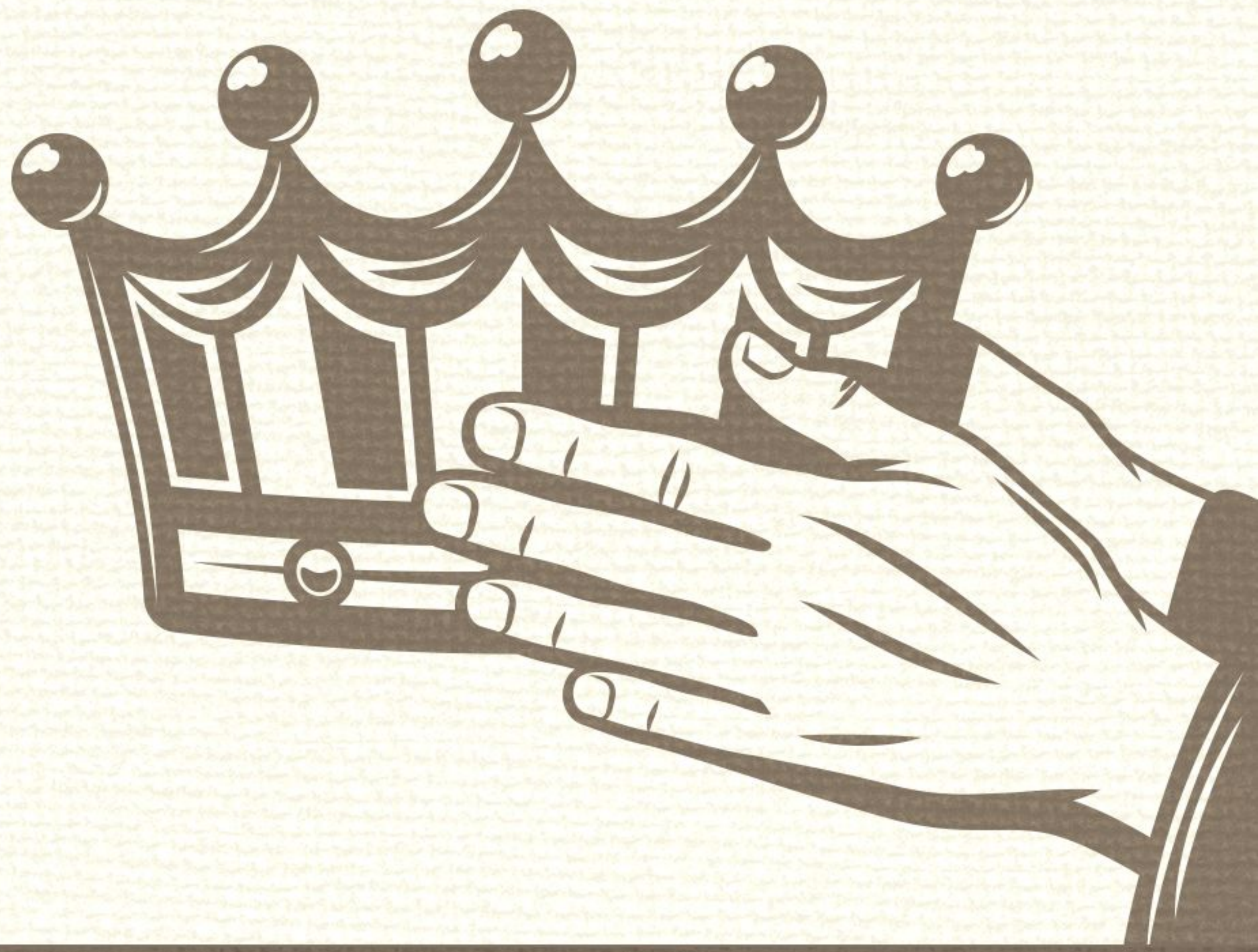


# *The Happiness of Those Who Have a Master*



## *1 The Centurion's Faith Amazed the Lord* (Matthew 8:5-13)

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim

## *2 Jesus is the King*

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in 'Breaking Away from mysticism in Faith Life' Part 3

# *The Centurion's Faith Amazed the Lord*

*(Matthew 8:5-13)*

Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim



The Lord proclaimed a significant word that could shatter the destiny of Israel:

*“I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Meanwhile, the Lord could not find the faith that He desired from Israel. However, He expressed the hope that He could find it from all nations all over the world in public. This was the moment that opened up the possibility for a new history of the gospel, but at the same time, Jews were shocked heavily because they believed that they would definitely go to heaven as God's chosen people.

