

Message Three

Living the Life of a God-man

(1)

**Discipled from Being a Natural Man to Being a God-man
to Live the Kingdom Life, the Church Life**

Scripture Reading: 1 Pet. 2:21; Matt. 14:19, 22-23; John 10:30; 5:19, 30; 7:18; 14:30b; Mark 11:22-24; 1 Cor. 4:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; Rom. 14:17; 2 Tim. 2:22

I. God needs a corporate people to be raised up by His grace through the high peak of the divine revelation to live a life according to this revelation:

- A. A revival is the practice, the practicality, of the vision we have seen.
- B. If we practice living the life of a God-man, which is the reality of the Body of Christ, spontaneously a corporate model will be built up, a model living in the economy of God; this model will be the greatest revival in the history of the church to bring the Lord back.
- C. There is the urgent need that we enter into a new realm and come up to a new level, that is, to live a God-man life:
 - 1. We need to see that we are God-men, born of God and belonging to the species of God; this is the beginning of the God-man living—John 3:3-6.
 - 2. When we think of ourselves as God-men, this thinking, this realization, revolutionizes us in our daily experience, making us God-men, one kind with God; this is the highest point of God's gospel—Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17.

II. The disciples of Christ (Matt. 5:1; 28:19) are discipled through Christ's human living on the earth, as the model of a God-man—living God by denying Himself in humanity (John 5:19, 30), revolutionizing their concept concerning man (Phil. 3:10; 1:21a):

- A. Our life should be a copy, a reproduction, of the model of the life of Christ, the first God-man—1 Pet. 2:21; Matt. 11:28-29.
- B. The Spirit of life and reality who was breathed into the disciples would guide them into the reality of what they had observed of the Lord when they were with Him for three and a half years—John 16:13; 20:22:
 - 1. At the commencement of the first God-man's ministry, He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, recognizing that according to His flesh (His humanity—John 1:14; Rom. 1:3; 8:3), He was good for nothing but death and burial—Matt. 3:15-17.
 - 2. He trained His disciples to learn from Him (Matt. 11:29) in the miracle of feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish:
 - a. His *looking up to heaven* to bless the five loaves and two fish (Matt. 14:19) indicated His realizing that the source of blessing was not Him, the sent One, but the Father, the sending One:
 - (1) He was one with the Father, trusting in the Father—John 10:30; 1 Pet. 2:23b; Luke 23:46.

- (2) He did not do anything from Himself, having no freedom to live according to Himself—John 5:19; 7:6, 8.
- (3) He did not seek His own will but the will of Him who sent Him—5:30.
- (4) He did not seek His own glory but the glory of the Father who sent Him—7:18.
- b. He did not remain in the issue of the miracle with the crowds but went away from them to be with the Father on the mountain in prayer—Matt. 14:22-23; Luke 6:12; cf. S. S. 1:1-4.
- 3. He taught His disciples to pray for executing God's will according to His economy, having faith in God without doubting—Matt. 21:21-22; Mark 11:22-24.
- 4. He lived a life of contacting God (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; 9:28; Heb. 7:25), living in the presence of God without ceasing (Acts 10:38c; John 8:29; 16:32), and of contacting people, ministering God into them to bring them into the jubilee of God's New Testament economy (Luke 4:18-19; Heb. 8:2; cf. Gen. 14:18; Acts 6:4).
- 5. He was a man in whom Satan, the ruler of the world, had nothing (no ground, no chance, no hope, no possibility in anything)—John 14:30b.
- C. We are also discipled to live a God-man life by observing the intrinsic pattern of Christ's sent ones, His slaves, who are His duplication—1 Cor. 4:17; Heb. 13:7; Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12. ("I was in the recovery observing how Brother Watchman Nee acted for eighteen years. All that I observed in him became things discipling me"—*The Vital Groups*, p. 18.)
- D. The only way to live the life of a God-man according to the Lord's model is to set our entire being on the mingled spirit, walking, living, and having our being according to the mingled spirit—Rom. 8:2, 4, 6, 16; 1 Cor. 6:17; Rom. 10:12; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Thes. 5:16-20; 2 Tim. 1:6.

III. To live the kingdom life, the God-man life, is to live the church life—Matt. 5:48; 7:13-14; Rom. 14:17:

- A. For the vital groups to take care of a sinning brother in order to recover him according to what is revealed in Matthew 18:15-22 is for them to live the God-man life as Christ did when He was living on the earth.
- B. To live the kingdom life, the church life, is to pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart—2 Tim. 2:22.
- C. Thus, the vital groups can live the normal church life, overcoming the degradation of the church, to constitute the Body of Christ for the consummation of the New Jerusalem, the goal of God's eternal economy—2 Tim. 1:7, 13-14; 2:15; 4:22.

IV. "We should all declare that we want to live the life of a God-man. Eventually, the God-men will be the victors, the overcomers, the Zion within Jerusalem. This will bring in a new revival which has never been seen in history, and this will end this age"—*Life-study of First and Second Chronicles*, p. 28.