

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Three : A Land of Wheat and Barley

I. Overview:

The wheat typifies the incarnated, crucified, and buried Christ. Christ's humanity through His incarnation became a shell that concealed His divinity and thereby concealed His glory. Because the glory of His divinity was concealed by the shell of His humanity, the Lord Jesus was pressed and constrained, longing to be baptized with the baptism of His death for the release of the glory of His divinity. The Lord Jesus, as a grain of wheat falling into the ground through death to release His divine life. In the midst of situations that limit us, we may experience Christ as a grain of wheat; this is the experience of Christ as wheat. The barley signifies the resurrected Christ; in the good land, barley ripens earlier than any other grain. As typified by barley, the resurrected Christ is unlimited. We can do all things in the One who empowers us because He is the resurrected and unlimited Christ. We cannot meet our needs in ourselves, but within us a barley loaf, a portion of the unlimited resurrected Christ, meets every need and may even produce a surplus. If we remember that Christ is barley in us, when we come to a meeting, we can apply Him as barley to feed others.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound what the wheat signifies in Deuteronomy 8:8.

What aspect of Christ does wheat represent? From John 12:24 we can see that the Lord is a grain of wheat falling into the earth to die and to be buried. The wheat represents Christ incarnated. Christ is God incarnated as man to fall into the earth—to die and to be buried. This is the wheat. It typifies the Christ who was incarnated, the Christ who died, and the Christ who was buried.

B. Explain the experience of wheat.

Whenever you are put into a situation by the Lord's sovereignty in which you are limited, in which you are pressed, you may experience the Lord as wheat. When in the midst of that limiting and pressing situation you contact the Lord, He is just as a grain of wheat to you. Immediately upon contacting Him, you can be completely satisfied with your situation and your limitation. That life which is Christ Himself within you is a grain of wheat.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the Lord's divine life being released through His death.

The Lord was constrained in His flesh, which He put upon Himself in His incarnation. He needed to undergo physical death, to be baptized, that His unlimited and infinite divine being with His divine life might be released from His flesh. His divine life, after being released through His physical death, became the impulse of His believers' spiritual life in resurrection.

B. Expound the Lord Jesus experiencing the human life of wheat to be limited.

Although the Lord is the eternal, infinite, unlimited God, He lived as a man, limited even in the matter of time. It is difficult to believe that the unlimited God lived in the house of a carpenter for thirty years. This is Jesus as our life, the One by whom we may live. Thus, wheat signifies the limited Jesus.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the truth of Jesus as the Son of Man to be glorified.

For Jesus as the Son of Man to be glorified was for Him to be resurrected, that is, to have His divine element, His divine life, released from within the shell of His humanity to produce many believers in resurrection, just as a grain of wheat in John 12:24 has its life element released when it falls into the ground and grows up out of the ground to bear much fruit, that is, to bring forth many grains.

B. Expound how to experience the wheat in the family life.

Husbands and wives not only limit each other; they also crucify each other. But how good it is to be crucified! The more we are crucified, the more the wheat grows within us. The way to eat Christ as wheat is to be limited and crucified. If you are not willing to be limited and crucified, you will not have any wheat.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the spiritual significance of the barley.

The barley points to His resurrection, the resurrected Christ. In the land of Canaan the barley always ripens first; among all the grains the barley is first. When the harvest time came, the firstfruits of the harvest had to be offered to the Lord, and the firstfruits were clearly the barley. The firstfruits of the harvest typify Christ as the firstfruits of resurrection. We can prove by this that barley represents the resurrected Christ.

B. Explain the precedent of Jesus feeding 5000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

As barley loaves, they could feed five thousand people with twelve baskets of broken pieces left over. This is resurrection. Christ can only be rich to us in His resurrection. In His incarnation He is exceedingly limited, but in His resurrection He is so very rich. There is no limit to Him as the resurrected Christ.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the relevant experience of wheat and barley.

Following the wheat is the barley. The tomb was not the end of the Lord. He was resurrected. Wheat is the valley of death, but barley is the mountain of resurrection. Whenever you experience Christ as the wheat, be assured that an experience of Christ as the barley will follow. Actually, in order to experience Christ as the grain of wheat, the limited Jesus, we must apply Him as the barley, as the resurrected Christ.

B. State how to experience the wheat and barley in your work place.

If we would live out the life of Jesus, we must also be limited. If we follow His steps, we will have no freedom, no liberty. The power that enables us to be limited is the power of His resurrection. I need the resurrected Christ living in me in order to be strengthened for just a little patience. To apply the resurrected Christ as my patience is to experience Christ as the barley.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how to use the resurrected Christ supplying others.

You have to grasp every situation as an opportunity to apply Christ. Then when you come to the meeting, it will be very easy for you to give praise or a testimony; you will have many loaves of barley to offer to the Lord. As long as you have a little bit of the resurrected Christ, you have more than enough to meet every situation. He is the loaf of barley; He is the resurrected One. Nothing can hinder Him; nothing can limit Him.

B. Expound applying Him as the one loaf of barley in the meetings.

You must share in the meeting with others. You must give some thanks and praise; you must offer some prayer. This is your responsibility. Yes, you have nothing, but in Christ you have everything. Remember that Christ is the barley in you. When you come to the meeting, apply Him as the one loaf of barley to feed all the others by your prayer or by your testimony.

III. Conclusion:

When you are limited and confused, look to the Lord. I am sure He will show you that He had been bound, put to death, and buried. He wants to show you that He is such a One to live in you. He wants to support you so that you can overcome your limitations. He will supply you so that you can be put to death and buried. He will strengthen you to such an extent and make you to become such a person. In this way, you will experience that Christ is the wheat and the resurrected Christ is infinite. He is inexhaustible when it comes to applying Him in our situations. By living the life of the resurrected Christ, you can live the life of the finite Jesus. You must go on by faith, and what you have is the resurrected Christ. You are able to do all things in Him who empowers you, because He is resurrected and unlimited.