Jesus made this significant proclamation upon seeing the faith of a centurion from Capernaum. The Lord said of him,

*“Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.”*

What the Lord found in him was neither vast knowledge of God nor intellectual agreement with theological propositions. Rather, his personality was characterized by faithfulness and sensitivity, humility and consideration, love and gentleness, and moreover,

a deep insight into God. Finally, the Lord found the faith that He was seeking but could not find among the people of Israel in a Roman centurion, who was commonly expected to be cruel and vicious.

The centurion came to the Lord because his servant suffered from being paralyzed. In that time, servants could not be respected as individuals and were merely seen as instruments who breathed for their masters. However, the centurion had compassion on his servant. Moreover, he did not make a hasty demand to the Lord. Instead, he cautiously informed the Lord of his servant's circumstance by saying,

*“Lord, my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”*

This humble attitude of the centurion drew the Lord's attention and made Him walk to the centurion's house.

What happened afterwards surprised the Lord even more. Upon hearing that the Lord was coming to his house, the centurion immediately sent someone to say,

*“Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”*

He believed that it would not be appropriate for the Lord to come to the home of a Gentile like himself, who was dirty and worthless. Furthermore, he knew that Jews regarded contact with Gentiles as something dirty, so he did not want the Lord to get in trouble because of him. Additionally, he believed that the Lord was the One who had been entrusted with authority from God, and therefore, he trusted that if only He commanded it in a word, then the spirits that caused the illness could be driven out.

The Lord looked upon the centurion's sincere faith in God and humble attitude as a sinner with admiration. However, this admiration was also accompanied by lament. This was because the faith the centurion showed to the Lord should have been found in the Israelites who had enjoyed the beneficial



privilege of being God's people. Nevertheless, Israel made a simple formula of "God's people will go to heaven" and neglected the work that God was truly fulfilling while remaining content within it. Their refusal to repent led them further into sin, and ultimately forced the Son of God to suffer and die.

What is our attitude toward God? Do we satisfy ourselves by making the simple formula of "believing in God will take us to heaven?" We have received the great grace that even Israel could not attain. Yet, if we still consider a sense of belonging and intellectual agreement as the essence of faith, and do not fulfill our duties as those who have received this grace, we will never be free from the Lord's warning that the subjects of the kingdom will be cast out into the darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth. We received the Lord's grace through His humility, affection, sacrifice, and love. Therefore, let us prove our faith by showing humility in our personalities. Let us demonstrate our true desire to be with the Lord eternally through our lives.

***The Centurion's Faith Amazed the Lord***  
***(Matthew 8:5-13)***

*Sermon by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*

*Sungrak Church Lord's Day service on April 23, 2023*

# 2 Jesus is the King

in "LET US KNOW JESUS"

Written by Semuon



Jesus Christ is our King. He destroys the devil (the ruler of this world) and saves us because He is King. Acts 10:38 says, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Jesus became King this way because God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and power.

When we call Jesus "Lord," we recognize Him as our King. When we call Jesus "Christ," we recognize Him as our King. Since He is our King, He rules and governs us. When we confess "Jesus is Christ," we are confessing, "I belong to Jesus and absolutely submit to Him." We recognize Jesus' royal authority. If we call Jesus "Christ" but do not submit to Him, we are contradicting ourselves.

Jesus is our King who has saved us. In the past, we belonged to the devil. He is the ruler of this world. Because the devil is the power of death, all that is left for those who dwell in him are curses and destruction. Jesus is now our King, so He saves and rules us. We must clearly decide whether we will belong to Jesus (who is King of kings) or belong to the devil (who is the ruler of this world).

