

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying
Message Four : The Kingdom as the Subduing of Rebellion and as the Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus

I. Overview:

There are two great principles in the universe—God's authority and Satan's rebellion. Satan was due to his pride, rebelled against God, became God's adversary, and established his own kingdom. When man sinned, he rebelled against God, denied God's authority, and rejected God's rule; at Babel men rebelled collectively against God to abolish God's authority from the earth. The Lord Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom so that rebellious sinners might repent to enter into the kingdom of God. The transfiguration of the Lord Jesus was the realization of what He is. The kingdom is the shining of the reality of the Lord Jesus; to be under His shining is to be in the kingdom. If we are willing to lose our soul-life for the Lord's sake, we will experience a prevailing transfiguration in the church life. At the time of the manifestation of the kingdom, our humanity will be glorified by the glorious divinity within us. In one sense, the Lord will come back from heaven, but in another sense, He will come out of us; when He fully lives Himself out of us, that will be the time of His coming. At the time of the full manifestation of the kingdom, we will fully enter into glory.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound that in the universe there are two great things.

Believing unto salvation and submitting to authority, that is to trust and obey. The Bible shows us that the definition of sin is lawlessness. To be lawless is to disregard the authority of God, and to disregard the authority of God is sin. There are two principles in the universe—God's authority and Satan's rebellion. We cannot serve God on the one hand, while taking the way of rebellion with a spirit of rebellion on the other hand.

B. Explain Isaiah 14 speaking of the rebellion of Satan.

Isaiah 14 reveals that Satan wanted to exalt his throne to be equal with God. This means that Satan intends to violate God's sovereignty, usurp God's authority, and overthrow God's throne; he intends to establish his own kingdom in the universe. God wanted to establish of His throne for the exercise of His authority, and Satan wanted to overthrow of God's throne for the setting up of his own authority.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the significance of the kingdom.

We may say that a kingdom is a sphere, or a realm, where a person accomplishes something. Sometimes we say that a certain person has his own kingdom. This means that he has a realm, a sphere, where he can work to reach his goal or fulfill his plan. Hence, a kingdom is a realm where a person does what he wants to do.

B. Expound God creating man being related to the kingdom of God.

According to the book of Genesis, God created man for a twofold purpose. On the positive side, God created man in His image so that man may express Him. On the negative side, God gave man His dominion over all created things. Dominion means "authority in a particular realm or sphere." Dominion, therefore, is related to God's kingdom.

Day 3 —

A. Explain Mark 4 being a wonderful chapter.

First, Mark 4 speaks concerning the kingdom of God. Then immediately after the record of the kingdom, there is a record of rebellion. Verse 37 says that a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat. This is a picture of rebellion. In this chapter we first have the kingdom and then the subduing of rebellion. From God's point of view, the kingdom is the development of God Himself as the seed of life.

B. Expound Satan halving his authority and his angels.

Satan has not only a house but also a kingdom. His house is a house of sin, and his kingdom is a kingdom of darkness. Sinners belong both to Satan's house and to his kingdom. The demons belong to his kingdom and possess people for his kingdom. Satan is the ruler of this world and the ruler of the authority of the air. He has his authority and his angels, who are rulers of this world of darkness.

Day 4 —

A. Fellowship the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus being the coming of the kingdom.

This proves that the kingdom is not a material realm. The kingdom is a person transfigured. Just as the seed received by the soil is a seed that has not yet been transfigured, so in our experience the Christ we received was a Christ not transfigured. The transfiguration of a seed requires the growth of that seed into a mature plant and the blossoming of that plant.

B. Fellowship how we experience a transfiguration of the Lord Jesus in us.

We are the soil, and the Lord Jesus is the seed of the kingdom. If the Lord who is in you has not yet been transfigured, others will not be able to see the kingdom of God in you. Since we have not yet experienced this kind of transfiguration, we need the Lord to grow in us until He blossoms. That blossoming will be the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus in us in a practical way.

Day 5 —

A. Explain how the church being built up.

Unless Christ had been crucified and resurrected, He could not build up the church. Verse 21 indicates that the way to build up the church is through death and resurrection. Through death and resurrection Christ has entered into a realm of transfiguration. The church exists in this realm of transfiguration. It cannot exist in the natural life or with fleshly people.

B. Expound the losing of the soul being the basic factor in our being built up together.

It is not only a matter of denying the self or of bearing the cross but of losing the soul. We need to lose all our present soulish enjoyment for the Lord's sake, for the sake of the church, and for the sake of all the saints. If you are willing to lose your soul for the sake of others, those with you will be enlightened, nourished, and filled. This is the way the church is built.

Day 6 —

A. Explain what it means to be glorified.

When Christ, who is God, became a man, His divinity was incarnated in His humanity. He was a unique person, one possessing both divinity and humanity. His divinity was concealed within His humanity. Outwardly, He was a man, but inwardly, He was the very God. God was hidden, contained, concealed, within this man. Glory is God manifested, God expressed. The God hidden within the humanity of Jesus was the very glory.

B. Expound that the Lord Jesus being transfigured meant His humanity being saturated with His divinity.

This transfiguration, which was His glorification, was equal to His coming in His kingdom. This indicates that Christ's coming in His kingdom is linked with His transfiguration. The coming of the kingdom is the Lord's glorification, His transfiguration; and His glorification is the saturation of His humanity by His divinity.

Because the Lord has been transfigured, He is now in glory.

III. Conclusion:

From God's point of view, the kingdom is the development of God Himself as the seed of life. But from the point of view of God's enemy, the kingdom is the subduing of rebellion. The Lord Jesus has dealt with the rebellion, which is the "stormy sea" in our environment. Now we can follow Him without hindrance. We must separate the work of saving people and the work of God. Saving people is to solve people's problems, but God's work is to give people the authority to govern all things that God has created. We are on earth not only for the needs of people, but also for the needs of God. Of course, preaching the gospel requires paying price, but dealing with Satan requires paying much greater price. The work of dealing with demons has nothing to do with leaving a position for oneself. If you want to leave something for yourself, you will not be able to do anything. God's purpose is for us to be absolutely for Him.