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The Pattern on the Mount (3)

Exodus 26:1 – 6, 30 And thou shalt make the tabernacle [with] ten curtains of twined byssus, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubim of artistic work shalt thou make them. The length of one curtain shall be twenty-eight cubits, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits—one measure for all the curtains. Five of the curtains shall be coupled one to another, and the other five curtains coupled one to another. And thou shalt make loops of blue on the edge of the one curtain at the end of the coupling; and likewise shalt thou make them in the edge of the outermost curtain in the other coupling. Fifty loops shalt thou make in the one curtain, and fifty loops shalt thou make at the end of the curtain in the other coupling: the loops shall be opposite to one another. And thou shalt make fifty clasps of gold, and couple the curtains together with the clasps, that the tabernacle may be one whole.

And thou shalt set up the tabernacle according to its fashion, as has been shown thee on the mountain.

Ephesians 2:19 – 22 So then you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but you are fellow-citizens of the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the cornerstone, in whom all the building fitted together increases to a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve the representation and shadow of heavenly things, according as Moses was oracularly told when about to make the tabernacle; for see, said He that thou make all things according to the pattern which has been shown to thee in the mountain.

God called Moses to the mountain. There God gave Moses the pattern of the tabernacle. The desire of God was to dwell among His people. And when He gave this pattern to Moses, He once again warned Moses that 'you have to be careful when you build this tabernacle and all the furnishings inside; you have to follow exactly the pattern that I showed you on the mountain'. We know that

our God also called us into His presence. He wants to reveal to us His heart desire. His heart desire is to dwell among His people. And He once again warns us that the building of the tabernacle and all its furnishings has to be according to the pattern shown on the mount. All the things that are related to God have to be carried out according to the pattern on the mount. If they are not according to the pattern on the mount, we know that our God cannot dwell in there. And His heart will not be satisfied. But we already said that even if we did everything according to the pattern on the mount, it is not enough because the pattern is just the outward shadow. Even though it is a shadow resembling a little the real thing, yet it is not the reality. So God wants us to enter into the reality through the pattern on the mount. And only then will it satisfy God's heart.

So dear brothers and sisters, on the one hand we have to follow the pattern on the mount, and on the other hand, we have to enter into the reality of that image. We praise and thank our Lord because He did give us the pattern on the mount. We know that the word of God gives us the pattern on the mount. And the light of God, shining through His own Son, gives us these words. And His Son is the reality of the image. We know that through His Son, He gave us His word and that is the pattern on the mount. So we have to be careful. In all spiritual things we have to follow the words of God. We cannot change God's words. We need to follow and keep all of God's words. And it is not enough that we just keep all His words; we need to be able to touch the Son of God behind these words. Otherwise words brought about death, and only the Spirit allows people to live. So dear brothers and sisters, we have asked God to give us the pattern on the mount before God this time in the previous messages. And we have also asked Him to call us to faithfully keep His words just like Moses did. But we still need to enter into the reality of the real image. If it is not Christ Himself, we see that all things are just shadow. We cannot just seek after the shadows only. We need to enter into the reality of the real image through these shadows.

Yesterday morning we talked about the personal life of a Christian. We know that there is a pattern on the mount for the personal life of a Christian. How we need to know the cross of Christ! And through the cross of Christ, we know the crucified Christ. We know that the cross is only a process. Christ is the goal. We thank God that our Lord was crucified. Because He suffered, was crucified and bled on the cross, our sins are forgiven. Because He died on the cross, we are saved from the power of death. We must remember that truly He is Christ crucified. Through the cross Christ is given to us. However, if we only know the doctrine of the cross, the substitution of the cross and the representation of the cross, and we do not have a relationship with Christ, these doctrines cannot free us. These doctrines cannot save us. It is only when we touch Christ, then the blood of the cross can cleanse us, and the death of the cross can crucify our old self.

We need the light of the holy place to lead us in our Christian life. This is not the light of the sun. It is the light of the golden lampstand. After we believe in Christ, we can no longer accept the leading of the world. We need to accept the leading of the light of life. Christ is the light of life. We do not live according to the things on the outside in this world. We live according to Christ as our bread of life. He is our life. Today we can be a Christian because Christ is our high priest. Because He is interceding for us on the right hand of God, the Holy Spirit starts to work on changing us inside to conform to the image of the Son. And He is to lead us into the holy of holies because the will of God is to have us live in Him. God's will is for us to live in His presence. We live a life within the veil. We are to live a life under the open heaven. We see God's face every day. We commune with Him every day. We can hear His voice every day. We can worship and serve Him every day. This is a life ordained by God for His children.