When we confess, "Jesus is Christ," we are confessing, "Jesus is my Master! Jesus is my King!" The person who accepts Jesus as King no longer needs to be controlled by the ruler of this world. Many refer to Jesus as Christ and still place one foot in the kingdom

controlled by the ruler of this world. They come to church on the Lord's Day and say, "Jesus is Christ!" When the service finishes, they go back to the world and listen to its ruler. You must be clear about who you serve as king.

When Jesus went to Jerusalem ahead of His death, His disciples competed to lay down their lives for Him. Those who followed Jesus but did not know why He had to die abandoned Him and fled without exception. In the same way, many people today say "Jesus is Christ" but cannot experience a clear change in their status. They are still oppressed by the devil and afraid of demons. When we clearly know that Jesus is Christ, Lord, and King, we will not stumble by any of the devil's tricks.

As the Lord said, "Eat My flesh! Drink My blood!", we ate and drank the flesh and blood of Christ. He came into the royal family of Israel. He is King of kings. He gave us His flesh and blood, poured out His spirit, put His name in us, and gave us the right to become God's children. With this, we become heirs to receive an inheritance with Christ and reign forever with Him. Christ is King of kings. Revelation 20:6 says, "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years," and Revelation 22:5 says, "And they shall reign forever and ever."

We believe Jesus is King. The expressions "Jesus, Son of David" and "Christ Jesus" all mean "Jesus is King."

The expression “Jesus Christ” is a type of faith confession. Jesus is Christ, that is, anointed as Prophet, High Priest and King. We should perfectly submit to Him and be used by Him.

Ezekiel 44:1-3 says, “Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the LORD said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. As for the prince, because he is the prince, he may sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way.”” This prophecy tells us that when the King enters Jerusalem, the gate will be shut and afterwards no one can enter through it. This was completely fulfilled through Jesus.

When Jesus rode a donkey and entered Jerusalem, people met Him while holding palm trees branches and shouted,

*“Hosanna!*

*‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’*

*The King of Israel!” (Jn 12:13).*

It was the first time so many people called Jesus the King. Jesus went through the gate of Jerusalem. This was the gate near the hill east of Zion. Two thousand years have passed and we can discover these amazing truths. All the other gates of Jerusalem are open, but the eastern door used by Jesus was later firmly blocked by stone walls.

Jesus is truly King. He rode a donkey, past the east gate, and entered Jerusalem. He broke bread with His disciples and was afterwards crucified. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied that the King would enter the east gate of Jerusalem. Five hundred years later, it was fulfilled through Jesus Christ. ‘Jesus is our King’ is not just a subjective faith confession or abstract idea—it was proven through history.

Those who serve Jesus as King have God’s promises. Psalms 84:1-3 says,

*“How lovely is Your tabernacle,  
O LORD of hosts!*

*My soul longs, yes, even faints*

*For the courts of the LORD;*

*My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.*

*Even the sparrow has found a home,*

*And the swallow a nest for herself,*

*Where she may lay her young—*

*Even Your altars, O LORD of hosts,*

*My King and my God.”*

As the sparrow finds a home and the swallow finds a nest for her young on the Lord’s altar, those who serve Jesus as King will prosper in their deeds. But how can those who do not serve God as King and grumble at Him, doubt Him and ignore Him, expect their prayers to be conveyed and answered? Jesus is Christ and our King. For our faith confession to be sincere, we must serve Him as King.

***in LET US KNOW JESUS,  
Chapter 15 “Jesus is the King”***

# 3 Testimonies of Blessings

*First, "What is True Spiritual Reality?"*

*Second, "I was like a Leper"*

*Third, "I, who Only Asserted My Own Righteousness"*

*Fourth, 'The Worthy Attitude as a Servant'*





## *"What is True Spiritual Reality?"*

Whenever I heard the word "spiritual," my thoughts were limited to the notions of driving out demons and healing diseases. In the midst of this, when he focused on what was wrong and needed to be changed in our spiritual lives, I wrongly perceived the overseer's sermons as nothing more than moral and ethical narratives. Therefore, I started feeling that overseer's sermon pushed me further away from spiritual life.

