

“The martyrdom of Stephen” March 17, 2017

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, crying out with a loud voice and calling upon God, and saying, he prayed, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. (Acts 7:57-59)

Today I would like to speak to you about the martyrdom of Stephen. Paul wrote thirteen books of the Bible but, before he realized God's words, Paul was present and participated in the martyrdom of Stephen. Father has said that there can be no perfection in ignorance. If Paul had realized God's Will earlier, he would not have participated in the martyrdom of Stephen. If he had not been ignorant of God's Will, he would not have done this. Therefore, it is also important for us to understand God's Will. My thought this morning is that all of us come into this world and will eventually leave it. In fact, we don't know what may happen to us even five minutes from now.

As I am speaking to you today, I am thinking of those who used to be with me in the past, shedding blood, sweat, and tears in order to fulfill God's Will. I thought this morning of those national messiahs, and other senior couples. Some worked with Father for 65 years, some 60 years, 50 years, and 40 years. I thought of many of these people this morning who used to be with me in pursuing God's Will.

As Stephen was being stoned, and he was about to be martyred, he praised God, and he thanked God that he could know Jesus; he was grateful even at the moment of death. This morning I think that we need to learn from it and model ourselves after the spirit of martyrdom of Stephen.

Our Church was built on the basis of blood, sweat, and tears, and the people who worked in that Church had an urgent and honest desire to help Father accomplish God's Will on this earth. We worked together in Korea, in Japan, in the United States, in Russia, and in other places all around the world, ready to offer our lives on the altar of God's Will if that was necessary. This is how we worked together as brothers and sisters.

As I sit here this morning, I realize that a lot has happened; a lot has come to pass since that time that we were working together. I think in the past we worked hard and we suffered, but now rather than the path of suffering, the path of victory is remaining for us to travel. I believe that, from now on, rather than suffering there will be great wealth and a valuable time is approaching us. **We used to suffer hunger; we used to be envious of those who had more than us, but I think that now tremendous heavenly blessing is about to come upon us. I believe that God and True Father will not leave you as you are; instead, I believe you will receive a tremendously valuable blessing.**

I have always told myself, “I have no reason to envy rich people.” I had many experiences where, if I felt I lacked something, the money that was in my purse would somehow disappear.

When I thought that I was lacking something, even those things that I had would be taken away from me. I experienced this many times.

I always told myself, “I lack nothing. Even a rich person has nothing over me.” If you feel that way, if you think that way, if you tell yourself that, in fact there will be nothing lacking in your life. “There are really plenty of things to go around in this world; there is more than enough money to go around in this world. Wealth, health, and money is coming to me; I am a magnet, I am pulling money, health and wealth towards me. I love money and money loves me. Every day this happiness of wealth comes to me.” “Thank you, Father. Thank you, God, I am happy.” If you sing this to yourself, then every day, wealth will come to you.

Some might think that, if they were to become rich, they would not be able to have a spiritual life. **I would like to encourage them to research the rich people that appear in the Bible. Especially in the Old Testament, we can find many rich people. We see that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Jesus all teach about wealth; these people lived a rich life on the earth. We can see in the Bible that they lived a much wealthier life than even rich people today can imagine.**

If you have received the Blessing from True Parents, you are living a tremendous Blessing; you can become the inheritors of Cheon Il Guk. It is your right to be wealthy and you hold the key to wealth. But you have been living your life without realizing this. You have the qualification to hold the key to wealth. The Lord in Heaven desperately wants to give us everything, but we have the 5% portion of responsibility to pull these things towards us.

You now know this principle: the key is your thought and your testimony. It's because you did not know this principle that you have lived in worry. If you could live your life from today knowing, “I am rich. I am wealthy,” then not only will you be wealthy in your heart, but externally you will become wealthy as well.

In Western countries, many people spend their lives working hard so they can become rich and live a wealthy life. If we can live our lives knowing that we possess God, we possess True Father, and that we possess the Second King, we will know that we have already been given these riches. Then, our faith will change, our heart will change, and our life will change.

This kind of blessing through external things will not give us happiness. Thinking external things will come first is to reverse subject and object. **First you have to have joy and peace in your own heart; first you have to have a vision for this tremendous and valuable blessing.** It's only then that these external things will come to you in abundance. What you want externally depends on what you are internally. The external world is the world of result, and it is the expression of our thoughts.

We need to align ourselves, our thoughts, and our hearts with God, True Father, and the universe. When we are filled with happiness and peace which radiates from us, when we send

out this happiness and peace into the universe, we will be able to live our lives as an external manifestation of what we feel internally.

When we live our lives internally as owners of Cheon Il Guk, then we can also do this externally. God and True Father truly desire that we become the owners of Cheon Il Guk. We need to become people who can truly exercise this heavenly blessing, and then we will have authority that will be recognized by God and by True Father. From today on, please do not think of yourself as impoverished, or lacking. Instead, understand that you are someone who possesses God; God and True Father can be possessed by you. With this realization, your life will change.

If you think this is impossible it will be impossible; if you think it is difficult, it will be difficult. But we need to live our lives with the conviction that this is quite possible. Think how much God, how much True Father, and how much the Second King want to bequeath Cheon Il Guk to us! We need to change our lives in the way that I have described.

I think how wonderful it is that we are able to be with God, that we are able to inherit Cheon Il Guk, and that we have with us the Second King who is the representative body and inheritor of True Father. **This is what allows us to have the mindset that gives us the full authority of Heaven. Because True Father gave the Second King this tremendous blessing as his representative body and inheritor, this blessing can now spread through him around the world. If we believe this, it will be accomplished as we believe.**

Let's not live with a lack of confidence, but be confident. Let's know that, until now in history, Cain has been killing Abel but now Cain and Abel have united and a tremendous work of the spirit of God can spread throughout the world. When this happens, God will be happy. He and Father will be filled with joy, and all the suffering that the Second King has experienced will be transformed into glory. But we need to accomplish our responsibility. Let's do that from today!

Thank you very much.

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