



**EXCERPT FROM MINISTRY READING (THE KINGDOM CHAPTER 27):
SOME PRACTICAL MATTERS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM LIFE**

FORGIVING OTHERS

In Matthew 18 we see a third aspect of the proper church life—the little children living at home are quick and ready to forgive others. Peter considered that forgiving his brother seven times was sufficient, but the word of the Lord Jesus was “seventy times seven.” That indicates forgiving endlessly, continually ready to forgive. If someone offends you in the morning, you need to forgive him. If he offends you again at noon, you need to forgive him then. If he offends you tomorrow, the next day, and the day following, you will need to forgive him every time. The Lord Jesus did not speak in a light way. What does it mean to forgive? To forgive is to forget. If you cannot forget, it means that you have never forgiven.

Once, a brother came to me, saying, “Brother, let me tell you what a certain person did to me...He really offended me, but I forgave him.” Immediately, I told this brother, “Your forgiveness is quite different from the forgiveness in the Bible. The Bible says that to forgive is to forget. You say that you have forgiven your brother, but you remember everything well enough to repeat it to me. This means that you have not forgiven your brother because you have not forgotten the offense.” When God forgives us, He forgets. Although God is omniscient and omnipotent, He is able to forget. He simply cannot recall our failures and transgressions. Once He forgives them, He forgets them.

In the local churches the problems always concern this matter of forgiving. For example, when we first come together to practice the church life, everyone and everything is wonderful. After a while, although everyone is nice, some friction gradually arises. Unintentionally, you offend me and I offend you. Sometimes you look at my countenance and feel that I am not happy with you, and sometimes I listen to your voice and think that you are not pleased with me. These things happen again and again. Therefore, we need the forgiving grace. We need to forgive all and to forget all. Whenever we forgive and forget, we have new life in the church. By forgetting all of the frictions, failures, and offenses, we become new. The church becomes a new church. Otherwise, our church will become an old wrinkled church. When a person becomes old, he develops wrinkles. If you visit a church that has been in existence for ten years, you can see wrinkles. What are the wrinkles? They are the unwillingness to forgive and forget. Apparently, you are willing to forgive; actually, you are unwilling to forget. This unwillingness to forget the failures of others produces many wrinkles. Thus, the church becomes an old church. If we will forgive by forgetting, every wrinkle will be removed. Every day the church will be a new church with no oldness, failures, transgressions, or offenses because all these things have been mutually forgotten.

This must be applied to your family life and especially to your marriage. You need to forgive your wife day by day and hour by hour. This means that you forget all that your dear wife has done to you. If you forget all the offenses, your wife will always be lovable, and you will have a good family life. However, if you remember even a few things that she has done to you, immediately she will cease to be lovable. You need to forgive and forget.

Matthew 18 reveals the practical way to have the church life. In this chapter we need to be converted and to become humble little children. We need to depend on others, and we need to forgive and forget. If we practice these things, we will have a very living church.

Announcement:

1. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 7/21 is scheduled at district prayer meeting on-line locations starting from 7:30-8:00 PM. We encourage the saints to separate time to attend.
2. Corporate pursuing this week: "The Kingdom" messages 27 & 28.
3. When COVID-19 outbreaked in March, saints in Mainland China care the members of The Body in United States. Along with their fellowship, we also received a shipment of regular face masks. This is the fellowship of the body and praise to the Lord. If any of our brothers/sisters and any of gospel friends whom we are caring for need face mask, please notify serving ones in small group. We will finalize the quantity and distribute face mask as soon as we collect the needs.
4. Let us continue to have the burden of and practice mutual shepherding.

Meeting Attendance:

Small Groups (7/10~7/11): 153

Lord's Table (7/12): 133

Prayer Meeting (7/14): 56

Prayer Burdens:

Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training -

- A. Pray for the 32 saints who signed up for the training from Piscataway. May the Lord set the fire in each one's heart and gain their consecration afresh.
- B. Pray for the burden of the serving one's training: living and serving in the oneness and the one accord in the Body of Christ.
- C. Pray for the Lord to cover and protect all the service and practical need during the training from any distraction.

