

True Mother's Sermon on the Mount - A Reflection on One Passage

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On March 16, True Mother delivered a veritable Sermon on the Mount to the American leadership in Las Vegas. I offer these reflections on her words concerning the position of the eldest son and High Priest.

Instead of a "successor" to True Parents, there will be High Priests establishing the tradition centering on True Parents." There is "no concept of inheritor or successor," True Mother said, because "there is no previous or future True Parents of Heaven, Earth and Humankind." True Father many times stated that there is only one True Parents. In 2009, our former International President stated it well, "There's no new king, no new center, there is no new True Parents, forever. ... True Parents are the eternal rock upon which this movement stands."

Instead of a successor, there will be "the position of the eldest son." True Mother described the responsibility as follows: "The person standing in the position of the eldest son can become a central figure in carrying on the tradition. In simple terms, this son stands in a position akin to the High Priest. There are High Priests in each nation; those among you who are responsible for a nation are the High Priests of that nation. However, regarding the providence as a whole, when it comes to establishing the tradition centering on True Parents, the eldest son's line will carry this mission through the generations."

On April 4, 2008, in his prayer of blessing for Hyung Jin nim's couple, True Father declared Hyo Jin nim, in oneness with his younger brother Heung Jin nim, to be the one in the position of the elder son: "Now with Hyo Jin's going [to spirit world], he goes there in the position of the elder brother, and with the title of 'The lord who opens the gate to loyalty and filial piety in the garden that opens the way to the deepest, highest realms of heaven.' He will acquire all the internal and external aspects of True Parents, and go to the heavenly world. Heung Jin, who was in a position of being unable to govern, shall become one with his elder brother to create a realm of unity and expedite the return of the spirits to earth."

What is the High Priest's mission? The biblical High Priest's mission is to mediate the people's offering to God. As True Father said, "The offering is a conditional object given to God in place of ourselves." He identified Jacob as the model of making the offering to God, and outlined two conditions that Jacob fulfilled. One, the offering was for a purpose greater than himself. Jacob "had to offer it for the sake of the Israelites and their nation ... the sacrifice is ... offered in order to make things of higher and wider dimension and more public nature... reach God and connect with him."

Two, the offering depended upon Jacob's victory over persecution and resentment: "What Jacob had that was acceptable as an offering to God was that the more difficult and lonely his situation became due to the aggravating persecution from Laban, the deeper attachment he felt towards his parents and brothers." Instead of feeling resentment, "[Jacob] felt sorry for what he had done to his elder brother. He thought it was understandable for Esau to want to kill him ... he was sympathetic with his brother."

Father also explained the stages of Jacob's offering, "formation, growth and perfection before going beyond the level of perfection," which set the model for the Old, New and Completed Testament Ages offerings before entering Cheon Il Guk. Thus, in the Old Testament Age, the people offered all things, through the High Priest, to claim the nation. As High Priest, Jesus offered his body (the child) to claim the world, spiritually.

In 1960, True Father offered the restored Christian foundation as the condition to receive the only begotten Daughter as his Bride. He then said that True Mother, representing all women, was "in the position to fulfill the worldwide responsibility of the High Priest," and on that foundation called husbands to unite with their wife and children to unite with their parents to complete the four-position foundation "that can fulfill the responsibility of high priest." In the Completed Testament Age, the blessed husband offered his wife; the blessed children offered their mother.

To close the circle, True Mother explained in Las Vegas that in the Cheon Il Guk Age, the one in the position of the Eldest Son mediates our offering to "the Heavenly Parent [within whom] is the Holy Father and the Holy Mother, the True Parents." This substantiates hyo jeong with no indemnity, in the era after the coming of Heaven.