

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying Message Seven : Laboring on the All-inclusive Christ—"a Land Flowing with Milk and Honey"— and Bringing the Surplus of the Riches of Christ to the Meetings of the Church for an Exhibition of Christ and the Corporate Worship of God

I. Overview:

After the people of Israel entered into and possessed the land of Canaan and received their allotted portion, they labored on the land. As the Lord's people who are living in the all-inclusive Christ, we need to labor on Christ, seeking Christ and enjoying Christ in every situation. We all need to labor on Christ and let Christ give us much produce; then we will have rich experiences of Christ. Every morning we need to pray, asking the Lord for the day's portion of grace and consecrating ourselves to the Lord. Throughout the day we need to maintain our fellowship with the Lord and thereby contact Him, labor on Him, apply Him, experience Him, and enjoy Him. Milk and honey, which are the mingling of both the animal life and the vegetable life, signify two aspects of the life of Christ—the redeeming aspect and the generating aspect. Milk and honey speak forth the goodness and sweetness of the life of Christ. We need to produce enough of Christ so that there will be a surplus to share with others and offer the best part of the produce to God the Father for His joy, delight, and satisfaction.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Explain that each one of us being allotted a portion of the land, whether we are willing to labor on it or not is a serious matter.

Our need is to learn how to enjoy and experience Christ. Today God has placed us in Christ, so just like the children of Israel entered into the land of Canaan and were each allotted a portion of the land. Whether or not they were willing to labor on the land was a serious matter. If an Israelite was lazy and did not rise early to diligently labor, his plot of land would be desolate, and he would not have a harvest at the end of the year.

B. Expound what the life we need to enjoy the good land is.

It is a life first of all of laboring on Christ. We who are the Lord's people living in the all-inclusive Christ should have one industry—Christ. Christ is our industry. We must labor on Him. You who are students must realize and experience even while studying that you are working on Christ.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that God had given the food already, but we needed to cook the food.

God invited all His people to come together, yet God did not cook. Although God did not cook the food, He had given the food already. He had given them the food by sending the sunshine, the air, and the rain year round. All the things were sent, but they needed to cooperate with God to have the produce.

B. Expound that we should come filled with Christ for the proper church meeting.

Meeting is the proper church life. Meeting is the practical church life. But the proper church life should be a meeting life. Before coming to the meeting, we must be laboring on Christ. We must reap Christ. We must have gathered some amount of Christ so that when we come to meet, we come filled with Christ.

Day 3 —

A. Explain how to make a genuine worship.

Regrettably, many Christians do not know that they have a spirit, much less how to exercise their spirit and how to differentiate their spirit from their soul. Thus, they are unable to render to God the true worship that He seeks. Whether we are walking on the street or are at home or in the church meeting hall, as long as we are exercising our spirit, we are worshipping God.

B. Expound what lesson we need to learn in exercising our spirit.

The most important lesson we need to learn in exercising our spirit is to not pay attention to anything that comes from our soul. We must not care for our thinking, our emotions, our preferences, and so forth. Neither should we care for our environment, our situation, or the things that are happening to us or around us. Instead of paying attention to these things, we must simply pay attention to the deep sense in our spirit.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that good land is a land flowing with milk and honey.

In Deuteronomy 8:8 the honey is put with the plants. And in Deuteronomy 32:14 the milk is put with the animals: the cattle, the flock, the milk, and the butter. The Holy Spirit is very fair. He put the honey with the plants, and He put the milk with the butter and the animals. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is well aware that, for the most part, honey has to do with the plant life.

B. Explain that milk is the product of two kinds of life.

We can say that the greater part of milk belongs to the animal life. But indeed it is the product of both the animal life and the vegetable life. If we do not have the pasture, if we do not have the grass, even though we have the cattle and the flock, we cannot have milk and butter. Which is the better food: the milk or all the fruit of the trees? I believe we all realize that milk is better than all the fruit of the vegetable life.

Day 5 —

A. Explain what a land flowing with milk and honey signifies and how to apply it.

Both milk and honey are produced by the animal life and the vegetable life. Milk is produced by cattle, which are of the animal life. However, milk cannot be produced by the animal life alone; it also needs the vegetable life, grass. Thus, milk is a product of the animal life nourished by the vegetable life. The principle is the same with honey. Bees are animals, but without flowers, the plant life, they would not be able to produce honey.

B. Expound both milk and honey being products of a combination of two kinds of lives.

In His wisdom God uses the expression flowing with milk and honey to describe the riches of the good land. Both milk and honey are products of a combination of the vegetable life and the animal life. Milk comes from cattle, which feed on grass. The animal life produces milk from the supply of the vegetable life. Therefore, milk is a product of the mingling of two kinds of life. The principle is the same with honey.

Day 6 —

A. Expound how to have the genuine worship in the Lord's table meeting.

In the Lord's table meeting, after we partake of the bread and the cup, the Lord takes the lead to bring us to the Father. The Lord leads us back to the Father in the Spirit. Here we must remember Ephesians 2:18, which reveals that our worship is through the Son, in the Spirit, and to the Father. This is fully portrayed in Luke 15; it comes back to the Father. This is the true worship in God's dispensing.

B. Explain the real worship in John 4:24.

The Lord in John 4, pointed out to the Samaritan woman that the age had changed. Today our spirit is the actual Jerusalem where God's habitation is. Furthermore, the surplus of the produce of the good land is a type of the riches of Christ. Christ is the reality of all the offerings from the riches of the good land. All these offerings were the surplus of the produce of the good land as types of Christ who is the real surplus, the real offerings.

III. Conclusion:

In the Old Testament, while God's people were in Egypt, they experienced the Lamb and then were brought out of Egypt to the destination of the good land of Canaan. But because of being rebellious and disobedient, they drifted in the wilderness for forty years, when they were eating Manna. Eventually, they entered into the good land, and the manna stopped. At that time, they all received an allotted portion of the good land and worshipped God by bringing the best portion of the produce not only for their living but also for labor of the land to offer something for God in Jerusalem and sharing it with one another. We must always be tilling the spiritual field, and cannot rely on others to do it for us. We must do it ourselves, or we will not reap the harvest. By enjoying the all-inclusive Christ, by being diligent in Him daily, and by bringing our produce of His riches to be shared with God and with the saints, this is the real feast and the proper condition of the church life.