Dear brothers and sisters, God does not want us to live in the outer court. We can have activity in the outer court. We can preach the gospel in the outer court. But that is not our home. God does not want us to live in the holy place. The church is where we serve God. But it is not our dwelling place. Our dwelling place is inside God. We are to live in the secret place of the most high. That way we can live under the shadow of the Almighty. But brothers and sisters, we feel that we live in the outer court most of the time. We are busy there. And we do not live inside God. Sometimes we do serve in the church, but inside us we do not have the feel of home. Our home is inside God. But why is it that we cannot live inside the home? It is because the veil inside us has not been rent; although the veil, because of Christ, has already been rent. He already opened up a new and living way. Through this veil we passed; that is, passing through His body, He has already opened up this way for us. But we must walk in the way, and then the veil inside each of us will be rent. This is the principle. This veil represents the fleshly body of men. If our fleshly body has not been broken, our outer man is not broken. Then there is no way that we can constantly abide inside God. So brothers and sisters, our outward man, that is our flesh, has to be broken. Then we can constantly abide in God. This is what we have shared yesterday.

Today we are going to share on the Christian corporate life. We are going to talk about church life and how it can be according to the pattern on the mount. God commanded Moses to build a tabernacle so that God can dwell among men. We now know that God lives inside each one of us. Thank and praise God. If you believe and accept the Lord Jesus Christ, then the Lord Jesus lives in you. He lives in us through the Holy Spirit. God not only lives in each of us, He lives among all of us as a whole. Based on God's eternal purpose, the goal is not an individual. What God wants is a corporate body. God goes from an individual to a corporate. So today, as a Christian, it is not enough before God to just pay attention only to our individual life. We know today among God's children, many people just focus on individual spiritual life. Yes, we should pay attention to individual spiritual life. But if we only focus on individual spiritual life, and

neglect the corporate life, we see that we still cannot achieve God's purpose. The interesting thing is this. Even though God gets to the corporate through an individual, yet He will not kill off the individual when He gets the corporate. Sometimes when we want to get to corporate we kill off the individual. But the amazing work of God is here. He wants to get the corporate, the church. But in the corporate, each of our individuality still exists. God does not want us to learn the work of conformity. Nor does He want us to be all the same; not to be uniform but to have variety and yet it is united. And this is the amazing work of God.

When God created man, He created an individual called Adam. But what did the bible say? God blessed this man saying 'you have to be fruitful and multiply throughout the entire earth'. So the purpose of God is to multiply over the entire earth. So God's purpose is to have the corporate. We see this clearly in the Old Testament. God called Abraham. His purpose was not just to gain this one person, Abraham. But through Abraham He was to gain a whole family and through this family He was to gain a nation. And through this nation, He wanted to gain many nations. The meaning of the name Abraham is 'the father of many nations'. And what did this 'many nations' point to? Spiritually, it points to the church. God calls people out from all countries and nations to be the church. We are all being built up to be the holy temple where God through His Spirit dwells. Brothers and sisters, you have to clearly see that not only do we need to pay attention to individual spiritual life; we also need to pay attention to the corporate spiritual life. God not only has requirements for individual personal life, but He also has requirements for the corporate life. We cannot do as we please in our personal life. Thus in the corporate life we also cannot do as we please. There is a pattern on the mount for our personal life. There is also a pattern on the mount for corporate life.

This morning we are going to look at the pattern on the mount for the corporate life. We saw the many different furnishings in the tabernacle. These furnishings represented Christ. When we touch a furnishing, we touch Christ. Today we are going to look at the matter of the tabernacle. We know that the tabernacle also represented Christ. John 1:14 tells us 'and the word became flesh, tabernacled among men full of truth and grace'. Christ was the tabernacle of God when He was on earth. God dwelt inside Him. God rested in Him. Three times the heaven opened up and said 'this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'. I am satisfied. Brothers and sisters, in the days that our Lord Jesus was on earth, He was the tabernacle of God. But because He died and resurrected and completed the work of salvation, this tabernacle has been expanded. So today, we as God's children are being built into the tabernacle of God. Today the dwelling place of God is not made of cloth or stone. It is not built with material things. Today, God's tabernacle is built with men. We, who are saved, are all being built into the dwelling place of God.

