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A Life According to and for God's New Testament Economy

The Lord Jesus is the embodiment of the Triune God. As the embodiment of the Triune God, His life was fully according to and for God's New Testament economy. This One sowed Himself as the seed of life into His disciples. This seed is the Lord as the embodiment of the Triune God.

THE LORD SOWING THE TRIUNE GOD INTO HIS BELIEVERS AS THE SOIL

As the Lord Jesus was ministering and living a life according to God's New Testament economy, He collected the "soil" into which He would sow Himself as a seed. This soil was the Lord's followers. The first one to be gathered by the Lord Jesus was Peter. We may say that the Lord Jesus put Peter into His "pocket" and carried this "soil" with Him wherever He went.

As we read the Gospel of Mark, we need to see that the Lord Jesus was living a life of sowing the Triune God into His believers as the soil. In chapter one He began to collect the soil. Peter, the first one to be called by the Lord Jesus, is our representative. He took the lead in things both good and bad. He took the lead to recognize that Jesus is the Christ and also to deny the Lord. Peter even took the lead to be crucified. In a foregoing message we pointed out that, in a sense, Peter was crucified even before the Lord Jesus was. Furthermore, after the Lord's resurrection, the angel specifically mentioned Peter's name (16:7). This indicates that Peter was known by the angels. He certainly was our representative.

THE CONDITION OF THE SOIL

The Gospel of Mark not only portrays the Lord as the One sowing the Triune God into His believers as the soil, but this Gospel also depicts the condition of this soil. The cases recorded in this Gospel indicate that the soil was not in a healthy condition. In Mark we have twelve cases involving thirteen people. (One case involves two people, a woman and a young girl.) Four of these twelve cases are cases of people possessed by demons. This indicates that the soil gathered by the Lord Jesus was possessed, occupied, by demons.

Were you not occupied by some kind of "demon" before you were saved? Many today are possessed by the demon of drugs or the demon of gambling. As we consider today's situation in the world, we see that all the unsaved people are occupied by demons. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus comes to select a person and gather that one to be His soil, the first thing He does is cast out the demon from that person. From our experience we know that when we were called by the Lord, He cast out our demons.

The twelve cases recorded in the Gospel of Mark may be regarded as depicting the condition of an individual. In other words, these cases are a composite picture of a single person. In the eyes of the Lord Jesus, everyone who becomes His soil is the one portrayed by these twelve cases. Hence, the case of Peter's mother-in-law, who was sick with a fever, indicates that, spiritually speaking, we all have a fever. Because our spiritual temperature is not normal, it is easy for us to be angry. Was this not your condition before you were saved? We all were once sick with a high fever. Furthermore, we were lepers, those unclean, contaminated, in relation to both God and man. We also were paralyzed and withered, unable to walk before God or work for Him.

GENERAL HEALING AND PARTICULAR HEALING

Although this was our condition before we were saved, the Lord Jesus has healed us in a general way. The person portrayed by these cases has been healed and is no longer abnormal in temperature and is no longer unclean, paralyzed, and withered. According to the sequence of the Gospel of Mark, after the cases that portray general healing, we have three cases that depict the healing of specific organs, namely, the hearing organ, the speaking organ, and the seeing organ. Before chapter eight, the soil was collected, and the disciples were healed in a general way. However, spiritually speaking, they still could not see, hear, or speak. Therefore, the Lord began to practice the healing of specific organs, the organs of sight, hearing, and speech.

TWO CASES OF BLINDNESS

In the Gospel of Mark we have two cases of particular healings of blindness. The first case is that of the healing of the blind man in Bethsaida (8:22-26). After the Lord spit in the blind man's eyes and laid His hands on him, He asked him, "Do you see anything?" (v. 23). The man replied, "I behold men; I see them as trees walking." Then the Lord laid His hands upon his eyes, and the man "looked intently and was restored, and he saw all things clearly" (v. 25).

Immediately after the healing of the blind man in Bethsaida, the Lord Jesus went with His disciples into the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, "Who do men say that I am?" (8:27). They answered, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but others, one of the prophets" (v. 28). Then the Lord questioned the disciples further: "But you, who do you say that I am?" (v. 29). This question indicates that the Lord was healing His disciples' seeing organ.

The second case of the healing of blindness recorded in Mark is the case of blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52). It is significant that this case comes immediately after the Lord's dealing with the request of James and John to sit at His right and left in His glory (10:35-45). The fact that they could make such a request proves that they were

blind and in need of the Lord's specific healing. The disciples needed the healing of their seeing, hearing, and speaking organs.

CRUCIFIED, BURIED, AND RESURRECTED WITH CHRIST

Since we were put into Christ before the foundation of the world, we were also in Him when He was crucified. When He went to the cross, He went there with us. He died on the cross with us. This is the reason Paul could say, "I have been crucified with Christ" (Gal. 2:20). We need to have Paul's view of Christ's crucifixion.

