

## **Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**

### **Message Eight : Seeking First the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness**

#### I. Overview:

The Father's kingdom is the reality of the kingdom of the heavens today, the reality of the church life today, and will be the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the coming age. The basic attitude of every believer should be to not love money. If we store up for ourselves treasures on the earth, we will always be serving mammon. Deliverance from mammon is the first and foremost condition for one to serve God. Our human life is a life of anxiety and there is no anxiety in the divine life, the divine nature. As we are fulfilling our human duty to work to sustain our living, we should not do anything for the sake of our anxiety. There are two aspects of Christ being righteousness to the believers. These two aspects are typified by the best robe and the fattened calf in Luke 15:22-23. The crown in 2 Timothy is a symbol of glory, given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the race; this prize is of righteousness through works. The believers will be recompensed with such a reward, according to His righteousness; hence, it is the crown of righteousness.

#### II. Truth and Enlightenment:

##### Day 1 —

A. Expound what the kingdom people should do with their treasure.

In Matthew 6:19 and 20 the King decreed that the kingdom people should not store up for themselves treasures on earth but treasures in heaven. To store up treasures in heaven is to give material things to the poor and to care for the needy saints and the Lord's servants. Matthew 6:21 says, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The kingdom people must send their treasure to heaven so that their heart can also be in heaven.

B. Explain that our eyes can focus on only one thing at a time.

Our eyes can focus on only one thing at a time. If we endeavour to see two things at once, our vision will be blurred. If we focus our eyes on one thing, our vision will be single, and our whole body will be full of light. If we store up our treasure both in heaven and on earth, our spiritual vision will be blurred. For our vision to be single, we must store up our treasure in one place.

##### Day 2 —

A. Explain only the Father's divine life and nature being able to fulfill the requirements of the kingdom of the heavens.

Although Matthew 5—7 does not actually use the words life and nature, from the context we can see that apart from the Father's divine life and nature, these chapters are in vain. No one would be able to fulfill the requirements of the kingdom of the heavens without having the Father's life and nature. Every constitution is based upon a certain kind of life.

B. Expound that there is no anxiety in the divine life and the divine nature.

Anxiety is not of the divine life but of the human life, just as barking is of the dog life, not of the bird life. Our human life is a life of anxiety, whereas God's life is a life of enjoyment, rest, comfort, and satisfaction. To God anxiety is a strange term. With Him there is no such thing as anxiety.

##### Day 3 —

A. Explain that young people should fulfill their duties and give willingly.

To live on this earth for God, you must finish your education. But as you are studying and completing your education, you must be different from the worldly people. The worldly ones study for the sake of their anxiety; you should not study for anxiety but to fulfill your duty. If you do not see this point, this portion in Matthew 6:19-34 will simply be a legal matter to you.

B. Expound that as we are fulfilling our duty, we should not do anything for the sake of our anxiety.

We have a divine life that knows no anxiety, and we have an almighty and all-inclusive heavenly Father who takes care of us in every way. Today's world is filled with anxiety, but the kingdom people should not

be anxious about anything. We are not able to add one cubit to our stature by our anxiety. Concerning morality, we have the life and nature of our Father within us to enable us to fulfill the highest moral requirements.

Day 4 —

A. Expound the kingdom and the righteousness of their heavenly Father in Matthew 6:33.

The Father's kingdom is the reality of the kingdom of the heavens today, the reality of the church life today, and will be the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens in the coming age. The Father's righteousness is the righteousness expressed by the keeping of the new law of the kingdom. This righteousness is Christ, who is lived out by the kingdom people. Since the kingdom people seek first the kingdom and the righteousness of their heavenly Father, not only will His kingdom and His righteousness be given to them, but also all that they need will be added to them.

B. Explain although God loves man, He must do things with His own righteousness.

Love is God's nature, holiness is God's disposition, and glory is God's being. Righteousness, however, is God's procedure, His way, and His method. Since God is righteous, He cannot love man merely according to His own love. He cannot grant man grace merely according to what He wants. He cannot save man merely according to His heart's desire. It is true that God saves man because He loves man. But He must do so in a way that is in agreement with His own righteousness.

Day 5 —

A. Expound there being two aspects of Christ being righteousness from God to the believers.

The first aspect is that He is the believers' righteousness for them to be justified before God objectively at the time of their repenting unto God and believing into Christ. The second aspect is that Christ is the believers' righteousness lived out of them as the manifestation of God, who is the righteousness in Christ given to the believers for them to be justified by God subjectively.

B. Explain these two aspects of Christ as righteousness being also typified by the two garments in Psalm 45:13-14.

These two aspects of Christ as righteousness are also typified by the two garments of the queen in Psalm 45:13-14. Solomon had a queen, and that queen had two garments. The first one corresponds with the objective righteousness, which is for our justification. The other garment corresponds with the subjective righteousnesses, which are for our victory. This garment is equivalent to the wedding garment in Matthew 22.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the words in 2 Timothy 4:8.

The crown, a symbol of glory, is given as a prize, in addition to the Lord's salvation, to the triumphant runner of the race. In contrast to salvation, which is of grace and by faith, this prize is not of grace nor by faith, but is of righteousness through works. The believers will be recompensed with such a reward, .not according to the Lord's grace but according to His righteousness. Hence, it is the crown of righteousness.

B. Expound that when the Lord Jesus comes back, He will be the righteous Judge.

Not many believers realize that when the Lord Jesus comes back, He will not come as the merciful God or as the gracious Savior but as the righteous Judge. We must declare the fact that when the Lord comes back, He will be the Judge of all, both believers and unbelievers. According to Matthew 25, all of the Lord's servants will have to give an account to Him.

III. Conclusion:

Today, we must fulfill our duties, but do not worry about our own lives. Your reluctance to give things to others from your anxieties. Because of these anxieties, you so loved for material things. If you don't have anxiety, you would not care about material possessions. Instead, you would allow others to have those things. No idle, unfulfilled duty's person can grow in life. Those who grow in life are diligent and energetic. This diligence and energy will be rewarded, and some material wealth will come your way. Whatever surplus you may have should not be used for anxiety, but rather to increase the savings in the bank of heaven. If you do this, you will grow in life. Only those who are diligent but do not worry about using their surplus can grow in life. We work hard and fulfill our duties, but we do not have any anxiety. This is the path of growing in the Father's life.