We see in Revelation 21 that there is a voice calling out 'the tabernacle of God is among men' in the last days. And what is the tabernacle of God? This tabernacle of God is the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem comes down into the new heaven and the new earth. God dwells inside this tabernacle. And through this New Jerusalem, God dwells in the new heaven and new earth. So dear brothers and sisters, today we are the tabernacle of God. One day this new Jerusalem will be manifested. And that is when the new tabernacle is finished. So we will use this tabernacle to look at the corporate life.

I want to share with brothers and sisters the three points about this tabernacle. First it is the tabernacle itself. This tabernacle was sewed into one piece with ten curtains. These curtains were made of fine twine linen of blue and purple and scarlet. And the cherubim were woven with hand onto them. And these ten curtains were exactly the same. They were all twenty-eight cubits long and four cubits wide. The fine twine linen in the bible represents the righteousness of the saints. We know this when we read Revelation 19. Revelation 19 said the bride has adorned herself and made herself ready. And it was given to her that she should be clothed in white fine linen. The white fine linen is the righteousness of all the saints. So the fine linen in the bible represents the righteousness of all the saints. When we come before God, our righteousness is like filthy rags. Isaiah told us that our righteousness is like filthy rags. Therefore we cannot come before the face of God. Praise the Lord because when we come before God, He gives us a fine robe to wear just like when the prodigal son returned home. You know that the clothing the prodigal son had on had to be very dirty and torn. And when he returned to his father, the father said, take away these torn clothes and put on him the fine clothes. And only then could he sit at the feast with his father. Then he would be like my son. Brothers and sisters, when we come before the Lord, our righteousness is like filthy rags. We think we are pretty good. We think we are better than others. But when we come before God, all our unrighteousness is revealed. We cannot see the face of God. But praise and thank the Lord, He took away our filthy clothes and He uses Christ as the fine robe and puts Him on us. Christ becomes our righteousness. He is our righteousness. And because He is our righteousness, we can come boldly before our Father. Each child of God has this fine robe on him. But brothers and sisters, we not only wear just one robe, we must wear a few fine robes.

I will talk about the second robe first. We not only wear the good robe so we can stand before God. When God sees us, He sees Christ and not us. And thus He considered us righteous. And when He sees His Son, He is happy. So when He sees us, He did not see us but He sees Christ. And He said that is good and that is righteous. And so we are deemed righteous before God. But that is not enough even though this robe made us become the children of God. We still cannot be the bride of Christ. To be the bride of Christ we need to wear the wedding gown. And what is this wedding gown? That is the fine linen – the righteousness of all the saints. It seems like this is the righteousness wrought

out by all the saints. And this is called the practical righteousness in 1 John. We who belong to God, we not only are deemed righteous, we must also practice righteousness. Before we believed in Christ, we could only sin and could not walk righteous. Even though we walked in what we considered as righteous, yet there were still lots of sin in it. Sometimes we donate a lot of money. But why do we do it? It is for fame and carries sin in it. But after we believed in the Lord, we need to walk righteous because Ephesians 2 tells us, 'You are saved by grace and faith, this is not from you or from your work, so that you cannot boast'. Then it said you are the handiwork of God, prepared by God so you can walk all kinds of righteousness. So now we who believe in God have to walk righteous. But how can we walk righteously? It is not from us, but from the life of Christ inside us. This new life has a new character and this new character is light. It is love and it is righteous. And we go with this new character in this new life in our living. Thus we have the righteousness of the saints.

This is the matter of the Holy Spirit building up Christ in us. The Holy Spirit is the embroiderer. He is the one who embroiders. And He embroiders Christ needle by needle into us. And the righteousness of Christ is thus embroidered needle by needle onto us. And the result is that we can manifest a different righteousness in us. And this fine linen was intertwined with blue, purple and scarlet. Blue represents of heaven, purple represents nobility and scarlet represents glory. Thus we see that the life of Christ is of heaven, of nobility and of glory. And the Holy Spirit embroiders this life of Christ of heaven, royalty and glory into us, so that Christ can form in us. And this is what the bible said of conforming to the image of Christ. And this veil was made from all these materials. And the cherubim were also embroidered onto the veil.

