

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP – February 26, 2017

Announcements

- The Wednesday night ministry webcast resumes on March 1st.
 - Andy Wu - Redmond 206 617 7767
 - Miyake - Central Bellevue 425 451 7294
 - Menezes - South Bellevue 425 499 5515
 - Lancaster - Bothell 425 482 4499
 - Horace Wang - Somerset 425 653 2249 (Chinese language)
- Please fill out household information sheet. One sheet per household. Particularly note the box for receiving church emails.
- Late registration for the JH girls retreat is today. Please give your check to Sarah Lee.
- Main Hall cleaning (East Bellevue)
- Second floor cleaning (Hall Team)
- College students from USC, Cal Poly Pomona, and San Diego will visit Bellevue in March during spring break. We need homes for hospitality, please contact Martin Hsiung (chengen.hsiung@gmail.com) or Debbie Willey (willeydwa@msn.com).
- If you would like your 2016 donations documentation for tax purposes, please send an email request to bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com.
- The reading schedule this week for our ministry reading is: The Economy of God chapters 4, 5, 6.

Schedule

- Morning revival this week, The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel, Week 6, The High and Awesome Wheels
- Sisters' prayer meeting, Tuesday, 10:00 am
- Prayer meeting, Tuesday, 7:30 pm
- Breakfast, Saturday, 8:30 am
- High School retreat, March 10-12
- JH Girls retreat, March 10-12
- JH Boys retreat, March 24-26

Burdens for Prayer

- Bible study at Bellevue College
- Building up an atmosphere of reading the ministry
- Gospel to the nations in Europe and North America
- Prayer and petition for all who are in a high position in this country (1 Tim. 2:1-3)

This Week: February 27 – March 5

Morning Revival: *The Crystallization Study of Ezekiel*, Week 6

Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – East Bellevue
Upstairs – Hall Team

Tuesday	10:00 am	Sisters' prayer meeting
Tuesday	7:30 pm	Corporate prayer at meeting hall
Saturday	8:30 am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table

Ministry Reading Portion

Basic Lessons on Service

LESSON THIRTEEN

THE DANGER AND LOSS OF NOT USING OUR GIFT

I. THE DANGER:

B. Eating and Drinking with the Drunken— Keeping Company with People Who Are Drunken with Worldly Things

Matthew 24:49b says that this evil slave "eats and drinks with the drunken." The Lord's word in Matthew 24 is a parable. Since it is a parable, it must be interpreted. To eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things. They are drunk with their worldly enjoyment. This is the danger of not using our gift. Once we become a person who keeps company with worldly people, we would not be faithful to the Lord in using the gift He gives us, so we fall into danger.

C. Hiding Our Gift in the Earth

1. Being Passive, Not Active, for the Lord's Service

In Matthew 25:25 the slothful slave said to his master, "I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours." To be afraid is negative. We should, rather, be positive and aggressive in using the Lord's gift. To go off and hide the Lord's talent in the earth is too passive. We should be active in the Lord's work. If we hide our gift, we do not need to do anything. To be passive and not active for the Lord's service means we are hiding our gift and not using it.

*2. Merely Keeping the Lord's Gift,
Neither Losing It nor Gaining a Profit by Using It*

Merely to keep the Lord's gift and not lose it is not sufficient; we must gain a profit by using it. In this lesson we do not need to get into the full interpretation of this parable, because we can ask the saints to read some of the Life-study Messages in Matthew. But we must stress to them that actually to hide our gift in the earth is not to use it. The earth refers to the worldly things. As long as we do not use our gift, we are hiding it.

We have to point out these three dangers: mistreating fellow believers, keeping company with worldly people, and not using our gift to do the Lord's service. We have to point out that many are hiding their gift, not using their gift, because they do not serve.

II. THE LOSS:

**A. To Be Cut Off from the Lord at His Coming Back—
to Be Separated from the Lord in His Coming Glory**

When the Lord comes back, He will come in glory. In other words, He will be clothed in His glory. The unfaithful ones who did not use their gifts will be cut off from His glory at His coming back (Matt. 24:51). They will have no share in His coming glory. For a full interpretation of this, we need to read the appropriate Life-study Messages on Matthew.

1. To Be Chastened Dispensationally

To be cut off from the coming glory of the Lord is a dispensational chastisement.

2. In Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth

The ones who are chastised will be in weeping and gnashing of teeth. Weeping indicates regret, and gnashing of teeth indicates self-blame. We do not know what this chastisement will be like, but we know that it will be a suffering.

B. To Lose Our Gift

Matthew 25:28 and 29 say, "Take away therefore the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him." These verses show that we can lose our gift because of our slothfulness. If we do not use our talent, the Lord will take it back from us when He comes back, and we will lose our gift. If we do not use our gift, this means that we waste it.

C. To Be Cast Out into the Darkness outside of the Lord's Coming Glory

The outer darkness is the darkness outside the Lord's coming glory in the manifestation of the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 25:30; 8:12). To be cast out into the outer darkness is not to perish; it is to be dealt with dispensationally, to be disqualified from participating in the enjoyment of the kingdom during the millennium, for not having lived by Christ an overcoming life. In the millennium the overcoming believers will be with Christ in the bright glory of the kingdom (Col. 3:4), whereas the defeated believers will suffer discipline in outer darkness.

When we stress these points, some of the saints may be curious about what outer darkness is. We should simply tell them that we have never been there, so we really cannot say what is there; but we surely know that this is not a good place to be. This kind of darkness is not for the ones who will suffer eternal perdition. Those ones will spend eternity in the lake of fire. The outer darkness outside of the Lord's glory is neither the lake of fire nor the section of torment in Hades where all the perished sinners are (Luke 16:26, 23a, 28). It is a place of dispensational punishment for the defeated believers.

Some may say that this kind of teaching damages God's complete salvation. We should tell them that we have received the Lord's complete salvation and we believe in it. We also believe that if we are not faithful to the Lord today, He may chastise us. If the Lord chastises us in this age, this chastisement does not damage His complete salvation. Since this is the case, how could His chastisement in the next age damage His complete salvation? It is illogical to say this.

*Witness Lee, Basic Lessons on Service, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, February 26 th	Psa. 44:1-26
Monday, February 27 th	Psa. 45:1-17
Tuesday, February 28 th	Psa. 46:1 – 48:14
Wednesday, March 1 st	Psa. 49:1 – 50:23
Thursday, March 2 nd	Psa. 51:1 – 52:9
Friday, March 3 rd	Psa. 53:1 – 55:23
Saturday, March 4 th	Psa. 56:1 – 58:11