However, on a certain day, I came to realize that the overseer was truly speaking about the true nature of spirituality. Our problems that he spoke about were manifestations that arose when believers followed the worldly desires within the church. Although the spiritual world and our spirits cannot be seen, all outcomes will be evident through each individual's actions. Whether something is spiritual or not does not depend on its visibility or reality. Rather, it is determined by living an obedient life to God's will.

After listening to his sermon, I gained a true understanding that the distance between parables and reality is not as far as I had thought. The same events, when they occur in the world, are considered parables, but when they happen within the church and our faith lives, they become realities. Prior to this realization, I was busy trying to memorize all the criteria the overseer presented in order to discern right from wrong. Consequently, despite my earnest efforts to listen and remember the words, there was nothing that truly remained within me.

After realizing that the overseer's sermon is spiritual, I came to understand that the overseer's words I had previously regarded as ethics and morals were actually teachings about the right attitude for believers in their faith lives. Furthermore, I gained a clear understanding of my thoughts and choices that I should make as a spiritual individual.

The church is open to everyone. However, I came to understand that, in the fact, the kingdom of God continuously separates worldly individuals, the gate of the kingdom is referred to as "the narrow gate". In the past, I used to think of "sin" simply as evil deeds. However, upon hearing the teachings, I realized that it is also considered a sin when individuals fail to acknowledge their own limitations before God. The reason people become self-centered and hinder God's work is they cannot perceive their own lack. And the reason why they fail to see their lack is their refusal to admit their own limitations.

I realized that in order to become a so-called spiritual person, I must first be humble before God. No matter how diligently I adhere to spiritual rules, if I am not with God, they are merely norms for self-restraint. When I become absorbed in these norms, I tend to focus only on the sense of obligation to keep them and forget why I should keep the laws. As a result, the hope for heaven gradually fades away. The Israelites remembered and kept numerous laws, but over time, they were left with fear and oppression instead of joy and hope. I must remember that through fleshly enthusiasm my faith cannot be firmly established and I cannot receive the joy of God.

*January 8, 2023*

*Jang In \*\*Berea Church from China*

# "I was like a Leper"

While listening to the overseer's sermon, I started pondering about insensitivity. I realized that I am the one like a person with leprosy, unaware of their own condition even when their blood is dripping until someone points it out to them. Even though God sent His son to reveal Himself to me and shed His blood for this dull individual, I confess that I am still full of arrogance due to my insensitivity.

While listening to the sermon, I witnessed the humility of the leper. I thought that the leper's humility was shown through his acknowledgment of Jesus as his Master. Despite facing an urgent and life-threatening situation, he truly respected the will of the Lord first and cautiously asked Him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." I can clearly understand that this man with leprosy truly respected the Lord.

Upon reflecting on myself through the leper's attitude, I have come to realize that I have shamefully used God and arrogantly carried Him on my back for my own life. This realization has led me to repentance. I wholeheartedly commit to changing my perspective by breaking free from self-centeredness so that everything can be fulfilled as my Master desires. I desire not to merely confess with words

merely confess with words that the overseer is my Master, but to truly recognize Him as my Master from the depths of my heart. I hope to be the one who weeps and feels righteous anger with him and live an obedient life.

*April 16, 2023*

*Sister Chang from Sungrak Church*

*After listening to the sermon*

*"Christ's Healing Requires Our Spirits to be Cleansed"*

*by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*



## *"I, who Only Asserted My Own Righteousness"*

God has embraced and endured me, a sinner who is filled with filth and many flaws so unworthy to even be looked at with open eyes. However, He accepted me through His unconditional love and boundless compassion. Furthermore, He has raised me to the same level as His Son. I cannot express enough gratitude towards God for how high He has exalted me.

I humbly surrender myself before God! However, through the overseer's sermon, I have discovered that I still perceive myself as righteous when it comes to interacting with others. I acknowledge that I am deeply flawed and unworthy before God, yet in the presence of people, I unconsciously assert my own righteousness. When faced with a problem, I am quick to judge who is right or wrong, who is at fault, and what is the correct course of action should be. If someone holds a similar position to mine, I feel at ease. But if their viewpoint differs from mine, my discomfort is easily reflected in my facial expressions.