What are cherubim? We have never seen cherubim. But the bible tells us after man sinned, man was expelled from the Garden of Eden. God set up the cherubim on the east side of the Garden of Eden to guard the way to the fruit of life. So what are cherubim? I will just mention a little of it. The bible said cherubim are also living creatures. In Ezekiel it said cherubim are living creatures. And in Revelation, you see that there are four living creatures before the throne. So what does that represent? It represents the original design of God in creating creatures. After man sinned, the cherubim appeared. That is to say, man can fail, but the original purpose of God's creating creatures will last forever. So cherubim represent the heart desire of God. Brothers and sisters, what is the tabernacle made of? It was made of curtains. These curtains were made of fine linen, with blue, purple and scarlet threads and cherubim embroidered onto the veil by the handiwork of the embroiderer. That is to say, although man fell, but in the salvation of Christ, He gained a group of people. And this group of people is formed by Christ. And Christ is formed in them. And they returned to the original purpose of God in creation. And thus this satisfies God's heart.

Brothers and sisters, every one of these ten curtains was the same. They were twenty-eight cubits long, four cubits wide. You know twenty-eight is four times seven. The number four in the bible represents the number of man. The number seven represents the completion of the ages. Here we see four times seven. Here it said all the curtains were the same. Each curtain was the same length and the same width. And they were made of the same material. That is we are all the same in Christ. In Christ there is no higher or lower. There is no great or small. In Christ we all are the same. The ten curtains were sewed together; five curtains sewed onto five, and then they were sewed together. I do not know whether my explanation of this is correct or not. Why was it five curtains by five curtains? It is because five curtains represent the Israelites and the other five curtains represent the Gentiles.

What is the church? The church is where all the people that God has chosen from among the Jews and the gentiles are united together as one. Thus in Ephesians 3:6 we are told that there is a mystery of God. And what is this mystery of Christ? It is that the gentiles will be joint heirs, and joint partakers as one joint body because of the promise in Christ. Originally we are gentiles. We have no part in Christ and we have no part in God's promise. But we thank and praise our Lord. Because of the gospel, we gentiles together with the Jews are now joint heirs in Christ. We are the same body. We have the same promise. Thank and praise God. The Jews and the gentiles are not separate. We see that each five curtains are now coupled together. And they were sewed together with blue and gold loops. Blue represents of heaven, gold is of God. Today we can be united as one is not based on the ways of men. It is not an earthly joining together. Today we are joined together by the ways of heaven and of the Spirit. So in Christ Jesus, there are no Jews or gentiles, no barbarians or Scythians, no circumcised or uncircumcised, no bondservants or masters, only Christ is all in all.

Dear brothers and sisters, today we are united as one curtain because of the unity by the Holy Spirit. This unity is of heaven. This is a spiritual unity. Here it emphasized that it was one tabernacle. Even though there were ten curtains, sewed together five by five, yet lastly they were coupled together as one tabernacle. God only has one dwelling place. God only has one tabernacle. God only has one church. Christ only has one body. God only has one small flock. It is not one small flock here and one big flock there. In Luke 12:32 Christ said 'Fear not, little flock for it has been the good pleasure of your Father to give you the kingdom'. God's children, when compared with the world, are like a little flock. In John 10, Jesus said I still have other sheep in another fold. And I will gather them into one flock. The Jews are in one fold. The gentiles are in another fold. And the Lord lead the sheep in both folds and gather them into one flock – one shepherd one flock; one head and one body; one Lord and one dwelling place. This is a very important principle of the corporate life in the bible. And this is the pattern on the mount.

Dear brothers and sisters, here we see that the corporate life is one. There is only one church on earth. In the universe there is only one church. All those who are saved throughout all the generations are in that one church because there is only one church in the universe. So the revelation of the church on earth is also only one. A lot of times we ask others which church they come from. If there is only one church, you do not need to ask. Some said we are from the local church. If you are not from the local church, where are you coming from? Are you hanging in the air? Dear brothers and sisters, today our knowledge of the church is so far from the truth. We always said my church, your church. You do not have a church. I do not have a church. The church belongs to Christ. The Lord said I am going to build my church upon this rock and hades' gates shall not prevail against it. If it is my church, hades will swallow it up very easily. But if it is God's church built by our Lord, even if all the doors of hades are opened, they cannot overcome God's church. Dear brothers and sisters, here we see the pattern on the mount.