Just as we were crucified with Christ, we were also buried and resurrected with Him. When He was buried in Mark 15, we were buried also. Likewise, when He was resurrected in Mark 16, we were resurrected with Him. The Gospel of Mark is mainly a revelation of Christ's Person. Although this Gospel does not say anything about His birth, it does emphasize His death and resurrection. Therefore, the emphasis in Mark's Gospel is on the Person of Christ with His death and resurrection. We need the fourteen Epistles of Paul to give the adequate definition of Christ's Person and of His death and resurrection.

By now we all should have a clear view of the Lord Jesus as the One who lived a life of sowing the Triune God into His disciples. As the soil collected by Him, the disciples were in a condition portrayed by the different cases in the Gospel of Mark. This means that they were sick with a fever, contaminated, and paralyzed. But they were all healed both in a general way and in a particular way. Their organs of seeing, hearing, and speaking, in particular, were healed. After the Lord called the disciples, He brought them with Him wherever He went. As He was bringing the soil of the disciples with Him, He was sowing Himself into the soil.

THE REPRODUCTION OF THE LORD JESUS

The book of Acts is the direct continuation of the Gospel of Mark. In the first two chapters of Acts we see that Peter and the one hundred twenty had become the reproduction of the Lord Jesus. In Mark the disciples were disputing concerning who was greater. Also in Mark 14 Peter denied the Lord Jesus three times. But in Acts 1 no one cared about who was greater. Instead, they prayed continually in one accord for ten days. How could the disciples experience such a thing? They could experience this only by having the resurrected Christ in them as their life.

In the second chapter of Acts, the power from on high came upon the disciples. As a result, they became the increase, development, enlargement, and continuation of the Lord Jesus. He had brought them through His death and His resurrection, and He had wrought Himself into them. As a result, they were replaced by the Lord and saturated with Him. In this way they became His increase and continuation.

What kind of life did the one hundred twenty live in the book of Acts? They lived a life that was fully according to God's New Testament economy. They did not live a life of culture or religion. Neither did they live a life of ethics, morality, philosophy, or improvement of character. Just as the Lord Jesus lived absolutely according to and for God's New Testament economy, so the one hundred twenty in Acts lived the same way.

In Acts 21 and in the book of James, however, we see a contrast to the life that is fully according to and for God's New Testament economy. In Acts 21 James was a distraction to the life that is fully according to the New Testament economy of God. In James we see a life that is only partially according to God's New Testament economy. Mainly with James we see a life that is according to the Old Testament, a life according to religion and ethics.

WHAT GOD DESIRES TODAY

It is not our burden in these messages to study the Scriptures in a doctrinal way. Our burden is to present what God desires today. God wants us to be saturated by Him and with Him so that we may live a life of the divine dispensing. Then we shall sow this life into others for the further dispensing of the Triune God. Concerning this, we all need a revolution in our concept and living so that we may be brought into a life that is according to God's New Testament economy. (Excerpts from Life- Studies of Mark Message 63)

Burdens for Church Prayer

- Prayer for Labor Day Conference, for the saints' participation, for the Lord's speaking and for a receiving heart
- 2026 Targets, # of baptized:22; # of prayer meeting attendance:35; average Lord's Day and small group attendance:10% increase
- Spread the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel on the WVC campus and by Bible distribution in the community.
- Multiply the number of small groups for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ
- Perfect young working saints with shepherding families as containers for the next generation.
- Practice PSRP, BNPB, and vital small groups.
- Blending in the Body, by participating in conferences and trainings
- Establish and strengthen the church services, including children, YP, ushering, etc.
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately
- Pursuing the truth and growth in life to live in the reality of the kingdom.

Announcements

- Life-study of Mark MSG 63, 64
- HWMR for Labor Day Conference: Building up the house of God in the local churches, Week 4
- 8/25 (Tue) 7:45pm, Prayer meeting at home by small group.
- 9/4-6 NorCal Labor Day Conference held at Burlingame Hyatt, <https://www.hyatt.com/events/en-US/group-booking/SFOBU/G-BLEN>
- Labor Day Conference Schedule

Labor Day Conference		Time
Fri 9/4	Message 1	7:30-9 pm
Sat 9/5	Message 2	10 am-noon
	Blending	12-3 pm
	Special fellowship	4-5 pm
	Message 3	7-8:30 pm
LD 9/6	Lord's table/MSG 4	10 am-noon

- 9/6 LD 1-3 pm Campbell meeting hall, Lunch blending with saints from Church in Fresno
- Financial Giving:
PayPal/Zelle: churchincampbell@gmail.com
Venmo @Churchin-Campbell
- Church in Campbell bookroom account (PayPal/Zelle)
churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com