How can I always be right? It is truly evil to hold onto others' faults and not embrace them when they are vulnerable and make mistakes, even if they are wrong. How can someone like me consider and embrace others if I haven't fully repented? For a while, I have lacked a sincere understanding of the Lord's heart. The Lord is always concerned about 'How people can be united and reconciled?', but I find myself drifting apart from Him.

Fortunately, such attitudes are decreasing more and more in the church. However, I find myself that I always assert I am right in front of my child and husband. I desire the Lord's forgiveness and I should repent quickly. I not only appreciate the Lord, but I also serve God with a grateful heart.

Once again, I express my deep appreciation for Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim. He courageously broke away from the past authoritarianism that focused solely on our own abilities in order to change us into noble and sincere Christians! Our overseer is a good shepherd who is committed to God and responsible for his saints. Since this year, our church has been attentive to his teachings, and everyone testifies that they are truly changing and experiencing growth in ability to love and obey God as time goes on! Personally, I have also experienced the work of God, and now I am able to concentrate on His work twice as much as before! This change is a result of the overseer's guidance in choosing the path of truth.

By following the guidance of our Mother Church, we have learned to express gratitude, show respect to our shepherd, love the church, and reconcile among ministers and saints. We have also learned to give offerings with our wholehearted dedication and passionately preach the gospel. These attitudes were not present in us before. All of these changes are the fruit of the guidance and nurturing provided by our Mother Church. I am truly grateful for our Mother Church.

*March 31, 2023*

*Minister Rhyu*

*In \*\*Berea Church from China*

# 'The Worthy Attitude as a Servant'

While confessing with my lips that I will obey God, I have discovered that my attitude is still far from the obedience that God expects from me. I have also realized that within me, there are fixed stereotypes and negative misconceptions about obedience that I was not aware of. Thankfully, through the overseer's sermon, I have come to realize in my heart that my true identity is the one who should obey as a servant.

In a way, I have come to a clear understanding that living a faith life as a servant is not complicated but rather clear and straightforward. When I live my faith life as if I were the Master, I may encounter various factors that hinder me from receiving God's guidance, such as numerous calculations, considerations, and the need to maintain appearances. However, I find relief in the realization that when I live a faith life as an obedient and submissive servant to the Lord, all these worries and concerns disappear, allowing me to fully live my faith life according to my true identity. Moreover, I firmly believe that this path undeniably guarantees a secure and certain way to salvation.

Through the overseer's sermon, the negative misconceptions about living faith life as an obedient servant have been eradicated. Moreover, I have gained a deeper understanding that living a faith life as a servant who has a master can bring security, freedom from burdens, and assurance. Consequently, my heart is filled with gratitude and joy.

I also have come to know that practicing restraint in both speech and actions is ultimately crucial for fulfilling the salvation given by God until the end and further contributing to the salvation of many souls. As a worthy servant, I should not have spoken or acted based on my own desires. However, I have discovered that I have often allowed my own feelings and perspectives to guide my words and actions. The Lord has already commanded us, saying, "Whatever you do, do as working for the Lord" and "Value others above yourselves." Now, He is urging me to change through the guidance of the overseer and demanding firm determination. Therefore, I earnestly desire to move towards the Lord by responding to His voice with obedient faith.



*February 26, 2023*

*Sister Jung from Sungrak Church*

*After listening to the sermon*

*"Jesus Baptized in Obedience to Righteousness"*

*by Overseer Sung-Hyun Kim*

# Who is the Word Referring to?

in 'Breaking Away from Mysticism in Faith Life' Part 3



*“ You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40) ”*

How did those who studied the Bible in the past read it? They placed special emphasis on the historical context and interpreted the scriptures based on the realities of that time period. They focused more on interpreting the historical background than on the biblical text itself. Therefore, while they were reading the Bible, they were actually learning about historical knowledge. This was the mainstream theological thinking in the 1970s and 1980s in the world.

