

“WORD OF LIFE”

November 10, 2024

46. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (26) – In the Parables of the New Testament

P - 2. The Son of Man with Nowhere to Lay His Head, Unlike the Foxes and the Birds of the Heaven

Hymns: # 586 / # 481 / # 11

✚ “So that what was spoken through the prophet [Psa. 78:2] might be fulfilled, saying, ‘I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world’.” (Matt 13:35)

[Parable – The Way to Follow the Lord]

Matt. 8:18 - Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side.

Matt. 8:19 - And a scribe came near and said to Him, Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.

Matt. 8:20 - And Jesus said to him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of heaven have roosts, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.

Matt. 8:21 - And another of the disciples said to Him, Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father.

Matt. 8:22 - But Jesus said to him, Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.

✚ “...Why do You speak in parables to them? (Mat 13:10)
“...And His disciples came to Him, saying, Make the parable ... clear to us. (Matt. 13:36)

❖ Christ, the Son of Man has nowhere that He may lay His head (Matt. 8:20).

- The Son of Man did not even have a resting place, as the foxes and birds do.
- In following the Son of Man, we must consider the price; there is no material enjoyment.
 - A scribe [one living comfortably] said, “I will follow You wherever You go.” (Matt 8:19)
 - He intended to follow the Lord out of curiosity and has underestimated the price
 - He was disappointed as he learned that the Lord is nothing and has nothing
 - The Lord discourage him by saying – “I have nowhere to lay My head”
 - The scribe withdrew after learning of the hardship involved, he is not willing to sacrifice himself
 - A disciple [who have already been called] said, “permit me first to go away to bury my father.” (Matt. 8:21)
 - This disciple overestimated the cost of following the Lord
 - He was called yet shank back, because of the duty of a son
 - The Lord encourage him to follow Him, and drop his consideration of the cost
 - leaving the burial of his father to others
 - pay the price that he might become a follower in His great commission
 - The disciple considers that burying his father is more important than the Lord’s demand

✚ “And having the same spirit of faith according to that which is written, “I believed, therefore I spoke,” we also believe, therefore we also speak,” (2Cor. 4:13)

✚ In the matter of following the Lord, it would be foolish and improper not to count the cost at all. However, it would also be improper to always count the cost and dare not move forward. We should avoid these two extreme mistakes. If the Lord wants us to go, we should count the cost and tell the Lord, “I am willing”; we should let go of everything else. The pathway of obedience takes obedience, not the waiting for problems to be solved, as the end. “Follow Me” is the solution to the problem of “burying the father.”

[(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 45 letter P – point 2)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]]

Hymn 586
Experience of Christ –
Following Him

1 I can hear my **Savior** calling,
In the tend'rest accents calling;
On my ear these words are falling,
"Take thy cross,
and daily follow me."

Chorus;

I will take my cross and follow,
My dear **Savior** I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow,
I'll go with Him,
with Him all the way.

2 Though the way be dark
and dreary,
Though my feet be worn
and weary,
Yet my heart keeps bright
and cheery
As I follow, follow all the way.

3 **Savior**, ever go before me,
Shining heaven's sunlight o'er me,
And when weak,
by grace restore me
As I follow, follow all the way.

4 Through the valley safely lead me,
Heav'nly manna daily feed me;
Every hour, dear Lord, I need Thee
As I follow, follow all the way.

5 In Thy heart's affection hold me,
In Thy arms of love unfold me,
And with Thine own grace
uphold me,
As I follow, follow all the way.

6 I would never leave Thee, never;
Faithful I would be forever;
Nothing from Thy love can sever
As I follow, follow all the way.

Hymn 481
Union with Christ –
Identified with His Death and Resurrection

1 Crucified with **Christ** my **Savior**,
To the world and self and sin;
To the death-born life of **Jesus**
I am sweetly ent'ring in:
In His fellowship of suff'ring,
To His death conformed to be,
I am going with my **Savior**
All the way to **Calvary**.

Chorus:

All the way to **Calvary**,
Where my **Savior** went for me,
Help me, **Lord**, to go with Thee,
All the way to **Calvary**.

2 'Tis not hard to die with **Christ**
When His risen life we know;
'Tis not hard to share His suff'rings
When our hearts with joy o'erflow.
In His resurrection power
He has come to dwell in me,
And my heart is gladly going
All the way to **Calvary**.

3 If we die we'll live with **Christ**,
If we suffer we shall reign;
Only thus the prize of glory
Can the conqueror attain.
Oh, how sweet,
on that glad morning
Should the **Master** say to thee,
"Yes, my child,
thou didst go with me
All the way to **Calvary**."

Hymn 11
Worship of the Father –
As the Spirit

1 Thou, **Father**, who art **Spirit** true,
The holiest of all;
We worship in the spirit now,
In truth upon Thee call.

2 A spirit Thou hast made for us
That we may worship Thee,
That echoing in spirit thus
One spirit we will be.

3 The **Father** in the **Son** has come,
The **Son** the **Spirit** is,
That to our spirit God may come.
O what a grace is this!

4 The **Son** is Thine eternal Word,
The **Word** is **Spirit** too;
The **Spirit** as our life has come
Our spirit to renew.

5 Thy **Spirit** in our spirit is,
And thus in unity
Thy **Spirit** witnesseth with ours
That we are born of Thee.

6 In everything Thy **Spirit** leads
That we may follow Him;
We thus may spiritual become,
With life and peace within.

7 In spirit we would worship Thee,
In spirit Thee address,
Until our spirit is released
Thine image to express.

8 Our **Father**, we would praise
Thee now
That Thou the **Spirit** art;
In spirit and in truth to Thee
True worship we impart.