

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Three : Elisha Being a Type of Christ in His Ministry of Grace in Life and as a Man of God Behaving Himself as God's Representative, as the Acting God

I. Overview:

Elisha is a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life. In the fulfillment of the types and figures in the Old Testament, Christ is the real Elisha; as the real Elisha, the Lord Jesus is a sweet and pleasant prophet, a prophet of blessing. Elisha is a type in the Old Testament who represented God's New Testament economy in grace. This grace issues in the divine life, which is rich and high, even unto making us co-kings with Christ. Like Moses and Elisha, a man of God, behaved as God's representative. Jehovah told Moses that He had made him God to Pharaoh; Moses never spoke to Pharaoh on his own but always spoke what the Lord had told him to say. As God's chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people who are one with God, who are constituted with God, who live God, who express God, who move with God, and who represent God, we may function as the acting God. In his ministry Elisha the prophet, as a man of God, behaved himself as God's representative; today we, the believers in Christ, can be the same, functioning in His economy as the acting God.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that in the fulfillment of the types, Christ is the real Elisha.

Elisha was more pleasant as a prophet than Elijah was. One of the most striking things Elisha did was to heal the death waters with salt. This healing indicates that Elisha was a sweet prophet of blessing to the people. The significance of the miracle performed by Elisha is the same as Jesus performed in the Gospel of John that was the changing of water into wine. The significance of this miracle is the changing of death into life.

B. Expound what Elisha doing is miracles of grace.

Elisha was a type of Christ in doing miracles of grace in life. Elijah did some miracles. However, when Elisha came in to replace him, he did not perform wonders. Instead, Elisha did miracles of grace in life. Many Christians pay attention to miracles, but they neglect the matters of grace. Paul emphasized justification by grace, which is unto the reigning in life.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that Elisha nullified the poison of the wild gourds with flour.

When the disciples of Elisha were short of food, they cooked a stew with poisonous gourds. Elisha nullified the poison of the wild gourds with flour. In principle, the Lord Jesus did the same thing for His disciples. He warned them, saying, "Watch and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees" and He healed the disciples with Himself as the fine flour.

B. Expound to pay attention to the healthy things, not to collect "poisonous gourds".

Brother Nee's ministry was rejected by the Western missionaries in his youth, but today his ministry is known by seeking Christians throughout the world. In the last seventy years nearly all the crucial, important revelations of the Bible have been covered in Watchman Nee's ministry and my ministry. I would urge you to pay attention to these pure and healthy things and not waste your time collecting "poisonous gourds".

Day 3 —

A. Expound that Elisha was deceased in his body yet still ministered in the spirit.

Elisha was deceased in his body yet still ministered in the spirit to enliven one of the dead. Even the dead Elisha could enliven people. This is a picture of Christ in resurrection. Whoever touches Him is enlivened. Regeneration involves a spiritually dead person touching the dead and resurrected Christ and being enlivened.

B. Explain Paul was under the discipline of the inner life in the time of his suffering.

Why did the apostle Paul leave Trophimus in sickness without exercising healing prayer for him? Why did he not also execute his healing gift to cure Timothy of his stomach illness rather than instruct him to take the natural way for healing? The answer to both questions is that both Paul and his co-workers were under the discipline of the inner life in this time of suffering rather than under the power of the outward gift.

Day 4 —

A. Expound how Moses dealt with Pharaoh.

In the conflicts between God and Pharaoh we also can learn the proper way to work for God. The proper way is not to labor or to endeavor, but to represent Him. Just as Moses was sent by God, so we also must be sent by Him. As God's representative, he did not speak to Pharaoh on his own. He always spoke what the Lord had told him to say, letting Pharaoh know what God required of him.

B. Testify what we should regard in our service for the Lord.

I would remind the co-workers that there is no need for us to endeavor so much. This does not mean that we should be idle or lazy. It means that we should spend more time to contact the Lord. We need to stay in His presence until He saturates our being. Then we shall represent Him, and He will send us forth. Remember, it is not of him who runs nor of him who wills, but of God, the One who shows mercy.

Day 5 —

A. Explain how Paul was the expression of Christ throughout the voyage.

Throughout the voyage and now on the island of Malta, Paul certainly was walking in the Spirit. Paul's living was actually the expression of the life-giving Spirit. In every situation of his daily living, Paul was the expression of the very Christ he preached. He preached the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, and ascended Christ as the life-giving Spirit, and on the island of Malta he lived such a Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit.

B. Expound what kind of a person the Lord had made Paul to become on the storm.

On the sea in the storm, the Lord had already made the apostle not only the owner of his fellow voyagers, but also their life-guarantee and comforter. Now on the land in peace, the Lord made him further not only a magical attraction in the eyes of the superstitious people not only a magical attraction in the eyes of the superstitious people, but also a healer and joy to the native people. This kind of life was Jesus Himself having lived on earth alike.

Day 6 —

A. Expound that God is seeking a people who live Christ.

To have such a people is the desire of God's heart, and it is what He purposed to have in eternity... In 2 Corinthians Paul shows them that he himself and his co-workers were such persons. All the apostles were people who were one with God and were living Christ. He did not have any intention which was apart from God or separate from Him.

B. Fellowship what God will do as we are under the anointing.

Anointing implies sealing. As we are under the anointing, the anointing becomes a sealing. In this way we become different from others. Furthermore, the seal causes us to bear the appearance of God. When God anoints us, the anointing is the sealing. First God through the anointing adds the essence of Himself to us. Then this anointing seals us with the essence of God and makes us the image of God.

III. Conclusion:

The water that Elisha healed in Jericho is a picture of the Christ we drink. Jericho sits in a valley of hot, dusty sand. In the valley there was a narrow green field watered by the spring that Elisha had healed. We were all "Jericho," cursed and condemned, but our Elisha, Jesus Christ, healed the water within us. There is a healing fountain of living water within us today, which springs into eternal life. If we drink the living water from this fountain every day, the church will be nourished and grow flourished. The primary thing in the church life is to enjoy Christ as the tree of life. There are many things in the church life, such as service, gospel, and shepherding, but the top priority thing we should do must be to enjoy the Lord. Without this, all the service has become a burden and we will be complaining.