

Father's First Seven-Year Course

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March 1980



Photo date and location unknown

Is there anyone whose life can be compared to that of our Father? Virtually none. Someday Father will go to spirit world. Then everyone will want to know more about him, but no one will be able to reach him. Father has revealed two-thirds of the secrets of Divine Principle, but one third of it is known only to God.

Won Pil Kim, who has been following Father since the beginning of his ministry 33 years ago, has said that he never received many revelations from spirit world nor learned much through lectures. Rather he has learned directly from Father's behavior and actions. Father's entire life has been a life of sacrifice and devotion for the sake of God and mankind. From this, Rev. Kim has understood what kind of man Father is and that's why he has been able to persevere through tribulation, persecution and negativity. Accusations come against Father because people don't understand what kind of man he is. If people understood Father, how could they deny him or accuse him?

Many religious leaders teach that we can be saved merely by believing in God. But Father's fundamental attitude toward God and his mission is completely different. Instead of thinking only about what God could do for him, Father has always concentrated on what he could do for God. Whatever sacrifices he has had to make, Father's one desire has always been to liberate the suffering heart of God by liberating mankind. Before Father went to prison, his prayers were filled with tears. But while he was in prison, he couldn't cry because he knew how deeply God was hurt to see his situation.

His tears would have burdened God even more. However difficult his situation, Father didn't ask for help, but told God only to keep watch over him and not worry. He sought to console and encourage God:

"I never complained. I was never angry at my situation. I never even asked His help, but was always busy comforting Him and telling Him not to worry about me. The Father knows me so well. He already knew my suffering. How could I tell him about my suffering and cause His heart to grieve still more? I could only tell Him that I would never be defeated by my suffering."

Father's course has been the path that Abel should have followed. It is the course of "restoration of the birthright." Adam lost the birthright as a result of his fall. Since that time, the mission of Abel has been to restore or win back the birthright. According to the Divine Principle, Cain, as the first-born, was to inherit the birthright. Thus, it was natural for him to want dominion over the second-born, Abel. But Abel, who was standing on God's side, had the mission to reverse this order of dominion. The reason Cain began to persecute Abel is because he wanted dominion over him. Dominion should be brought about through God-centered love, but Satan gained dominion over this world through self-centered love. In order to reverse this dominion of selfish love someone must give sacrificial love. This is the route Abel should

have taken, and why our Father's course has been a difficult one of sacrificial love.

First, Father sacrificed himself. Then he sacrificed his family. He always took care of his spiritual children before taking care of his own physical family. When he had the opportunity to visit his family for what would probably have been the last time after a long imprisonment, he took care of his followers instead.

He sacrificed his own people for the sake of others. He sacrificed his own nation to save other nations. He sacrificed Korea, the Abel nation, to save the Cain nations. He has always loved and given everything to Cain first. The fundamental course of restoration Father has trod is best expressed in his own words:

"To restore the world, let us go forth with the Father's heart, in the shoes of a servant, shedding tears for man, sweat for earth and blood for heaven."

God prepared everything for the coming of our Father. He led Christianity through 2,000 years of indemnity and restoration as preparation for receiving Father. After World War II, Korea was liberated from Japanese dominion and given back her freedom. On this foundation, Father started his mission. If Korean Christianity had united with him in the beginning, the situation of this world would be completely different from what it is today. Communism would have vanished years ago, and there would not have been the tragedies of the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Cambodia.

If Judaism had united with and obeyed Jesus 2,000 years ago, the ideal world would have started at that time. Likewise, if Christians had united with Father, the entire world would have become involved in the new movement to build the Kingdom of Heaven many years ago. Actually, Father's mission was supposed to have been fulfilled when he was still in his late 30's. But because Christianity did not understand him and could not receive him, Father had to build his own foundation. From that time, the influence of Christianity has declined while communism has developed and spread.

Father began to gather his own people and to start the Unification Church movement in 1946. To do this, under the direction of God, he went to North Korea. There he underwent torture, imprisonment and much internal and external suffering. After overcoming all of this, Father returned to South Korea and started his mission. He began the Unification Church on May 1, 1954, in the midst of heavy persecution. By 1960, after many years of lonely struggle, he had set the foundation for the start of the first seven-year course.

