

WEEKLY FELLOWSHIP

July 30, 2023

The church in Phoenix

Meeting Schedule

Lord's Day

10:00 am – Lord's Table Meeting

11:00 am – Prophesying Meeting

Tuesday

7:30 pm – English-speaking prayer meeting at meeting hall

7:00 pm – Spanish speaking prayer meeting at home

Friday

7:00 pm – Small Group Meetings

Friday

7:30 pm – Small Group Meetings

Saturday

9:30 am – Cleaning & Maintenance at the Hall

7:30 pm – Young People's Meeting

Continue in the Ministry
and the Word

Holy Word for Morning Revival

Making Ourselves Ready for the Lord's Coming – Week 5

Riches from the Ministry

The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move
Basic Lessons on Service
Life-Study of Matthew

Announcements

❖ Gospel Trips in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria

- Dates: Oct 8-22, 2023
- Information & Registration: bit.ly/GermanyGospelTrips

❖ Labor Day Conference with Brother James Lee in Denver

- **Dates:** Sept 2-4, 2023
- **Place:** Denver meeting hall at 2180 South Leyden Street
- **Meeting Schedule:**
Meetings 1&2: Sept. 2; 9:30 AM; 7:00 PM
Lord's Table: Sept. 3; 9:30 AM
Meetings 3&4: Sept. 3; 10:00 AM; 7:00 PM
Meeting 5: Sept. 4; 9:30 AM
- **Children's Program:** There will be a toddlers' class for children ages 1 and 2 and a program for children age 3 through 5th grade during the morning meetings only. Parents bringing children must take turns helping to serve in the morning children's program.
- **Hospitality:** Each family must complete and turn in the hospitality request form to his/her own locality for their locality to submit all the hospitality request forms together to the Church in Denver.
- **Registration Deadline:** Each locality sending saints must submit one master registration list in Microsoft Word, one childcare registration form (if applicable), and all the hospitality request forms from its locality by **Friday, August 4, 2023**. They need to be submitted electronically to email@churchindenver.org.

❖ Children Service Fellowship

- July 30, 2023, 1:30 PM on Zoom

❖ Offerings

- Please send your offerings through Zelle to the church's bank account using the following email address: offerings@churchinphoenix.org

Riches from the Ministry

Now we need to fellowship concerning our practice of being faithful in service. In what way should we be faithful in the service? What shall we do? First, in Matthew 24:45-51 we are told clearly that the Lord commissioned us to take care of His household. His household refers to the believers (Eph. 2:19), who are the church (1 Tim. 3:15). The church today is the Lord's house and also the Lord's household, what we refer to as the folks. We are His house, and at the same time we are His folks. The Lord charged us, commissioned us, to minister something to His household, that is, to the believers in the church.

In the second section in 25:14-30, the Lord said that He is like a man going abroad, who delivered his possessions to his slaves (v. 14). In the next verse he gave talents to the slaves. Possessions and talents are the items of this parable. His possessions signifies the church (Eph. 1:18) with all the believers, who are His household (Matt. 24:45). The church with the believers is a real inheritance, a possession of the Lord. Talents in this parable signifies spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:4; 1 Pet. 4:10; 2 Tim. 1:6). Matthew 25:14 says, "The kingdom of the heavens is just like a man about to go abroad, who called his own slaves and delivered to them his possessions." Verse 15 continues, "To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one." The reader of these verses may think that the five talents refer to possessions. Possessions are the Lord's church, His believers, and talents are the gifts. The Lord not only gave the possessions, but He also gave the talents.

The Lord, before going to the heavens, delivered to us His church with all the believers. If He had given to us only the talent to minister the life supply, then to whom would we minister? However, He gave us two categories of things: one is His possessions, the other is the talents. Today we have the church with all the believers as the possession, the portion to us, to which we can give something, and we have the talents as the spiritual gifts.

Each one of us will have no excuse at the judgment seat of Christ. Every day is a proper time for us to minister the proper food to anyone, and every day is a proper time for us to make some profit. For this reason I have been declaring, "Rise up, and wake up!" We all have to rise up and wake up to be diligent, to be faithful, to be prudent and not foolish, to minister the proper food to the needy ones at the proper time, and also to use our talent or talents. Perhaps you only have one talent; actually, most of the believers have only one talent. The danger is not with the ones who have five talents or two talents. The danger is always with the one-talented ones, who are always thinking, "I do not have much gift; what I have is just a little; whether I function or not means nothing." Actually, it means much. (Lee, *The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move*, chapter 8)

Matthew 24 speaks of the evil slave who "says in his heart, My master delays, and begins to beat his fellow slaves" (vv. 48-49a). When we mistreat a fellow believer by criticizing, opposing, or despising him, in the eyes of the Lord, that is to beat him. We have to say a strong word here. We can easily fall into this danger without any kind of realization. We can fall into criticizing the brothers and sisters. Sometimes we may oppose or despise some of the saints. Perhaps we would even fight against them. This is to beat the Lord's slaves, who are our fellow slaves.

Matthew 24:49b says that this evil slave "eats and drinks with the drunken." The Lord's word in Matthew 24 is a parable. Since it is a parable, it must be interpreted. To eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things. They are drunk with their worldly enjoyment. This is the danger of not using our gift. Once we become a person who keeps company with worldly people, we would not be faithful to the Lord in using the gift He gives us, so we fall into danger. (Lee, *Basic Lessons on Service*, chapter 13)

Verses 50 and 51 say, "The master of that slave shall come on a day when he does not expect him, and in an hour which he does not know, and shall cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites; there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth." The problem with the evil slave is not that he does not know that the Lord is coming, but that he does not expect Him. He does not like to live the kind of life that is prepared for the Lord's coming. Therefore, when the Lord comes back, He will cut him asunder and appoint his portion with the hypocrites. To cut him asunder means to cut him off. This signifies a separation from the Lord in His coming glory. This corresponds to being cast out into the outer darkness in the conclusion of the parable of the talents (25:14-30), which is a completion to this section. (Lee, *Life-Study of Matthew*, Message 63).