

True Mother Kang Hyun Shil

Suffering & Liberation - Part 2

June 19, 2017

Bible reading: Matthew 5:1-4 (KJV)

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

² And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

³ Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Good morning everyone,

I would like to continue today with the content that I was speaking about in my last talk. Last time I was speaking to you about Father's course in the Hungnam prison.

After Father entered prison all his Pyongyang congregation scattered. Only Mrs. Ok Se Hyun and Mr. Won Pil Kim visited Father regularly and they were the only ones who maintained their faith. Especially Mother Ok left her husband and her children, and gave up everything in order to maintain her faith. She really demonstrated the model for faith. She passed to the spiritual world on December 28, 1998.

Father once said to me that the most difficult thing for him in prison was to write a daily journal; he did actually write a daily journal but this was extremely difficult to do. The prison would give an award once a year to the person who was the model prisoner, and Father received the award year after year.

This shows that Father really took his prison life seriously and he did his best. But he did not do this to demonstrate loyalty to the communist party. Instead Father realized that it was his responsibility to take upon himself the sins of all humanity and to indemnify those sins. He thought that as long as he was going to pay indemnity he wanted to do so thoroughly and completely.

Another difficult thing for him was that the prisoners were required to write a letter of gratitude every day. Father however did not write such letters. If he had expressed that his life

in prison was good, then that would have been a lie. On the other hand if he had written a letter saying that things were bad then he would not have been able to survive. So he always turned in a blank sheet of paper when he was told to write his letters. This became a problem with the prison authorities, but because he was the best worker, he was somehow able to pass through.

Mrs. Ok told me that every time she visited Father she would take the mixture of powdered grain and also clothing and shoes, but when she would go the next time she would find out that he was still wearing the same clothes and the same shoes as before. He was not wearing what she took for him the time before. She found out later from people who has served with Father in that prison that he would actually give these clothes away to people who has finished their time and were being released. Father would continue to wear his old clothes. This was something that no one else could do; only Father could do this.

Then in the summer of 1950, the fateful day came. The outbreak of the Korean War happened in June 1950, and it began with the invasion of the South by the communists from the North. At the time it looked like South Korea would be destroyed. The North Korean army occupied almost all of South Korea. So many people became refugees and travelled south. However because God was with us, the situation of the war was reversed. The United Nations sent its forces and chased the North Korean army further and further to the north. B 29 bombers bombed the Hungnam prison area for many hours.

More than 200 prisoners were killed in that bombing, and in the nearby city of Hamhung 3,700 people died. Father received a message from God at that time that no bomb, not even any shrapnel would fall in a twelve meter radius from where he was. So he told people to gather around him; many people did so, and everyone who gathered around Father was saved. But as the UN forces approached from the South, the communists began to kill all their prisoners.

One day the communist guards called out the names of the people that they were going to kill, and the list stopped at the name of the person just before Father. The guards were telling the prisoners that people on the list were going to be moved to another location, but in reality they were going to be taken out and killed. And that list stopped at the person right above Father!

But then the United Nations started their all out attack at 2 o'clock in the morning. The prisoners then kicked open the prison gate and escaped into the surrounding hills. This was October 14, 1950 and Father also left the prison that day and began his walk to Pyongyang together with another prisoner named Moon Jong Bin. The South Korean army took control of the prison.

We can only say that the purpose of the Korean War from the providential point of view was to liberate Father. It was God's plan and strategy to save him from the death camp.

So Father walked for ten days from Hungnam to Pyongyang, and arrived there on October 24th. At first he stayed at the home of Mrs. Ok but after a few days there, he had to move to another location.

Father always maintained one purpose in his life, and even though he went to prison six times he never compromised or he never submitted to Satan. Not only that, but Father always thought of the heart of Heavenly Father, that Heavenly Father had lost his children, had lost all things, had lost his sovereignty and that He was calling out the name of his children every day. Father understood that; he understood Heavenly Father's heart completely!