The second part was the covering. We see there was not only the tabernacle, but there was a covering on the top. This covering had three layers. Why did the tabernacle have to be covered? It was for the purpose of protection. You see the different layers of protection. There had to be protection because the tabernacle was so precious. If a thing is not that precious, you do not need to protect it. If it is garbage, you just leave it outside the door. And if someone steals it, you will be happy. If it is something that is precious, you put it in the safe. You want to protect it.

Brothers and sisters, the Lord loves the church very much. He loves the church, and He died for the church. The church is very precious to the Lord. Thus He has to put layers to protect it so that it can be kept. The enemy will come to attack it. But the Lord will be there to protect it. When God first created man, God put man in the Garden of Eden. What did God say to man? He said man was to cultivate and guard it. Why did he have to cultivate it? At that time there was no sin in the garden, why did he have to cultivate it? It was because by cultivating it, it would increase. Why did he have to guard it? It is because there was the enemy hiding outside the garden. But alas, Adam did not guard it well. We do not know whether he cultivated it well. So the enemy entered into the garden because Adam did not guard it. And the enemy began to beguile Eve. Eve was not there taking care of the garden. She was not doing anything. She was looking here and there and she saw that the fruit of the tree of knowledge looked very nice. She thought to herself that the fruit of this tree had to taste very good. It was too bad that God would not allow us to eat. Brothers and sisters, when someone has nothing to do, it is very easy to sin. Therefore sin entered in and the Garden of Eden was destroyed.

So when God wanted to build the tabernacle, He added three layers of coverings over it. The first layer was made of goat's hair, and He used the goat's hair to weave this layer of covering. What was the goat's hair? If you read the

bible, you know that the prophets in the Old Testament wore clothes made of hair. We see in Zachariah 13 'in that day neither shall they (prophets) wear a hairy mantle to deceive'. In 2 Kings 1, Elijah wore garments made of hair because he was a prophet. That was a symbol of the prophets. In the New Testament, John the Baptist wore garments made of camel hair. He had a leather belt and he ate locusts and honey. And so garments made of hair represented the position of the prophets. Why were the garments made of hair? It showed that it was rough and separated. Other people were wearing soft garments. But the prophets for God showed that they were separated to be holy. They led a difficult life. They spoke for God. And God spoke to His people through the prophets so that His people would not go astray. And that His people would know the original heart desire of God.

So brothers and sisters, today the church should have the office of the prophets. If the church lacks the office of the prophets, without the word of the prophets announcing God's heart desire to the people, the children of God can easily lose the way. We ask God to raise up prophets, not people who think of themselves as prophets, not false prophets, but we ask God to give us true prophets. The foundation of the church is on the apostles and prophets. God gave apostles and prophets to His church. The prophets are not to speak prophecies. Prophets are to tell people the heart desire of God. Dear brothers and sisters, there is a lack of prophets in the church today. There is a lack of people who know the heart desire of God. We lack people who can reveal the original heart desire of God to people. We lack people who show the people where they have fallen off from God's desire and call them back to the heart desire of God. Dear brothers and sisters, this is a protection for the church.

The second covering was made of the male ram's skin. The ram skin was dyed red. What does this represent? We see that when the priests received their office, a male ram was killed, and the blood of the ram was put on the ear of the priest, the right thumb and the right toe. I will explain more on these later. So we see that the male ram skin had to do with the priestly office. The meaning is the total, absolute offering up to the Lord. Only when we completely offer up ourselves to the Lord, then can we perform the duty of the priest. Romans 12 said, '...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your intelligent service'. So this layer of covering pointed to the office of the priest. The church in the office of the priest will have protection. This office of the priest is the duty of each of the children of God. And if each of us performs our priestly duty, then the church will have protection. Today the church has lack because the children of God do not fulfill their priestly duty.

And the third layer was made of badger skin. The badger skin represented vigilance. And this is the duty of a king. We are not only priests, we are also kings. Here we reign for the king. We are doing things for God. And only under the priestly, kingly, and prophetic duties can the church get protection.

