

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying
Message Seven : God's Raising Up of Deborah as a Judge of Israel and as a Mother in Israel Who Practiced the Female Submission to the Man in Order to Keep God's Ordination and Bring All of Israel into a Proper Order under God's Kingship and Headship

I. Overview:

Israel had offended God by rejecting Him as their King; we should continually take, experience, and enjoy Christ as our King so that He can be our blessing to make us a channel of blessing to the saints. The men of Israel had failed in their God-ordained function of leadership; this forced God to do something extraordinary and unusual in raising up a female, Deborah, as a judge of Israel; the raising up of such a female changed the entire condition of Israel. By reading Deborah's song, we can see that she was full of ability, capacity, insight, and foresight, but such an excellent and capable person was very submissive; God made her the leader, yet she kept the proper order and took Barak as her covering. When the church life in practicality reaches a peak, there should be some real mothers in every church; whose care are our real nourishment and our real protection. If the sisters exercise their spirit of prayer and faith to be real mothers, they will grow and mature in life by taking care of some spiritual children. If the sisters consider themselves as church nurses who give nursing care in the church as a true hospital, they need to be loving mothers by prayer and love serving to help the needy ones and the younger ones.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that the gospel is presented in the way of the kingdom in Matthew 4:17.

In the New Testament the gospel is presented first with these words: "Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near". This indicates that the gospel is presented first not in the way of life, as in John, but in the way of the kingdom, as in Matthew. The reason for this is that there is the need of a kingdom, a realm, a sphere, for God to exercise Himself to give us His all-inclusive being.

B. Why do we need to repent?

We need to repent not only because we are sinful but also because we are rebellious. We are even enemies of God. We need to repent of our rebellion. If we did not rebel, we could not sin. Because we are rebels, we need to repent and receive Christ as our authority, as our Sovereign and King, that He may rule in us and over us in God's kingdom.

Day 2 —

A. Expound why God raised up a female, Deborah, as a judge of Israel.

Prior to the history recorded in Judges 3:7 through 5:31, the people of Israel had never had a female leader. Then, suddenly, God raised up a female, Deborah, as a judge of Israel. It indicates, first, man's failure, and then, God's excellent act. At the time of Judges 4, all the men of Israel had failed, so God raised up a woman. That changed the entire condition of Israel.

B. Explain though Deborah was a very capable person, yet she kept the proper order.

By reading her song in Judges 5, we can see that she was full of ability, capacity, insight, and foresight. But such an excellent person was very submissive. God made her the leader, yet she kept the proper order and took Barak as her covering. She realized that she needed a man to be her covering. When she took this kind of standing, the whole nation became different.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Ephesians 5 first exhorts the wife from the household matters.

Ephesians 5 first exhorts the wife. Verse 24 is directed at the sisters, and verse 25 is directed at the brothers. Verse 24 says, "Let the wives be subject to their husbands in everything." If a sister wants to marry a man, she must be subject to him, otherwise is not qualified to marry him. You can only marry him if you can submit to him. If you have never intended to submit to him in your heart, you should not be his wife and should not marry him.

B. Testify what we require for a genuine submission.

To be submissive requires the supply of life, the enjoyment of grace, the working of the cross, and the denial of the self. We should never try to be submissive by our self. We should consecrate ourselves to the Lord not to do a work for the Lord but simply to be submissive. If the sisters take care of this one matter of being submissive, the church will be strengthened, enriched, and renewed.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what the spiritual meaning of Paul having at least two sons is.

The New Testament tells us that Paul had at least two sons, one named Timothy and the second named Titus, but these were not his sons in the flesh. Paul uses a very intimate expression to call them sons; "... genuine child in faith," and "...genuine child" (1 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4), not his father in the flesh but his father in the spirit, his father in the common faith.

B. Expound how our life could be transferred by His cross and resurrection.

Originally, John was not Mary's son, and Mary was not John's mother. But because of the crucifixion of Jesus, Mary, the mother of Jesus, became the mother of John. John, who was the son of Mary's sister, became Mary's son. This is not a story of adoption, but by looking at the cross, and they received another life.

Day 5 —

A. Explain the importance of being a mother in the spirit.

Once in his training, Brother Nee told the saints, especially the sisters, that they should be a mother to another young saint. For example, "If you would take them as your children, they would open up their whole being to you, and would receive whatever you would say." There are many problems with the parents and the teenagers. Very few teenagers would be submissive. Yet they would be happy to listen to someone other than their own parents.

B. Testify the benefits of being a spiritual mother.

We all need a second birth, and we all need a second mother. All the sisters of all ages need to be a mother to someone else. Taking care of a child will cause you to grow and to be mature. In the natural life the best way for the young ones to mature is for them to have two children. Even more, to pick up some younger ones as your children in the spirit will cause you to grow.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the word in Judges 5:31, needing great resolutions in heart, and great searchings of heart.

In Judges 5:31, for the sun to rise in its might means that it shines brightly, brilliantly, and gloriously. We need the searchings, the resolutions, and the rising up to shine like the sun. If all the churches would be like this, they surely would enjoy the victory. May all the dear saints in the Lord's recovery have great searchings and make great resolutions, and may they all rise up like the sun to shine brightly.

B. Expound how the young people have great resolutions and great searchings of heart. May all the young people, starting from today, be willing to have great resolutions and great searchings of heart. To have a great resolve is to make a firm decision, and to have a great searching is to devise a plan. Some may ask, "What is the purpose of having a great resolve and a great searching?" It is to live for God on the earth. In brief, it means to receive God as your life for your entire life to testify on His behalf and to lead people to know Him.

III. Conclusion:

If the church is to grow and be built up, first the sisters must learn not to gossip. The sisters must minister their spiritual life to the younger ones and learn to serve the church and the saints as Phoebe did. We intend to live for the Lord and fight for Him according to His present need in His recovery. We need to have great resolutions before the Lord for His increase of gaining men. God wants man to cooperate with Him, then He will move. If we do not go out to gain sinners, God will not go; however, if we are willing to go out, God will go. This kind of going out, needs us to have great resolutions in our heart and great searchings of our heart. This is the way of warfare, the way to preach the gospel, and also the way to gain sinners as members of the Body of Christ. We need great resolutions and great searchings, as the sun rises to shine. If all the churches are like this, they will certainly experience this prevailing blessing.