producing and building the church, which need to be filled up by the apostles and the believers. The fact that Paul mentions the afflictions of Christ in connection with the stewardship of God indicates that the stewardship can be carried out only through suffering.

B. Fellowship that we must be willing to pay whatever price for fulfilling our stewardship.

We must be willing to pay whatever price in order to fulfill our stewardship. When we give or receive hospitality, we need to carry out our stewardship by dispensing the riches of Christ into others. In like manner, many have spoken of the nourishment, edification, and strengthening they have received through sharing in hospitality, as either a host or a guest.

Day 4 —

A. Explain that there are three wills in the universe.

In the universe there are three wills: the divine will, the satanic will, and the human will. God's will, being self-existing, is eternal. An archangel, among the angels, was appointed by God to rule the universe; because his high position and his beauty, he became proud. This pride gave rise to an evil intention, which became the satanic will. All kinds of warfare have their source in the controversy between the divine will and the satanic will.

B. Expound that through repentance man can turn from the satanic will to the divine will.

Through repentance man can turn from the satanic will to the divine will, from Satan's side to God's side. As the new man the church should walk according to truth and by grace, and as the bride the church should live in love and in light. However, not only must God's eternal purpose be fulfilled and the desire of Christ's heart be satisfied, but God's enemy must be defeated.

Day 5 —

A. Expound what the two aspects of living as Christian life are.

There are an inward aspect and an outward aspect. The inward aspect can be compared to the Shulammitte, and the outward aspect can be compared to Abigail. On one hand, we are within the veil in the Holy of Holies; on the other hand, we are outside the city, the camp before men. Inwardly we enjoy the resurrected Christ, and outwardly we follow Jesus.

B. Testify that every day we experience the two aspects of living.

On the one hand, we are within the veil as the Shulammitte, living in the Holy of Holies and enjoying the resurrected and glorified Christ. On the other hand, we are outside the camp as Abigail, living in the world and following the lowly Jesus. Like the Shulammitte and Solomon, we remain in the palaces of ivory and fellowship with the Lord inwardly, and like Abigail, we outwardly live and work by following David to war and suffering.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the type of the Shulammitte.

When we believed in the Lord, we may have encountered persecution and harassment from men. Outwardly, we were pressed and in pain, but inwardly there was a power that caused us to feel glorious. The Shulammitte typifies the glorified church in the future, and she also typifies the church in resurrection today. The type of the Shulammitte is not merely objective in the future; she is subjective and for our experience today.

B. Describe the testimony of the manifestation of resurrection of a martyr.

During the Boxer Rebellion a brother was saved because he was touched by the manifestation of resurrection. At the peak of the Boxers' rioting, one day he heard a shouting and crying in the street and saw some of the Boxers ferociously escorting a wagon on which a twenty-year-old woman was being carried to the execution ground. Strangely the young woman sitting in the wagon was rejoicing, singing hymns of praise.

III. Conclusion:

David typifies the warring Christ in the midst of sufferings, and Abigail typifies the warring church, participating with the Lord Jesus in spiritual warfare; the overcomer becomes the bride to be the counterpart of Christ, becoming Christ's army to defeat Antichrist. By turning into the Spirit, we enter within the veil, tasting the sweetness of heavenly Christ that enables us to go outside the camp and abandon the earth and earthly love. As we remain within the veil, our spirit is filled with the glory of the ascended Christ, releasing our hearts from the occupation of earthly enjoyment outside the camp. Looking at the glorified Christ within the veil draws us outside the camp to follow the suffering Jesus. Having seen His heavenly face enables us to follow His steps on earth. When we enter within the veil, we are infused with the power of His resurrection that we may be strengthened to go outside the camp and walk the way of the cross.