



**EXCERPT FROM MINISTRY READING (THE KINGDOM CHAPTER 24):
FROM REJECTION TO GLORY (2)**

THE KINGDOM AS A REALITY

While we are following Him in the kingdom life, we have to realize the kingdom as a reality. The kingdom does not have an outward, formal appearance. Religion, on the contrary, has altogether a false appearance. Religion cares for the outward appearance. If you visit the so-called Christian churches at the eleven o'clock service on Sunday morning, you will find that everything appears nice outwardly. Everyone is neat and clean, kind and good. But that is a formal, outward falsehood. Do you think that the people attending the service are really that clean, kind, humble, and nice? Look at the choirs and at every aspect of the service—do they have reality? In the words of Matthew 15:2, they wash their hands outwardly, but their heart is defiled. They may cleanse their hands, but their heart is corrupt and dirty. The so-called church services are outwardly very quiet, and they would condemn us for shouting and praising in our meetings. Outwardly, religiously, and formally, the people are quiet and everything is in order, but inwardly, they are full of confusion and corruption.

Here is the main point: in the kingdom we must not be concerned about the outward washing of hands. If the outward situation is a mess, do not try to change it. Leave it the way it is. If you have long hair, do not cut it short just to appear nice outwardly. You may have short hair and appear outwardly to be a very nice person, but inwardly you may be corrupt. Do not be concerned with the outward appearance; the reality of the kingdom is not in the outward appearance. The reality of the kingdom is something inward. What about your heart? What about your motive? What you really are is decided not by your outward conduct but by what is in your heart. Outwardly, you may be neat, clean, pure, kind, and orderly, but inwardly, you may be completely different. Thus, you are not full of reality but full of hypocrisy and falsehood.

Here the Lord Jesus revealed His wisdom to the Pharisees and hypocrites. He dealt with the actual situation of their inward being. The Pharisees needed to realize that there was nothing good within their heart. We are the same. What comes out of our heart? Does love or purity or honesty or sincerity come out of our heart? In Matthew 15:18-19 the Lord did not mention one good thing that issues out of our heart. This is a revelation showing us what we really are. By nature and by birth we are ruined and corrupted. Never think that you are good. Although you may outwardly seem to be good, inwardly you are defiled. If you would say to me that I appear nice outwardly, but that inwardly I am not good, I would say that you are absolutely right. Sisters, you are lovely and nice outwardly but not inwardly. By birth and by nature, we are all totally corrupted. The Lord's word shows us what proceeds out of our heart. So in the kingdom it is not a matter of outward conduct. Forget about the outward behavior. The kingdom is not a pretense; the kingdom is a reality. Do not worship God by the outward washing of your hands. The Lord does not care for that and even considers that as vain worship (vv. 8-9).

The kingdom is a reality, and there is nothing false in it. What does it mean to be real? It means that everything comes out of our inner being. Do not pretend. Let everything proceed out of what you are. In the kingdom life, every point and every aspect must be real and genuine. Do not be concerned about the outward appearance. We all must take care of our inward being.

Announcement:

1. District prayer meeting on the coming Tuesday 7/14 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 25 & 26.
3. A couple weeks ago we played a video regarding the church life in DC and the financial needs of purchasing a meeting hall. Saints who have the burden to offer for this purpose can write check to the church in Piscataway and note as for DC's meeting.
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Meeting Attendance:

Small Groups (7/3~7/4): 113
Lord's Table (7/5): 144
Prayer Meeting (7/7): 31

Prayer Burdens:

Chinese-Speaking Perfecting Training -

Pray for the 31 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.

Ongoing College Training -

- A. Pray that each of the college-age would have a time during this training in which they hear the Lord's call and have a definite touch of the Lord in His presence, even to be brought into the Lord Himself (1 Sam. 3:1, 4, 10).
- B. Pray that the Lord would raise up many persons like Hannah in the Old Testament to make a vow to the Lord to be persons who can bring forth fruit, at least one Samuel, for the Lord's purpose (1 Sam 1:11, 16, 20).

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

Praise the Lord! We are all chosen ones. By God's sovereign hands we are still here today. I was very touched with Message 1 in the Semi-annual Training. I was led by Brother Ron's spirit, sometimes laughing, and sometimes lamenting. Watching the message in my room alone, I didn't need to care too much about my outward appearance, therefore I was totally free to follow the Spirit. It was a very real experience and sensation.

We could see from Jeremiah that our heart needs to be all together for God, and we need to have the appetite for His word. However, I sensed that the real love toward God and the growth of life are all connected to our daily living. I couldn't be exempt from Brother Minoru's message; there are way too many idols in me! Mobile phone, computer, even the love for bed, causing me to be sluggish. God cares for us, His word is always dispensed among us, but how about our days? Are we transformed inwardly? Are we broken outwardly? God is faithful. Today we have seen His sovereign hands in the outward situation. But is the bride ready to meet her Bridegroom? Upon checking on myself, I can only repent in dust and ashes. May God the Potter mold me into the vessel according to His desire. The only thing I can do is open myself to Him. Trust in His faithfulness and go on in the shepherding of the saints.

NJ/NY Summer Internship Summary and Prayer Burdens

This past Thursday (7/9), the NJ/NY summer college internship NJ/NY began with 33 participants representing 10 different campuses. The burden of the internship is to help college students become vitalized in a threefold way:

- 1) **Deepening their personal relationship with the Lord**
- 2) **Cultivate a burden for shepherding and the gospel**
- 3) **Learning to serve in coordination**



Each day there are different meetings with different topics/lines:

-Morning revival workshop :

The burden of this topic is to help each student advance in their practice of personal fellowship with God. The first session began with a word of encouragement that the goal when we come to the Lord each morning is simply the Lord Himself. Following the message, each saint was given personal time to practice fellowship with the Lord. Afterwards, they had a feedback session to mutually learn from one another.

- Truth Pursuit :

In this line, the students are reading and fellowshiping over the book: Teachers' Training. The first few chapters in this book emphasize the importance of approaching the Word in the proper way. We must receive the Word as God's breathing out.

-Projects :

Each intern is given the opportunity to labor on a project over the course of the internship. These projects range in their topics from church history, children, YP and others.

We realize that without the prayers of the saints, the Lord would not be able to work in each of the brothers and sisters. **Please pray that:**

- 1) Each student would advance in their personal practice of fellowship with the Lord – an intimate, personal, affectionate time with the Lord each morning
- 2) Discover what the truth is, be constituted with the truth so they would be equipped to minister the riches of Christ to others
- 3) Through the projects, the students would learn to coordinate and fellowship with the saints. Pray that there would be a genuine building not only among the college students, but with saints of all ages in each locality.