The Significance of the Family

If Adam hadn't fallen, he and Eve could have reached perfection centered on God. They would have had a sinless marriage, produced sinless children and begun the ideal family. From this ideal family would have come the ideal clan, tribe, nation, world and universe. It was God's will that the ideal kingdom on earth be established at the time of Adam. But because of the fall of man, God's ideal was never attained. Instead, this became a world of satanic dominion, where God and man have been suffering for 6,000 years.

Jesus came to solve this suffering. His mission was to fulfill the ideal and will of God. But because of the crucifixion, only spiritual salvation was attained. Christianity then spread throughout the world, offering spiritual salvation to everyone. In this sense, Christianity could fulfill the spiritual dispensation on the world-wide level through the resurrection of Jesus. This is the meaning of Christianity.

Inheriting the spiritual victory of Jesus, Father was to substantiate and expand it to the physical world. Our Father's mission is total salvation.

Christianity is not just a national religion; it has a worldwide foundation. Thus, when Father started his mission right after World War II, if Korean Christians could have understood and received him, Father would have spread his message throughout the world. He was supposed to achieve complete victory within a short time. But just as Judaism could not receive Jesus, the second Israel, Christianity, could not receive our Father. Consequently, the 2,000-year foundation of Christianity was lost, and Father had to begin again.

The mission of Adam was to create the ideal world; Jesus came to restore this ideal world. The mission of Father is to fulfill the will of God through restoring the ideal world and building the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth and in the spirit world. Then where could he start?

The Kingdom of Heaven doesn't come all at once. It comes through one man and then one family. Therefore, Father's first mission was to restore the ideal family, to indemnify in his own lifetime the 6,000-year history of mankind which had been invaded by Satan. By liberating the past and solving the present, he could open the door to the future.

At the fall of man, the parents, the children and the creation were lost; in other words, the family was lost.

In order to restore the parents, children and creation, all of them had to be sacrificed. In the Old Testament Age, things of creation were sacrificed on the altar. In the New Testament Age, the children of God were sacrificed. That is, Jesus was crucified as the son of God, not as a parent. In the Completed Testament Age, the parents are sacrificed. But, because of the disobedience of Christianity, the Old Testament and New Testament foundations were lost, and the failures of 6,000 years had to be indemnified within our Father's lifetime. Through offering the parents, children and creation, Father could start the first ideal family, the family that could not be invaded by Satan. Because Father indemnified the past, Father's family is the first to become freed from Satan's accusation. The establishment of such a family was the purpose of the first seven-year course.

After 6,000 years of human history, Father's family is the first family to be truly centered on God. History has been looking for the one man and one family that could fulfill Father's ideal of creation. The Kingdom of Heaven is the sinless world. It does not come suddenly from nowhere, but must start from the sinless family. This heavenly family is the base of the Kingdom of Heaven. Without this family, there would be no sinless clan, tribe, nation and world. Then how was this fulfilled?

The Restoration of Parents

First of all, it was fulfilled through the unity of true parents. At the fall of man, Adam and Eve, representing the parents, were lost. Even though they were married, their love was satanic, because it was defiled. This is the tragedy of both God and man. From man's point of view, there are many beautiful couples in the world, but the conjugal love between Father and Mother as husband and wife must exceed all the conjugal loves of the past, the present and even the future. If this were not so, Satan could accuse them and claim their love.

Who can imagine or understand the depth of such a love? Out of billions of marriages, the love between Father and Mother is the purest, deepest and highest. It is miraculous that this could be fulfilled in seven years. Miracles don't happen through chance or accident. There has to be a deep foundation of truth and sacrifice. Not only Father but also Mother must have given incredible love and sacrifice.

"As much as Father walked the road of the cross and tribulation to be ordained in his position, I also was given an incredible cross to bear in order to become Mother. I had to reach for perfection. That standard is so high that sometimes I felt it was virtually impossible to reach the goal. Through that tremendous ordeal and hardship, patience, perseverance and extraordinary faith were needed to achieve the expectation of God."