The third point is the board. You had the tabernacle and coverings, where were the support? The boards were the support. Altogether there were forty eight boards. Each board was ten feet long, and one and a half feet wide. It was made of cedar wood. We know cedar wood is a very hard wood. People called the cedar wood the wood that cannot be destroyed. Wood in the bible represents the nature of man. Here was a human. But this man was not an ordinary man. Ordinary man is like wood that can be destroyed. But this cedar wood was something that cannot be destroyed. So this represents those who are in Christ. Today we are in Christ. We cannot be destroyed just like the cedar wood. Paul in 2 Corinthians said 'I know a man who is in Christ, fourteen years ago, (whether in body I know not, or out of the body I know not, God knows ;)'. You know one who is in Christ is truly a spiritual man. This is a man that others do not know. Maybe you yourself do not even know. If you said you know you are spiritual, then you are not truly spiritual. So you do not know. Whether in the spirit or not, Paul said I do not know. But I know a person who is in Christ. This person is just like the cedar board. He can stand up.

Dear brothers and sisters, we need these kinds of cedar boards in the church. And we need pillars. In the church in Jerusalem, there were three pillars. They were Peter, John and James. And these three pillars upheld the church in Jerusalem. So what do these supporting boards represent? These boards represent those who are truly spiritual in the church. We can call them the leaders in the church. And we can call them the overcomers in the church. These people are matured. And because they are matured they can stand up. Ten means responsibilities. They can stand up and they are responsible. There needs to be such group of brothers and sisters in the church. Their roots are in Christ. These boards were put into silver sockets. These boards were not anchored into the ground. They were anchored into the silver sockets. And two sockets linked them together. So the boards could not move. Silver represents the salvation of Christ. They have their roots deep in the salvation of Christ. And this is what Colossians told us about being deep rooted in Christ. These people do not have any relationship with the world. Their contact with the world is through the salvation of Christ. That is why they can stand firm and they can uphold the church. But surprisingly, although the boards were ten cubit high, yet it was only one and a half cubit wide. Why was it one and half cubit wide? Half represents incompleteness. So here it shows us that even though you are mature in Christ, and seems like you are an overcomer, and can take up spiritual responsibilities in the church, yet you cannot stand alone. You need to stand together with another brother on each side. Three is a complete number because God is a triune God. So brothers and sisters, we need to see that we cannot stand alone. You cannot close the door and be a Christian all by yourself. You cannot said as long as I am all grown up it will be alright. You are only one and half cubit. You are incomplete. You need to yoke with brothers and sisters. Only this way can you be one of them who support the church. We know that the boards were lay over with gold. When the gold was laid over the wood, one cannot see the wood. And all the woods together become one piece. Thus all

become one in the life of Christ. There were fifteen boards around. And forty-eight boards all connected together to be one tabernacle.

Dear brothers and sisters, God shows us what His heart desire is. Today what God has ordained for His children is the church life, the corporate life. God does not want us to live church life individually. God wants us to be joined together to become one. But this oneness is not put together by man. This oneness is joined together in life. We should love one another. We should coordinate together. We have to forget ourselves. We see just only our Lord. Dear brothers and sisters, this is the pattern on the mount.

Today people ask one question. Is there a blueprint in the bible for corporate or church life? Does the bible have a blueprint for church life? Does the bible have blueprint for Christian corporate life? The answer is yes because the church is the tabernacle of God. This is God's heart desire. He is to dwell among us. How is it that God did not give us a pattern on the mount for the church if it is God's heart desire? Did He say you can just go do it any way you want? No, we believe there is a blue print in the bible, especially in the New Testament. The four gospels show us that Christ came to this earth for the purpose of building the church. He said, 'I will build my church upon this rock.' The Book of Acts shows us the beginning of the church. The epistles tell us the teachings of the church. And Revelation shows us the destiny of the church. Thus in the bible, God has given us the pattern on the mount.

We often hear people say, 'Today we are in the twentieth century; we have progressed to the twentieth century. We cannot go back and use the blue print of the church in the first century'. In the New Testament, in the first century, the church first began. It can be said that it was very simple then. And it was also very pure. Now that nineteen centuries have passed, the church should change with the changing age. The ages have changed, thus the church should change too, so that it can adapt to the requirements of the present age. When the church first started, it did not have any organization. But now in the twentieth century in an age of organizations, how can you survive if you do not have an organization? In the first century, there was only one church because the gospel was first spread. But after preaching for almost twenty centuries, there are now many believers. So divisions and sects are natural in these circumstances. This is a natural phenomenon. We have to enter into the new age. So the church will not be just one. It now becomes all different kinds of churches. Are not all these sects of the churches the consequences of history? We have to accept these things. However, we should not be that foolish or that simple. We need to return to the bible and find out the pattern on the mount. And we have to follow the pattern on the mount. But people said this is something that we absolutely cannot do. This is just an ideal. We are people of the current age. So we have to have a new look of the church in this new age. These sayings seem to be reasonable. Unfortunately our God never reason with

man. When He said yes, it is yes and when He said no, it is no. You sinned if you said one word too much.

