

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Propheying
Message Three : Discipling All the Nations by Baptizing Them into the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

I. Overview:

God is the supreme authority, and He has all authority. All authority—governmental, positional, and spiritual—derives from God. There are two aspects of spiritual authority. The positive aspect is to serve the saints, to shepherd them, to supply them, and to build them up. The negative aspect is to deal with the enemy and the things related to him. Because all authority was given to Him, the heavenly King sent His disciples to disciple all the nations to make the heathen the kingdom people for the establishing of His kingdom, which is the church, even today, on the earth. Teaching them to observe all that the Lord has commanded us. The heavenly King is Emmanuel, God with us. Hence, wherever we are gathered into His name, He is in our midst. As such, He can never and would never leave His believers. Matthew proves that the Lord, as Emmanuel, is the heavenly King who is with His people continuously until He comes back. The consummation of the age is the completion of the church age, the age of grace; this age is very close to completion.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound regarding the spiritual authority.

Spiritual authority does not mean anything official but something in life. When we say that the elders have authority, we must not forget that the authority is not official. When anything becomes official, it is no longer something of life. Since the authority is not official, there is no rank or position. Anything that is not official is not positional.

B. Explain the authority is built upon Christ.

When there are elements outside of Christ that are present in us, there is no authority. Authority is in the church, and the church is upheld by Christ. In other words, the church is built upon Christ, and Christ Himself is the material for the building of the church. The amount of the element of Christ in us determines the amount of authority we have.

Day 2 —

A. Explain that all authority having been given to the Lord, Who sent His disciples to go out.

Because all authority had been given to Him, the heavenly King sent His disciples to disciple all the nations. They go with His authority. To disciple the nations is to cause the heathen to become the kingdom people for the establishing of His kingdom, which is the church, even today on this earth.

B. Expound that we have not only believers but also authority.

The Lord has given us the authority to bind and to loose. The Gospel of Matthew is concerned with the kingdom of the heavens, which is a matter of authority. The church revealed in this book represents the kingdom to reign. Hence, the authority to bind and to loose is given not only to Peter, the apostle for the church in 16:19, but also to the church itself.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the spiritual significance of the baptism.

Baptism brings the repentant people out of their old state into a new one by terminating their old life and germinating them with the new life of Christ, that they may become the kingdom people. John the Baptist's recommending ministry began with the preliminary baptism, a baptism by water only. Now, He charged His disciples to baptize the disciplined people into the Triune God.

B. Expound the two aspects of the baptism.

Baptism has two aspects: the visible aspect by water and the invisible aspect by the Holy Spirit. The visible aspect is the expression, the testimony, of the invisible aspect, whereas the invisible aspect is the reality of

the visible aspect. Both are needed. Not long after the Lord charged the disciples with the baptism, He baptized them and the entire church in the Holy Spirit, the Jewish part on the day of Pentecost and the Gentile part in the house of Cornelius.

Day 4 —

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

Matthew 4:17 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. Therefore, in the gospel we receive Jesus Christ first as the King.

B. State the various meanings of the repentance.

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. We sin because we are rebellious. If we did not rebel, we could not sin. Because we are rebels, we need to repent and receive Christ as our authority.

Day 5 —

A. Explain John 1-3 unveils the mystery of the Divine Trinity.

In the opening chapter of Matthew, the Holy Spirit, Christ, and God are present for the producing of the man Jesus, who, as Jehovah the Savior and God with us, is the very embodiment of the Triune God. In chapter 3 Matthew presents a scene in which the Son was standing in the water of baptism under the opened heaven, the Spirit like a dove descended upon the Son, and the Father spoke out of the heavens to the Son.

B. Expound the Triune God in Matthew 12, 16, 17.

In Matthew 12 the Son, in the person of man, cast out demons by the Spirit to bring in the kingdom of God the Father. In chapter 16 the Father revealed the Son to the disciples for the building of the church, which is the life pulse of the kingdom. In chapter 17 the Son entered into transfiguration and was confirmed by the Father's word of delight, bringing about a miniature display of the manifestation of the kingdom.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the words in Matthew 28:20, and how to apply them.

The disciples were commanded things like baptizing people into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Teaching the believers to observe all that the Lord has commanded is for the disciplining of all the nations. The heavenly King is Emmanuel, God with us. In 28:20 He promised that in His resurrection He will be with us all the days, with all authority, until the consummation of the age, that is, until the end of this age.

B. Expound the Lord in the kingdom with the kingdom people all the days.

As the King in the kingdom with the kingdom people, the Lord is with us all the days until the consummation of the age. Today is included in all the days. The Lord is with us today, and He will be with us tomorrow. Not one day will be an exception. He will be with us until the consummation of the age. This refers to the end of this age, which will be the time of the Lord's parousia.

III. Conclusion:

The Lord did not command the disciples to preach the gospel, but to disciple all the nations. The difference between the two is that preaching the gospel only brings sinners to salvation, but disciplining all nations makes Gentiles the people of the kingdom. We are sent by the Lord not only to bring people to salvation, but also to make all nations disciples of the Lord, so that on this earth, today, His kingdom, that is, the church, may be built up. This is a matter of kingdom. The Lord is the King, who is with us all the days in His kingdom, until the consummation of the age. That will be the time of the Lord's parousia, the coming of the Lord. The end of this generation, the consummation of the age, will be a great tribulation. We do not want to be here during that time. On the contrary, we would rather be taken up to the Lord's parousia, in the Lord's presence. This is the kingdom.