Mutual Shepherding to Build up the Body of Christ -

Pray that all the saints learn to shepherd one another according to God, taking all-inclusive, tender care of the flock.

Children and Children Service

- A. Children enjoy online meeting, meeting with others.
- B. Parents have the burden to take care of their children in God's will.
- C. Pray for a planned fellowship with children's parents.

Overflow from The Semi-Annual Training

After experiencing my first summer training, I didn't expect how much the book of Jeremiah relates to the current world situation today. Before the summer training, I didn't have that much background knowledge on Jeremiah, and I only knew that Jeremiah was called "The Weeping Prophet" because he often wept and lamented on the degraded situation of God's people. In Jeremiah 2:13, God stated that His people committed two evils: the people have forsaken God and also turned to a different source other than God. According to Jeremiah 2:13, God's people hewed out for themselves broken cisterns which hold no water; this portrays Israel's toiling in their human labor to make something to replace God (idols). The book of Jeremiah emphasized that the Israelites loved worshipping idols so much that they still would not give up their idols even after they were captured by the Babylonians, and were willing to carry them from the good land to Babylon.

What struck me the most was that the Israelites know there is a God, but they went after the lies. In a way, this fact made me feel convicted because this statement relates to how I feel about the Lord many times. I oftentimes would also lie to myself and believe that there are other things that could fill me with, but in the end, all those things are only temporary, and the Lord is the only one that could satisfy us. Although I do not worship false gods or idols like the Israelites, I often go after many things that I love more than the Lord Himself. The things I treasure more than the Lord can become the idol in my heart, and this made me realize that I am no better than the Israelites. This summer training is an excellent reminder to us that we are all fallen, and we must depend on the Lord in all things.

2020 Northern America College Training (NACT)

Introduction

The title of this year's North America College Training was the Intrinsic Significance of Samuel, the Nazarite. This college training began on Friday, July 10th and ended on Saturday, July 18th. Over 1100 students gathered online via Zoom to pursue the Lord. Majority of the College Training meetings were conducted by region. In the North East, there were 603 college students from different campuses who participated in this training. It was brought out in the sharing that God's people need to see that we are not living in an ordinary time. We need to see that whenever something unprecedented happens in human history, God does something for His move. The Lord wants to bring in His kingdom and there is a need for Nazarites! God's desire is that all His people would be Nazarites. He needs us to be Samuels and also to be Hannahs; those who produce Samuels. This is done by praying prayers according to the desire of God's heart. God is calling each of us to be men of prayer who are absolutely consecrated to Him.

A Rutgers student's Enjoyment

This week, I have been so watered by all the messages spoken at the College Training and I would like to share

about one particular message that really spoke to me! Message Four spoke of the status of Samuel: A Prophet. Prophets are those who speak for and forth God, which means they know and understand God's heart and dispenses this very God to all those around them. Before this message, I had just thought prophets just prophesied, that an ordinary person could never be a prophet to God. But that is not the case! God desires that all his people be prophets, speaking for him and forth his Word. The first part to being a prophet, actually, is not to speak but to listen. Prophets understand what is on God's heart and to do that they must first listen to what He has to say. Our ears need to be open and sensitive to the Lord. In the morning, it is important that we pray to the Lord to awaken and anoint our ears to hear Him. The second part is the dispensation of God. Ephesians 3:2 says, "If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you". Just like stewards who distribute food to others, we are the stewards of the grace of God, distributing and dispensing God into others. The end of the verse states "to me for you". I admit, sometimes I will just keep this joy within me and not share it with others. However, the Bible says, God was given to us in order so that we may spread that grace to others with our speaking. When we dispense the enjoyment that was given to us to others, this is the true building up of the Church. Hallelujah!

