

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Twelve : Spiritual Principles, Life Lessons, and Holy Warnings concerning the Enjoyment of the Good Land Seen with Five Major Figures in 1 and 2 Samuel

I. Overview:

Under Eli the old, stale and waning priesthood, God desired to have a new beginning. We all need to reject anything of staleness, oldness, and keep ourselves empty, open, fresh with the Lord. In the days of Eli the word of God was rare and he disregarded the priesthood in his loose disciplining of his two evil sons, causing the tragedy of the ending of his history. Samuel was faithful to God in all his God-given statuses and offices; as a priest-prophet, he spoke for God honestly and initiated the prophethood to replace the fading priesthood. Although Samuel's only defect of his appointing his two sons as judges, yet this mistake helped God to bring in the kingship. Jonathan loved David, made a covenant with him, standing between two ministries, but because his relationship with the first ministry was too deep, he could not disentangle himself from a tragic result. The record of Saul's terrible end is a strong warning to all who serve in the kingdom of God not to do a separate work within the kingdom of God; we should all do one unique work to build up the kingdom of God. David was anointed to be the king; when he was under Saul's persecution, he had two chances to destroy Saul, but David would not do this because of his fear of God. David had a great failure in the matter of the lust of the flesh; if such a godly man as David could be seduced, how can we escape?

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how the books of Samuel speaks of God's carrying out His economy.

The books of Samuel, as books of history, are on Christ for our enjoyment that God may carry out His economy. Concerning this we need to realize that God desires people who are according to Him, people who are His duplication. In the long period of history covered in 1 Samuel 1 to 2 Samuel 1, there are five major figures: Eli, Samuel, Jonathan, Saul, and David. We need to learn the lessons of these five persons in relation to God's economy.

B. Why do we say that we need to be fresh, not old for the Lord going on in His way? God's intention is to have many young men with every one fresh, new, and living. None of us should be old. We always need to exercise to be young, to be new, to be renewed, to be fresh, and to be living all day long. It is only when you are young that there is a possibility for God to come in to call you, to choose you, and to use you to do something new.

Day 2 —

A. Describe that Samuel was faithful for God in all his statuses and offices.

As a Levite, he served God his whole life. As a Nazirite, he kept his consecration without failure. As a priest-prophet, he spoke for God honestly and initiated the prophethood to replace the fading priesthood in the divine revelation. As a judge, he was faithful to God and just to the people, terminating the judgeship and bringing in the kingship.

B. Expound the attitude of Mary in the presence of God, being at the feet of the Lord.

She was at the feet of the Lord Jesus, drawing near to the Lord, coming to Him moment by moment, loving Him, worshipping Him, and unceasingly fellowshiping with Him and remaining in His presence. She sat at the feet of the Lord. This means that she put herself in a humble position. Humility is ignoring ourselves, negating ourselves, and considering ourselves as nothing.

Day 3 —

A. Expound what we have learned from the figure of Jonathan.

Jonathan loved David, covenanted with him, and predicted that he would be the second in David's kingdom when David would be the king. Jonathan stayed with his father because of his natural affection toward his father. Because Jonathan would not leave his father, he suffered the same fate as his father and died with him in the battle.

B. Fellowship how we should be in the matter of following the ministry.

In every age the Lord has special things that He wants to accomplish. He has His own recoveries and His own works to do. The particular recovery and work that He does in one age is the ministry of that age. Jonathan stood between two ministries; he should have followed the second ministry. However, because Jonathan's relationship with the first ministry was too deep, he could not disentangle himself.

Day 4 —

A. Explain why Saul lost his kingship and his kingdom.

Saul was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel to be the king of Israel. Saul disobeyed God's word at least twice so that he lost his kingship and his kingdom. When Saul disobeyed God in chapter 15, he actually rebelled against Him. What Saul did in rebelling against God was like this sin of divination. Saul was not subordinate to God and in fact became an enemy to God. As a result, he lost his kingship.

B. State from the tragic end of Saul what lessons we can learn in it.

God is carrying out His economy on earth, and He brought Saul into His economy. Instead of participating in God's economy and cooperating with it, Saul was selfish. God wanted to build up His kingdom among His chosen people, but Saul usurped God's kingdom to build up his own monarchy. Because Saul was given up by God, he was left alone, like an orphan.

Day 5 —

A. Fellowship what the positive lessons we can learn in what David has experienced.

David was chosen and anointed by God through Samuel. After David slew Goliath he was praised by the women of Israel as higher than Saul. With David there is no hint that he was made proud nor that he became ambitious for the kingship. When David was under Saul's persecution, he had two chances to destroy Saul. However, David would not do this because of his fear of God in that Saul was God's anointed.

B. Expound David was a person who trusted in God.

David was a person who trusted in God and walked according to God's sovereignty in all his trials. While he was under trial, he sought God's leading. He was one with God and behaved according to God. David is by trusting in God and walking with God according to His leading and instruction. David expected to remain in the good land and share in Jehovah's inheritance and serve Him.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that we need to learn something of David on the negative side.

The lust of the flesh is a devastating element that can destroy us. If such a godly man as David could be seduced, can we escape? Human beings are human beings, flesh is flesh, and lusts are lusts. No godly person should be loose in contacting the other sex. Regardless of our attainment in our spiritual pursuit, it is possible for any of us to commit such a sin.

B. Explain that David did not restrict his flesh.

David's defect was that he did not restrict his flesh. When he was crowned in Hebron at thirty years of age, he already had at least six wives. Later, he abused his kingship by murdering Uriah and robbing him of his wife. Boaz was a good pattern because he controlled the lust of his flesh. David, on the contrary, even though he was a man according to God's heart, had a great failure in the matter of the lust of the flesh.

III. Conclusion:

In the Old Testament, the first group of people set up by God to speak for God and be His mouth were called priests. The priests had the Urim and Thummim, which typify Christ as God's representative authority, as the means for God to speak to His people and govern them. When the priests speak for God, they become God's spokesmen, who are the prophets. In the New Testament, we believers are kings, priests, and prophets. When we speak Christ into man, we become God's oracle and prophets. Our God is a living, acting God, and always moving by speaking. Today His speaking is about God's New Testament economy. Those who can lead people in the Lord's move today are those who know God's New Testament economy. Whoever has the speaking of the entire teaching of God's New Testament economy is the leader in His move.