

11/26/23

Sunday service

The Nature of Prayer

1 Kings 20:35-43

For one to know the Gospel and God's desire means they have the answer. If one lives for the sake of God's desire and Satan's is destroyed, then they will enjoy the authority and blessings of the evangelists. They will live a grand life, be used for historical work, and be a figure for that masterpiece. There is a place that is destined for those who do not have the Gospel and live for the sake of the success of the world. They have no choice but to be seized by spiritual problems and end in hell. It is all in vain no matter how much one achieves success. It is too late for them even if they ask countless times what has happened and are in an uproar. However, you possess the answer of the Gospel to be victorious and happy to the very end. It will all be done by the answer God has given to you and no one can block it. No one can say a thing about it and Satan can never hinder it. The answer is Jesus Christ and God's desire for evangelism and world mission. You must enjoy Jesus Christ and receive the answer God gives you as you live your life. God will give you answers continuously for you to be raised as a witness. God who knows it all will grant it to you in advance. May it be the day to come to know the Gospel and God's desire. May your spiritual eyes open to know that all is prepared and the rest is left for you to enjoy in the journey that you take.

1. The nature of prayer

- 1) You need to have the nature of prayer. Today's bible passage records King Ahab who faced such disasters because he committed nonsense acts. King Ahab was able to have victory against the king of Syria, Ben-hadad, because he followed the words of the prophets that God sent for during the second time at war, they captured Ben-hadad.
- 2) Although King Ahab followed the words of the prophet that God sent, the most important moment is when King Ahab made a decision on his own and released Ben-hadad.
- 3) God had a plan to devote Ben-hadad to destruction, but King Ahab let him go. Therefore, Verses 42-43 states that King Ahab's life shall be Ben-hadad's life.
- 4) However, it is important to know that the possibility of this happening to you is very high and is the majority of how people live. The majority do not pray for the things God desires as they decide on their own and think that it is normal to pray for God to answer their own prayers.
- 5) There is no one that thinks of God as a servant, but He was viewed with a posture as a worker or servant. And King Ahab could have had victory over that great nation if he followed after God's words but instead he ended everything by making the decision by his own intentions.
- 6) During that time of Israel, it was so rightful for people to act upon their own desires without asking a question to God, but God chose to give His message of the age during that time. Because the condition was severe, he put another person to destruction to show this.
- 7) Verse 35 states, "And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his fellow at the command of the Lord, 'Strike me, please.' But the man refused to strike him." He was struck down immediately in Verse 36. God planned for the prophet to return from the battlefield to appear before the king and relay His word, but a fellow of the prophet did not follow this.
- 8) It is a shocking act. It is not easy to strike a fellow. He was never inclined to do this. However, the Lord struck him through a lion. This holds a tremendous message.
- 9) A prophet speaks of the Lord's words so this means that people must follow after the words that they speak. However, if they did not follow after this, just as it was prophesied, they were put to death. 1 Kings 13 records a story of the person of God and relays the same message with a different story.
- 10) God desired to give them a tremendous historic message, but for whatever reason, they could not come to an agreement and therefore rejected His word. Even if the fellow prophet was relaying the Word of God, it is not humane to strike him so you would understand if he was not struck by the lion. Rather, he could have been complimented. However, he struck him with the lion.
- 11) In the end, it was humanism. It was not love, but was of their own thoughts. And that thought had eventually disrupted the work that God desired to do.
- 12) It is a matter of dissatisfaction the more you think about it. You must embrace it with love and understand it. However, when God's Word contradicts one thing, you must know to choose God's

Word over everything without hesitation. This will become a benefit to your life as it will be the way to live your life. The fellow prophet was struck because he did not choose this path.

- 13) The message is simply that you will be put to death if you do not follow after God's Words. The path you must follow is to do the things that God desires even if it may seem strange or if you do not humanely understand why or even if it seems like it would lead to your downfall.
- 14) During the age where people ignored the Words and desires of God, the Lord showed the consequence to the extent of putting a king to death because King Ahab acted upon his own thoughts. Therefore, He killed that person in the stead of the person who should have died and His people faced destruction in the stead of the nation that should have faced destruction.
- 15) All of the victory was gained because he followed the words of the prophet, but he made the last most important decision according to his own thoughts. This would not have occurred if he remembered to even ask one question to the prophet before acting upon it.
- 16) You must gain the nature of asking God a question and receiving an answer as you love your life. If King Ahab was one that had the nature of prayer, this would not have happened. He was doing so well until the very end when he flips everything over.
- 17) May you love the life of always holding onto and enjoying the covenant as well as following God's desire as you always question God and wait for an answer. May you live the life as an absolute servant that is able to ask God "What should I do?" before acting upon it immediately.

2. **The recorded Word**

- 1) King Ahab made his decision without praying, so the prophet prophesied to King Ahab who was distressed. The reason is King Ahab lacked to ask for God's will rather than making a decision. His decision was the opposite of God's will to which he died for king Aram and the people.
- 2) Therefore, you must always know God's will, so you come to the conclusion to always pray. However, it is not easy. You must always pray to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit. God has already recorded His will. That is the Bible.
- 3) God is eternal, so His will is unchanging. Job 23:13 "What he desires, that he does." 1 Samuel 15:29 "Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret."
- 4) Therefore, the recorded Word of God is unchangeable. As long as you follow the Word, your direction will be aligned to God's. It is unchanging, so anyone can follow it. However, you must pray continuously as you wait for His time schedule to be fulfilled.
- 5) It is a tremendous answer that you are able to align your direction to God. Anyone who does not lose the direction as they hold to the covenant will rightfully be victorious.
- 6) The recorded Word of God is the pulpit message and the messages proclaimed in conferences and training. God already set his goal and reason and works according to it. It is absoluteness as long as your direction is aligned to God. As the time is in the stream of the Word, it will be aligned with it. The Word is the ultimate goal and it will be completely fulfilled.
- 7) God governs the stream of the Word and fulfills it. For you to follow God is to follow the pulpit message and the messages that are proclaimed through the conferences and training.
- 8) For you to be in the stream of the Word is to be in God's stream. The recorded Word is God. Who can block you when you are in God's stream? The recorded Word is God's will. It is the fundamental and basic principle that is recorded that you must hold to and pray.
- 9) May the blessing be upon you to be in the stream of the Word, so all the mistakes that you make like King Ahab will diminish. May you receive tremendous answers and live the historical life.