So Heavenly Father could not help but be moved by True Father. Father travelled a course where he tried to right everything that had been made wrong by Satan, to comfort God's heart and to recover everything that God had lost.

So that was my talk to you about Father in North Korea.

Now I'd like to talk to you about our Father's arrest on July 4, 1955. Starting a couple of months before that date, the police were coming to the house in the Chonggu-dong section of Seoul to investigate Father. They were coming to the house about every day and were harassing Father and the members.

Many people whose faith was not completely centered fell away during that time. We were feeling lonely then because many of our brothers and sisters were leaving the church, but Heaven also sent many people to us to encourage us, so that we could remain in the faith. The five major newspapers in Korea at that time were publishing stories on a daily basis about us with huge headlines. Day after day they had stories with huge headlines saying, "Unification Church is a cult, is a pseudo religion, and it's a heresy." Not only that, but they would make up stories, create completely fake news that are not even worth mentioning because they were of such a scandalous content.

Before all this very few people in Korea had heard of the Unification Church but as a result of these newspaper articles, everyone in Korea, even people in the remotest areas came to know the name of the Unification Church. If you were to try and calculate how much money we would have spent for advertising or to get that same kind of coverage, you can't even imagine how much it would have cost.

But God did not forsake us in our loneliness. I remember specifically one person who was a former member of the National Assembly and an elder in a Christian church. He had read all the articles in the newspaper, but it was so terrible that he wanted to find out for himself. He prayed to God saying, "What is this Unification Church? I think it's about time that Jesus returns, but when he is going to come?" He said he heard an answer to his prayer, "If you go to the group that is criticized the most in today's society in Korea then the way will be open for you to meet the Messiah."

We had become so infamous in Korea, that even elementary school children were familiar with the name 'Unification Church'. So this man, his name was Kim Sam, he asked a child along the street, "Where is the Unification Church?" And the child led him to the church. Mr. Kim testified during one of our worship services, "There is no doubt that Rev. Sun Myung Moon is the Messiah. God came to me in my prayer and told me this." I remember he quoted Matthew 5:10 "*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" And he told us to remain with our faith. I remember as if it was just yesterday even though it has been many decades now.

On another time there were three spiritual masters who were praying on Mount Chin, which is in the southwestern section of Korea. They prayed for a thousand days in the mountain, and on the night before the thousandth day, they prayed to God, "We've been praying for You to tell us when the Lord is going to come. We were certain that You would tell us on this thousandth day!" And he publicly declared that "On the night before our thousandth day of prayer, God came to us and said that there would be a tremendous providence taking place in the world centering on that location."

Through these testimonies we could see that God truly loved our church. Many people came and testified that Rev. Sun Myung Moon was a precious person and that God loved him very much as his son.

Father was taken into custody to the Sodaemun prison on July 4th 1955 and he was released on October 4th the same year. He was found 'not guilty'. Father was never convicted of any crime at that time, but he was treated as if he were a common criminal. He was chained together with criminals and he spent ninety days in prison.

I remember the day that Father was released. We were so happy! The fact that he was found 'not guilty' was a confirmation that Father was without sin. Heaven testified that he was a man without sin, and that he had been sent to this world in order to bring salvation.

At that time we rededicated ourselves to serve him and serve the providence through him. I remember that when Father was released from prison, he had lost a lot of weight; he had suffered a great deal in prison. When Father was released we determined ourselves that we would follow him with absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience in order to accomplish God's will in the world.

Father had been in prison two years and eight months in North Korea, and ninety days in South Korea. I remember the day that he was released. We wanted to have a great feast for him, but this was the time when we had no money; so all we could do was take some corn on the cob, fry that and share that with each other. That was all that we could do! Father prayed in tears, and we prayed in tears that day. I remember that very clearly.

Father was talking about how proud he was of us because he said we had overcome all difficulties, all suffering in order to meet him again after his release. And he said, "Let's work hard now to accomplish God's will and bring his kingdom to this earth."

Thank you very much.

Video source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii00-0oi7yE>