

****Beginning Remarks**

****Scripture Reading: Mat 26:47-56**

1. Jesus Christ: Facing “suffering” with a life that has overcome

1) While on earth Christ spent his days in continuous battle

- facing the threat of murder, being misunderstood, tempted, persecuted, betrayed, sold, enduring suffering and taking up his cross

- <Ps 2:2> 「The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.」

- Apostle Judas' betrayal, chief priests and elders, Israelites, Pontius Pilate, and the Roman soldiers

- trouble caused by weak disciples

2) In his entire life, Christ triumphed by the power of his prayers

- Christ's concentrated prayers at Gethsamani were answered. He awaited the suffering having been restored to the life of more than a conqueror.

* Before praying, Christ said 「My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.」

① seeing God's eternal good will – seeing the eternal glory that would come out of his suffering (the Cross)

② God the Father's good will be done -- 「Yet not as I will, but as you will.」

③ Filled with the H.S. and cared for by the angels -- 「An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.」<Luk 22:43>「Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?」<Mat 26:53>

④ Not afraid to face the suffering -- 「Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!... Friend, do what you came for.」

3) Change crisis to opportunity—enjoy wisdom and power from above at his arrest

① Accomplish God the Father's good will—submit to God the Father's plan and guiding and face suffering with confidence and without fear

② rebuking man's folly and contradictions -- 「Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?」

③ Taking the opportunity to teach his disciples -- 「for all who draw the sword will die by the sword...」

④ loving man to the end, showing compassion for weakness of man -- 「he touched the man's ear and healed him.」

⑤ leaving behind the beautiful example – has been meticulously recorded in all of the four gospel books...

4) 「the body of Christ」 = while on earth saints cannot avoid struggles, testing and temptations.

- Without restoration of Christ no one would be able to overcome...../ without the power by prayers no one would be able to triumph.

2. Disciples' Running into Suffering While still dreaming

1) They promised to die with the Lord → they went to sleep without praying → courage at the spur of the

moment (flesh): drawing the sword → fled for fear → even disowning the Lord

= Saints not knowing the secrets of prayer will experience the repeat of their failures.

- sinful mind/living a life of expediency/ low self-esteem and pride/ excitement and loss of heart/ temerity and running away/ impulsive action/ panic and fear

- one's inability/constant conflicts at home/experience contradictions in relationships/difficult encounters in service of ministries ..

2) cannot fight in flesh and blood; fighting in flesh and blood is not the solution but leads into more problems

- 「determination, courage, sincerity ...」 cannot bring success for the saints

- <Eph 6:10-12>「Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.」

= **It's the fight that demands prayers: therefore, the Lord said 「Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about (baptism by the H.S.)... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...」 <Acts 1:4, 8>**

- <Eph 6:18> 「And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for the saints. Pray also for me....」

3) The cause of all failures of the saints is the absence of praying = without praying, we will remain in flesh and blood.

- Jacob's failure (he didn't go back to Bethel and tarried in Shechem)/ failure of the Israelites in the wilderness / Israelites' failure during the times of the judges

- <Jam 4:2> 「You do not have, because you do not ask God.」

4) The reason saints don't pray is they don't know how to pray= they pray without results.

- <Jam 4:3> 「When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives.」

- Israelites' worship of the golden calf / idol worshipping / sacrifice without results

* Saints are not able to enjoy long prayers who do not know how to communicate with God in accordance with the principles set in the Lord's prayer, to test and approve his good will, to ask what they should, to receive cleansing and freedom, to pray for and thus bless others, and to triumph over temptations and darkness of evil.

3. Need to know the secrets of praying so as to remain more than a conqueror in everything.

1) Lord Jesus Christ has done it all, his revelation, accomplishing and reigning over, and has revealed to us the secrets of praying. He also prays 24 hours for every saint.

- If we pray by the Lord's teachings and example, the H.S. will certainly begin working so that we will be able to see the help of the angels and experience the effects of praying.

2) Thereafter, disciples, having mastered the secrets of praying, could see miraculous signs and wonders accompany them.

→ **Book of Acts = Book of Acts of Praying = Book of Acts of H.S. = Book of Acts of Teaching the Word**

- <Acts 1:13-14, 1:25, 2:42, 3:1, 4:31, 6:4, 6:6, 9:11, 10:9, 12:12, 13:2-3... >

3) Just as a baby is growing up and getting to know more and more h is parents, himself, the world and

everything else, a born again saint will strive to learn the secrets of praying so that his spiritual life will grow gradually, be strong and courageous, and experience fulfillment of his prayers in everything.

- Learn using the Lord's prayer as the principle of praying
- need to establish system for life and thoughts => procedure → joining up → confirmation → in everything continuously (for at least 3 years)→ getting used to (become a creature of habit)
- In the entire Bible, there are many revelations regarding the study of praying (e.g., Abraham's altar, Moses' Tabernacle, David's tent, building the temple in Christ). All can be used to build our system of praying.
- need to understand the spiritual meaning regarding many of the characters, events and history described in the Bible and make use of the same in the context of my life and my conditions...

4) Need to learn focusing on gaining the effectiveness of praying on my heart and mind

- **Learn how to pray focusing on guarding my heart and mind**<Phi 4:4-7>
- **in my heart:** *loving God more* (focus on developing relationships)· *gaining his good will* (focus on the real and the practical in everyday life)· *getting cleansed* (focus on receiving freedom, peace and hope)· *blessing others* (believe firmly that those I pray for will be blessed)· *overcoming temptations and evil* (focus on driving out demons)

**** Concluding Remarks**

**** Prayer Topics of the Week ****

1) Jesus Christ: Facing "suffering" with a life that has overcome: Today, the Lord still lives in me and faces with me my contradictions and problems. What do I do so that I will be able to face them in peace, just like the Lord, with a life that has already overcome? Am I able to discover the secrets of triumph in Lord Jesus' prayer?

2) Disciples' Running into Suffering While still dreaming: in my life do I often encounter the kind of contradictions experienced by the Lord's disciples at Gethsamani? Why don't I enjoy praying? Can I find out why? Focus on how to solve it.

3) The great display of the power of Christ's triumph after his disciples had begun praying again: Have I seen clearly the reason that I have to pray? What results do I get when I pray? Can I share my results and witness with real examples?