

**Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Six : Entering into Christ's Wonderful
Shepherding in His Heavenly Ministry to Shepherd the Church of God as a Slave of God for the Fulfillment of the
Dream of God**

I. Overview:

We need to enter into Christ's shepherding in His heavenly ministry by enjoying and ministering Christ to shepherd the church of God as a slave of God for the fulfillment of the dream of God. Christ as the Slave-Savior comes to serve; He served us in the past, in the present, and in the future. We come to the Lord and let Him serve us so that He can serve others through us, becoming the channel for Him to dispense Himself as life into others. For the sake of the flock, we need to buy the oil, to pay the price to gain more of the Spirit, and to be faithful and prudent slaves, taking care of the Lord's possessions and investing their spiritual gift by giving them food. We should not lord it over God's flock, but by becoming patterns of the flock, directing them to pray so that we can honor Christ. In the church life all we can do concerning the young people's marriage is to minister life to them; we must help them not to have their own choice. We should not try to conduct them into a marriage or match them. In our shepherding, we have to cover others' sins and should not speak reviling words; on the one hand, we should have a clear sight over the people with much discernment, and on the other hand, should be blind spiritually.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how Christ served us in Mark and Luke.

Mark 10:45 mentions that the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. This is His serving in the past. Luke 22:27, "I am in your midst as the one who serves." This is His serving in the present, Luke 12:37, "He will gird himself, ...have them recline at table, and...serve them." He is going to serve us in the future.

B. Explain the bread at the Lord's table demonstrating how Christ having served us.

The bread before us at the Lord's table clearly demonstrates how Christ has served us. His body was broken for all of us. The meaning of salvation is that Christ serves us first, and then we serve Him. His serving does not end with the cross. Even now He is among us to continue His service. Whenever we have a need, we ought to come to the Lord and let Him serve us.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the words in the first Peter 2:25.

Christ's shepherding of His flock includes His caring for their outward things and also their inner being, their souls. Christ indwells us to be our life and everything, but He is also overseeing, observing, the condition and situation of our inner being. He shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our inner being and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our soul.

B. Fellowship how to have the oil being filled in our vessel.

To be filled with the Spirit in our soul requires that we pay the price to deny our self in every aspect of our living. We have Christ in our spirit as the lamp, but our soul as the vessel may be filled with many useless things. We need to pay the price to throw out all these things. The more we empty our vessel in this way, the more Jesus as the oil comes into it.

Day 3 —

A. Why do we say that the decisions by yourself for others are an insult to the Lord?

Any decisions that you make by yourself for others are an insult to the Spirit. If you have done this, you must repent. None of us should ever tell others where they should go. What an insult this is to the Lord! Who are you? Who authorized you to make suggestions to others? You need to help the others to contact the Lord, and let them get the Lord's leading.

B. Explain any move in the Lord's recovery, you must go to the Lord to let Him send you.

We all must go into the presence of the Lord and pray for some time. I cannot go to the Lord for you; you must go to the Lord yourself. We all must learn this lesson that no one can go to the Lord for someone else. That is the clergy-laity hierarchy. Concerning any move you make in the Lord's recovery, you must go directly to the Lord Himself and pray.

Day 4 —

A. Explain what to look out for the service of marriage.

Only the Lord knows who is a good match for another person; actually we do not know about that. In the church life all we can do concerning the young people's marriage is to minister life to them. We must help them to look to the Lord's leading, to learn how to walk in the Spirit, and we should also help them not to indulge in lust or to have their own taste or choice.

B. Expound what to help the young people in the matter of serving their marriage.

The matter of marriage is very complicated and is most perplexing. We should try to be very objective and try to render life to the young ones. Never try to bring two people together without any caution. This is dangerous. We should leave this matter to the Lord and pray for the ones concerned. We should render as much life as we can to help them and never indicate who is their best match.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what to watch out for serving the sinful saints.

If you know that someone has committed some sins, you have to pray for him and learn to minister Christ as the sin-dealing life to him that he may deal with his sins. First, you yourself must be dealt with by enjoying Christ's sin-dealing life. Then you must minister such a Christ as the sin-dealing life to others.

B. Why do we say that the work to recover a sinful saint takes time and patience?

The work to recover the sinful saints takes time. It cannot be quick. You have to be patient. Even if it took eight months or a year to get one or two sinful saints recovered, that would be a great thing. This kind of ministry is the element for us to maintain the oneness of the Spirit in the church life.

Day 6 —

A. Explain love covering a multitude of sins.

If a brother is led astray from the truth to attend the denominations or go to the movies, our small group may feel that we do not need him, and we do not accept him because he is not qualified. This is not love; this is hate. Love covers many sins. To uncover is not love. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. Covering brings in blessing, but uncovering brings in a curse. This is not a small matter.

B. Expound the true and sincere love of God in first Corinthians 13.

Love is not jealous, is not provoked, does not take account of evil, covers all things, endures all things, never falls away, and is the greatest. Jealousy is in our nature. Also, love is not provoked. People are easily provoked because of the shortage of love. Regardless of how much we are rebuked, we will not be provoked if we are filled with the divine love.

III. Conclusion:

Do not touch on the matters of the saints' marriage, money and careers without any caution. We should help them in a very beneficial way, but there should be some restrictions in practice. Today, the whole human society is sick, and everywhere is full of germs. If we are not careful, not strictly standing in truth, in life and in love, it will be difficult for us not to be polluted. This is why we should pray more and more. We need always to learn with fear and trembling about reaching out to the saints and helping them, walking in the truth, life, and love, then we will be protected. We all love the Lord, His recovery, the church life, and all the saints, but do not think that love alone is enough. It is only right that we must keep ourselves in the truth and preserve ourselves in love and in life to help others all the time.