For example, when they read Psalms, they never imagined connecting the content to Jesus Christ. “Why were the Psalms written in certain situations? David wrote these words under distress because he was being chased by his son and filled with sorrow.” They focused more on the situation of that period, so they naturally thought, “This is not a word given to me by God today, but simply something David said because of his circumstances at the time.” They could only get some lessons and knowledge from it.

We should not stop at this level. Jesus has already told us the key principle of how to read the Bible, saying, “All scriptures testify about me.” Those who recorded the Bible did not know this; some may have known, but only partially. But if we read the Bible with the principle of Jesus, we can clearly understand. And then, we can recognize that even the Passover is a representation of Jesus.

Also, the prophet Isaiah prophesied, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.” There were certain contexts when Isaiah spoke. There were several kings fighting against each other, so they asked Isaiah, “Can we win? What is the sign of victory?” He replied, “The sign will be that a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son.” Those who only focus on the situation at the time cannot understand that is a prophecy about Jesus.

But we need to understand that God is the One who conducted all those situations from behind. How amazing! God uses not only human language but also human history as a metaphor to reveal Himself to us.

Usually, when we use metaphors to explain things, we use something in the world as a principle to illustrate it, but our God uses historical events as a metaphor. History is not created by a single person but by a multitude of people who consciously or passively work together to create it. However, all of this has become a prophecy in the hands of God, which is amazing! From this, we can know that God is the One who governs human history, and all of this history ultimately becomes a prophecy about Jesus Christ. We believe this and approach the Bible with this perspective. Therefore, when we read the Bible, we do not need to cling to the past historical background but consider them as all of this as a prophecy about the coming of Jesus Christ and what He will accomplish.

But we cannot stop there. If we only stop at Jesus Christ, we will only exclaim, “Wow, amazing!” and then it will end. However, we are people who experience these

words being fulfilled in ourselves. Here, we must be careful not to gradually evolve from “the Bible is written for Jesus” to “the Bible is talking about me.” In other words, they arbitrarily placed the words on themselves, but these words are about Jesus Christ. Then what are these related to us today? The key point is here. We have now become a part of Jesus, and that is the main point. Otherwise, the Old Testament actually has nothing to do with us because all of it is about Jesus, not about us. But now, through baptism, we are united with Jesus and become one with Him, and so all the contents of the Old Testament now become words spoken to us. So, in Jesus Christ, those words are accomplished to us.

God promised Abraham, making him a blessing. He is a blessing. If you cannot understand this, when we say, “I am a blessing” or “You are a blessing,” it will seem absurd. God referred to Abraham as the blessing, and likewise, we become the blessing. In fact, this is referring to Jesus because everything is accomplished through Jesus, so Jesus is the true blessing. Now, because we are united with Jesus, we also become the blessing. Therefore, the words in the Bible become mine in Jesus Christ. Now all we have to do is strive to advance towards the Kingdom of Heaven.

God gave the Law to fulfill the covenant with Abraham as I had promised, and it is called the terms. These terms and conditions, there are not only about ethics and morality but also about how we should treat God. What all the Law talks about is Jesus: you can receive the blessing of Abraham by observing all of the Law. But because of man's own limitations, it is impossible to fully obey the Law, and God is deeply

aware of it. Therefore, to those who confess that they are sinners, God sent Jesus Christ to complete the Law and gave the Holy Spirit to accomplish what the Law could not do. Through this, the blessing of Abraham came upon us.

Furthermore, the Law shows God's character, so it not only enables us to learn many useful lessons but also becomes a law for us to serve God.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scriptures are inspired by God.” Scriptures here do not refer to the New Testament but to the Old Testament. “The Bible is God's revelation, and it is useful to teach, to censure, to correct, to teach righteousness.” This means that after you have believed in Jesus, you must teach, rebuke, correct, and teach righteousness. So, when those who have been saved read the Old Testament, they are rebuked and recognize, “I should not have done this. It is wrong...” And they can be corrected, and their behaviors are becoming righteous. In other words, they can become a man who aligns with God's will. Therefore, the pursuit is not merely contented with salvation but also to be like God and learn God's character.