"After just a glimpse of my mission of being married to such an extraordinary person who was carrying such a universal burden, I felt it was virtually impossible to even think of fulfilling it. But during this time I felt the grace of God constantly upon me. When I was in agony, God revealed Himself to me and gave me messages and guidance. Those days were a tremendous ordeal of difficulties and tribulations. But at the same time those days were truly most beautiful, a time of grace when God's presence was indeed with me. When I look back, all those memories of hardship have turned into joy, something that I can converse about and have fellowship with Father over."

"On your way to heaven you must not expect only the heavenly side. You must taste the dungeons of hell, too. That will finally be the most precious part of God's grace. By doing that you will become strong and you can mature all around into a wholesome personality, God's personality. Then you will appreciate heaven better and someday you will have something you can be proud of-your record of victory and perseverance. It will give you pride."

Eve could not fulfill this mission. And even though Mary loved Jesus, from the providential point of view, she couldn't restore Eve's role. The restoration or fulfillment of such a love between Father and Mother owes much to Mrs. Won Pak Choi. We all are deeply indebted to her for her love, sacrifice, devotion and service to our Father and Mother.

Unity Among Children

When Adam and Eve, as parents, were lost and the love between them was defiled, the lineage of Cain and Abel was defiled and the children were lost. In order to fulfill the lost mission of parents, the children, Cain and Abel must be restored.

Cain was the first-born and elder son. Abel was younger. Abel must be protected by Cain from the beginning, even before birth. Father's followers represented the Cain-type children while those born of his direct lineage represent the Abel-type children.

Father sacrificed and invested everything to love Cain before the coming of Abel. And even after the coming of Abel, Father sacrificed Abel to love Cain. This was Father's fundamental attitude. He could

never give love directly to Abel, but by loving Cain. Father expected that Abel would receive his love through Cain. To do this, just before the Holy Matrimony on March 16, 1960, Father matched three disciples: Won Pil Kim, Mr. [Hyo Won] Eu and Young Whi Kim. Soon after the blessing, they were blessed. They are Father's closest Cain-like children. As a foundation for Father's Holy Matrimony, Parents' Day was declared on March 1, 1960 (lunar calendar) and seven months later, on October 1, 1960 (lunar calendar), Children's Day was declared.

The following year, 33 couples were blessed. Altogether, this made 36 couples, who represented the parental position to mankind. These 36 couples indemnified the past, from Adam to Jacob's twelve sons, and liberated spirit world.

Upon this foundation, in 1962, 72 couples were blessed, representing the position of children. In 1963, 120 couples plus four couples, representing the world, were blessed. Through this blessing, the restoration of the rivalry between Cain and Abel children was fulfilled. Upon this foundation, the position of Parents was confirmed and mankind could receive Father and Mother, become qualified to be born again-not only spiritually but also physically-and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Then, in order to liberate the suffering of creation, a four-year course was begun. At the same time, in January, 1965, Father made his first world tour. He visited 40 nations, including Japan and America, establishing 120 Holy Grounds. This represented the restoration of the Garden of Eden. Upon this hard-won foundation, Father's final battle to restore mankind could really begin.

All of this foundation setting was fulfilled under nationwide persecution. Who could understand the depths of Father's suffering? Only God. At the end of 1967 the day of victory came. The first seven-year course was approved by God. After immeasurable effort, love and sacrifice, victory came. The first sinless family where God would dwell was installed here on earth. This was the first time God could live on this earth- how deep was His joy!

Upon this glorious victory of love and sacrifice, on January 1, 1968, God's Day was declared. Actually, God's Day was supposed to have been declared at the time of Adam's marriage, as were also Parents' Day, Children's Day and Day of All Things. But they were all lost. Now they have been restored through the love and sacrifice of our Father and Mother. These days will be celebrated by God and man for all eternity.

The victory of the first seven-year course was not just Father's victory. It was also Mother's victory. Thus, on God's Day, Father prayed in tears: "My Heavenly Father, please look at Your daughter, who is such a saint. She has fulfilled her mission."