Brothers and sisters the church is not the product of any age. The church is based on Christ in eternity. If the church is just the product of the times, then the times can change the church. But if the church is the purpose of God set in Christ in eternity, then no one can change the pattern on the mount. Dear brothers and sisters, today we see the condition of the church on earth. There are so many divisions and sects, enemies with each other. Even if they are not enemies, they are vying with each other. Where is God's one church? You think our God can have rest? No wonder today those who love God does not have rest in their hearts. A lot of people who love the Lord said they have no home to return to. There are many meetings, there are many so called churches, but where is our home? There is no rest inside us.

Dear brothers and sister, the Lord is returning soon. Should we return to the pattern on the mount at this time? Should we return to the purpose of God? Only in the will of God can we have rest inside. But please do remember, it is not that we just start the church of the New Testament and it is done.

I feel that I am a simple person. Whoever said in a place that they start a New Testament church, I will ask which church is not a New Testament church. If the church is not of the New Testament, then it will be of the Old Testament. Then it will be Judaism. So there is not one church that is not the New Testament. If it is a church, then it is of the New Testament. If there is a church, then it is a local church. How can you say it is a local church? If there is a church, it is a universal church. The church is one. We, brothers and sisters must be united into one in Christ's life. We need to forgive one another, accept one another and love one another. That way, our God can dwell among us. We do not know how much pain we have caused our God. The pain in us represents only a little of the pain that we cause our God. May we return to God. Do not think that today we set up a New Testament church. What is a New Testament church? According to the book of Timothy, there are elders and deacons. We set up a few elders and a few deacons and we said we have a New Testament church. Dear brothers and sisters, it is not like that. Even if it is according to the pattern on the mount, it is not necessarily spiritual if it is not Christ. Even if you have elders and deacons, it is still not a New Testament church. Some people said we kept the teachings of the bible, we are baptized, we follow head covering, we have breaking of the bread. Thus we are a church.

You know that I think this way too before. I have to give you a testimony. I was born into a so called Methodist church. A few years after I was saved, the Lord opened my eyes. He caused me to see that the children of God should not have divisions and sects. So I was willing to walk the one church way. I came out to serve the Lord. I went to different places. My purpose was to set up New Testament churches. Do you know how I did it? I left the denominational church. I got baptized. I broke bread. And I taught head covering and now I

said I had started a New Testament church. Now I could go to another place. I did this for a few years. I was so dry in the inside. Was this all that was to it? But thank and praise God. Because of the war, I escaped to India. There was a Shanghai saying, 'only in the worst of luck you end up in India'. But God was very merciful to me in India. There I worked for two and a half months. And I was quiet before the Lord. The Lord let me see that these were just all outward things. Although it was the pattern on the mount, and something that we ought to follow, yet if you just had that but not the life of Christ in you and the abundance of the life of Christ in you, and if the authority and power of the head is blocked, and the manifestation of the life in us was not clear, then it would be like the things of the tabernacle which were destroyed. It would be just like the temple in Jerusalem which was destroyed. When I worked to the end of the way and felt that there was no road for me to go on, the Lord then opened the heaven for me. The Lord made me see and said to me, 'there is no limit to the work of the church because the church is the body of Christ who fills all and in all'. Who can fathom the fullness of Christ? Who can measure the fullness of the church? Brothers and sisters, then a way opened up for the work. I knew that from then on, there is no end to the way. There is no end to this work because it is Christ who fills the entire church. Dear brothers and sisters, if we cannot find Christ in the church, the Lord will say, I am going to take away this lampstand. May the Lord be merciful to us.

Our Father, we thank and praise Thee because You are full of mercy and grace. You do not get angry easily. You happily give mercy. Dear Lord, when we stand before You, we can only humbly said, we repent, we have sinned against You. Our Lord, be merciful to us. You know that we have little heart for You. You know that there is no peace within us. Lord, You are there calling us to come out of all things of this earth, of man's work and of confusion. Please let us see the light in heaven. Please give us mercy and grace. Lord, You are our way. May we walk in Your way. How we wish Your body on earth can be manifested. How we wish Your glory can be manifested. May people see you among Your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.