

# Kodan News 2-0303

May 8, 2007

## Stony Path of Tears (1)

Reverend Moon's Message to 300,000 Christian Pastors in America  
from the Danbury Prison in February 1985

What is this stony path? It is the road of providence or dispensation. No one in history or in the world today readily volunteers to walk the stony path. No individual, family, society or nation likes to walk a stony path, for they want to have a smooth road instead. People would rather drive on a highway in a scenic area instead of a desert. In the Oriental concept, man's life is compared to a journey, and people think of life in terms of a happy and peaceful, or unhappy journey. Why are some people destined to walk a stony path? The reason is quite mysterious.

This desire for a carefree life is not limited to man, but includes nature. Grass wants to grow in fertile ground with lots of sunlight and nice rain, and birds look for a comfortable dwelling where they can be at peace. All of nature wants to live in peaceful circumstances. God also would like to have a peaceful existence. It is man who sets himself apart from nature in his suffering and struggles.

There have been many great and righteous people in the past. What kind of life pattern did they have? Usually, they lived in tears, toil and hardship. Did they volunteer for that life or was it forced upon them by circumstances? Though they did not volunteer, their environment brought a hard life upon them. They lived a life of difficulty in order to overcome humanity's unhappiness. Those who pioneered the righteous path in history did so in tears and sweat.

Where does true happiness begin? Where does true peace or the ideal begin? Do true peace and righteousness begin after a life of toil and tears, or before these things? Why are they only found beyond that hill? Something went wrong. That something was the fall. Religion came into being in recognition that human life is not as it should be. Without the recognition that there was some deviation from the original world, religion could not exist. The fall reduced humankind to an abnormal and unhappy state. Religion tries to overcome that unhappy state and bring man back to normality. Therefore, religion is on a collision path with man's unhappy state, trying to shatter it into pieces.

### God Labors in Grief

Is religion based on the charismatic personality of its leaders, or on God? Religion must be based on God. Is God, who has to drive humanity onto this path of collision with unhappiness, a happy God? A human has only a limited life span, and in that brief time he has to go through much hardship and toil to overcome his unhappy state, but God has had to continue that struggle for thousands of years. Can you imagine His grief and misery in having to do so?

The fall of humankind is directly connected to the sorrow of God. Today we see people who live from day to day for fun and entertainment, but if they truly want happiness and righteousness they cannot continue that way; they must collide with their surroundings and rise above them. The first step in a life of religion is recognizing the tragedy of the fall, and trying to remedy that state. The fall brought misery not only to humanity, but to God. He has been living continually in struggle and unhappiness, but no man has recognized this.

Does the solution begin with humanity or with God? If it is only a human problem then we don't have to worry about God, and if it is only God's problem then we don't have to worry about humanity. But the problem is equally serious for both humans and God, and thus the solution must be structured in such a way as to include them both. Because the fall brought tragedy to both humanity and God, they must think along the same lines if they are to bring a solution. If God is crying then people cannot be laughing; if God is struggling over the hills then humanity cannot be skipping over flat ground.

If you are sorrowful and someone comes to comfort you, will your sorrow automatically go away? You have heard the fable about the ant and the grasshopper, in which the ant worked hard during the summer while the grasshopper enjoyed idle time. Could the grasshopper understand the ant's experience? The ant worked so hard that his waist became as thin as a thread, and he was exhausted with fatigue. Could the grasshopper comfort the ant if

he never had experienced hardship himself? But the father of the ant could understand how the ant felt because the father had worked even harder than his son.

This analogy applies to man and God. God has worked hard, like the ant, while man has been like the grasshopper. In America people eat, drink, and disco -- it's a grasshopper's life. How could such people say they understand God's suffering? Would God be comforted by them? The only way truly to comfort God is to work hard for God's will and understand what He has experienced. Then God might be comforted by you.

Did God begin the universe in joy or sorrow? During the process of creation God felt joy and said that His creation was good, but did He feel the same joy at the human fall? God's joy would have been complete if people had become perfect in the object position, but that never happened. Therefore, human history started in misery, and God's history was also miserable. There was no sound of joyful laughter, only tears. The echo of those tears has resounded throughout history down to the present day.

The sound of tears began history, continued through the centuries, and will be the future agenda of history unless we bring total change. This is the universal atmosphere surrounding our life, so if you are trying to be happy all by yourself it is futile. You are swimming in waters of unhappiness and it is impossible to get out by yourself. Does God have reason to grieve or not? His grief begins in the realization that if things had been different He would have been embraced in joy, but instead He is surrounded by sorrow. Is God's situation clear to humanity?

### **The Religious Life Is to Comfort God's Grieving Heart**

People have restless, unhappy lives, but they don't know why they struggle so much for so little. God

knows that bringing a solution to the situation won't be easy. His direction is to bring the solution by following a stony path, but religious people today shun the cross and ask God for blessing and money instead. To God's ears such prayers are worse than seeing the lazy grasshopper-kind of man. Not only do such people not comfort God, but they want to steal something from Him also. Religious people don't realize that they are driving one more nail into God's back each time they pray that way. Instead of comforting Him, it causes Him more pain. On the other hand, if there is a group of people who can say they understand God's situation and who want to take care of His sorrow, will they be closer to God?

Americans like pets, especially puppies. If one day there is a big fight between a husband and wife and the husband throws his wife out of the house, just by licking her hand and wagging his tail the puppy will give her more comfort than her husband. The relationship between humanity and God is somewhat the same. Humanity and God have been in conflict, with people defying God and demanding to know why they should go a stony path. God really needs the comfort of even a little puppy.

Those intellectuals who study God in books will never come close to God without suffering. Maybe they think they have better things to do than to bear the cross, but anyone who thinks in that fashion is a thief. Is the study of books or the way of the cross closer to the heart of God?

If you are trying to be comfortable in a religious life, it cannot work. You have to shed tears; your eyes should not be dry, for there is no such thing as a true religion without tears. You do not know how much I have shed tears in prayer, like the flowing of a stream. You have to cross that creek of tears to meet God. If you shed tears out of self-pity, there is no way God can connect with you, but if you shed tears for humanity and the sorrow of God, He will be linked with you. -- *To be continued* -- (From "God's Warning to the World, Book II")

## 石ころだらけの涙の道 ( 1 )

お父様がダンペリー監獄から全米30万のキリスト教牧師に送ったメッセージ

1985年2月