Once we become one with God, we need to gradually understand how God thinks and learn what He puts first. We need to understand how God works, what He likes, and what He dislikes. All of these are things we need to learn, and they are all recorded in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is not unrelated to Jesus. If we do not connect the Old Testament and Jesus, we will not gain anything. Nowadays, people often use academic terms such as “form criticism,” which simply means going back to the past. If we can treat all of these as words about Jesus Christ, then all of these words will be fulfilled in us.

Since we emphasize the Gospel rather than the Law, some people might misunderstand and ignore the Law. However, this is incorrect because Jesus Himself emphasized, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." The issue is not following the example of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. They, too, taught the Law, but what was their problem? What was the biggest difference between them and Jesus? They preached the Law without Jesus, which resulted in becoming hypocritical and trapped in human traditions. On the other hand, those who clearly understand that the Law is about the words of Jesus Christ will become like the Apostle Paul.

When Paul preached the gospel, he frequently referenced the Law. For example, what did he use parables to describe Jesus? It is what we usually say. When we connect Jesus with the Old Testament, what can you think of? It is that "Jesus is the Lamb." This parable is to connect Jesus with the Old Testament. But those who do not know the Law do not understand the meaning of this sentence.

However, those who have studied the Law know what the word "lamb" means. They not only sacrifice it but also slaughter it as a Passover lamb and offer it annually as an Azazel lamb. When John the Baptist said to Jesus, "Behold, this is the Lamb of God," he might have said it about the sacrifice of the Azazel lamb. Sometimes the Bible also calls Jesus the Passover Lamb because, through Jesus' blood, the plague has passed.

The Bible states, "Jesus is our propitiation." How can someone who lacks understanding of the Law understand

these words? The "propitiation" is that the Israelites eat together the sacrifices offered to God in the peace offering. In the peace offering, there are not only parts that God has received but also parts that people have left to eat. Consequently, Jews and we react very differently to the propitiation because we do not know about offerings, whether it is the burnt offering or the peace offering. Within the peace offering, the Jews dedicated certain parts to God, such as fat and innards, and then they ate the flesh which men desired to eat. So, their heart was filled with joy. Therefore, when it comes to "Jesus is the propitiation," if we understand the significance of the peace offering, we would be filled with joy because it signifies our reconciliation with God and our unity with Him. Moreover, when we have Holy Communion, we break bread together as a way to remember Jesus' words, "Eat my flesh." He is our propitiation. Likewise, the difference between those who know the Law and those who do not know the Law is so great.

When we learned the Berea Academy, the word did shock us that "The Bible spoke about Me," and the word of Jesus has opened our eyes to read the Bible. Then, we have to look at it with that eyes.

The Old Testament contains many valuable treasures and records them in great detail. During Paul's ministry, someone asked him, "Why do you want to be appreciated and get money?" Then he answered, "I have never received money as appreciation; I preach the gospel at my own expense. Besides, even if I receive it, wouldn't that be natural?" In the Old Testament, there is a saying, "Do not shut the ox's mouth while he treads the corn." It is written in the Law, regulation. Therefore, when oxen



tread on harvested grain, they naturally consume some of the food on the ground. It is well recognized by the Law of God. Why does the Law care so much about even oxen? It is actually something that is said to Jesus, and it is something that is said to those in Jesus. That is to say; it means do not hinder the mouth of those who are working for the sake of the gospel.

Usually, pastors are paid in the church and occasionally receive tokens of appreciation from some church members. However, some people might dislike this practice and attempt to hinder it by questioning, "Why do you take extra money privately when you are paid every month?" But the Bible tells us not to forbid it. Like this, the Old Testament contains many of the ways and principles of the church's operation.

Therefore, everything that happened in the Old Testament is meaningful in Jesus, and none of it is disposable. It is infinite, and it is reflected in the New Testament. So, to discover the meaning of these things, reference to the Old Testament can be of great help.

Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Firstfruits, Feast of Weeks (Festival of Harvest), Feast of Ingathering, and Feast of Tabernacles, and we can relate them to Jesus Christ as we learn their spiritual meanings. Passover represents Jesus who was killed, Jesus who bled. And the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Jesus enjoined us against leaven, the teaching of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Although they preach the Law, Jesus says that it is his own teaching, the Law that Jesus is missing eventually leads to the doctrine of hypocrites, so Jesus discards it. In this sense, Jesus abolishes the Law. Therefore, the Feast of Unleavened Bread represents

Jesus, who abolished the Law. In other words, Jesus, who completed the Law.

The Feast of Firstfruits represents Jesus as the firstfruit of the resurrection. After fifty days, it came to the Festival of Harvest, that is, the Feast of Weeks, which was the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit came because Jesus went to Heaven. Jesus promised us, "When I go to the kingdom of heaven, I will ask the Father to send down the Holy Spirit." Therefore, this feast indicates Jesus, who ascended to Heaven. Next is the Feast of Ingathering, which means harvesting crops in a barn. When Jesus will come again and gather the harvest, He will be to gather them all in the barn. Just like that, Jesus will keep all of us who believe in Jesus where He is, where the Father of Jesus Christ was. Therefore, the Feast of Ingathering represents Jesus Christ, who is coming again.

Following that is the Feast of Tabernacles. When the Israelites had finished the Feast of Ingathering and had received all the corn in the barn, they were full of wine and food and were at ease. In order not to let their heart be grease marked, that is to say, to prevent them from being arrogant, God instructed them to dwell in tabernacles reminding their past. For seven days, God made them dwell there, prompting them to reflect on their past lives and acknowledge that all these things were not gained by their own efforts but a result of God's immense grace.

Furthermore, God made them remember that their physical life on Earth was nothing more than a life in a tent, despite the abundant assistance they received from God. As Paul also said, "If we take off the tents of this

earth, we shall have the tents of that day," the tents of the Earth are like thatched tents, and our true dwelling place is in Heaven. Therefore, let us hold on to the hope of living in the Kingdom of Heaven so that the promise of God may be fulfilled, "I will be your God, live among you, and be your God forever." Ultimately, this shows Jesus, who fulfilled the blessing of Abraham, and Jesus Christ with us forever in Immanuel.

How astonishing! All these six feasts were prophecies of what Jesus Christ would fulfill in the future. Since all these have been accomplished, the real hero has come to fulfill. Then all of His words will be fulfilled. So when He said, "I will come again, and receive you to me," it will undoubtedly be fulfilled. At that time, He will reward each person according to what they have done.

So, what is important to us? First of all, let's look at what Jesus emphasized. Does He emphasize quantity or number? Quantity is God's responsibility, and now He demands a hundred, sixty, thirty times fruit from us, with special emphasis on number, which is God's concern. Therefore, it is said, "The glory of the king belongs to the people." 144, 000 in the Book of Revelation is the number of the people of Israel, whereas the number of the Gentiles is uncountable so that no one can count them. We now use number units up to trillions, trillions above quadrillion, and so on; there are many, all originating from India. However, regardless of the magnitude of the number of units, it is impossible to count the number of Gentiles. This cannot be counted in any country or national dialect in this world. So, the number of people in Heaven is unimaginable. Maybe anyone who believes in Jesus can go to Heaven. Paul said the same thing. "I

criticize you so harshly, but I believe you have more than enough room to go to heaven." But the problem is that everyone in Heaven will be placed on a different level. Some people cannot get close to Jesus and even cry and gnash their teeth there. They will shed more tears than they ever did on Earth. What would it be like to weep in Heaven?

However, anyone who serves God patiently, faithfully, and persistently will not have to weep and gnash their teeth. Now we have to worry about how close Jesus will be in the Kingdom of Heaven because God has promised us that His Word will come true.

Just like now, if we look back, we can see that God's promises have been fulfilled. Similarly, when we go to Heaven and look back on the word of the Lord, we find, "Wow! That is amazing! It has been accomplished as expected!" So let us accept the word of the Lord for that day! So let us pray for inspiration to know the Bible, and let us practice it.

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