

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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*"He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5*

## In

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And he said to him,  
Friend, how did you  
come in here

without a  
wedding  
garment?

And he was  
speechless.

—Matt. 22:12

*Dear Life-study Listener,*

This issue of the Hearing of Faith is our first quarterly edition and we have very good news to announce. Effective immediately we will begin to post MP3 files of all past radio programs for free download from our website. Many of you asked us for delivery of our radio program via this new technology method and we are happy to let you know the time has now come.

In case you are not familiar with what "MP3" is, we will try to explain briefly. By now most of us are familiar with CD players. MP3 files are similar to CD files and are generally available on compact discs, but a standard CD player may not play an MP3 file. Some newer CD players will play MP3 files, but it is best to check before purchasing. Another option is to obtain an "MP3 player," which is generally much smaller than a CD player. These MP3 players connect to computers and receive the life-study radio programs which are downloaded from our website. The number of radio programs that can be loaded into an MP3 player depends on the memory available; one radio program takes up approximately 13MB of space. This means we can put about 60 radio programs on one compact disc compared to only three in the standard CD audio format. We hope this is clear, and that the Lord will bless this free distribution of His ministry using this new means for the hearing of faith.

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS THE SECOND GARMENT?

[Matthew 22:11] says, "But when the king came in and beheld those reclining at the table, he saw there a man not clothed with a marriage garment." The man without a marriage garment must surely have been a saved one. How could anyone answer God's calling, yet not be saved? As long as we have answered God's calling, we have been saved. In verse 14 the Lord Jesus speaks of many being called, and in Ephesians 4:1 Paul points out that we, the saved ones, are the called ones. We have been called to be saved. Although the man in verse 11 was called and saved, he nevertheless lacked the marriage garment.

This marriage garment is typified by the raiment of embroidery in Psalm 45:14 and signified by the fine linen in Revelation 19:8. This is the surpassing

*(continued on page 3)*

# RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to The Hearing of Faith, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or [radio@lsm.org](mailto:radio@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*Your sharing on the need for the "recovering" of eating was very refreshing and vital in this age of doing and working. Christianity as a whole has never laid hold of this most precious truth concealed to a degree in the Holy Scriptures. The eating is necessary for us to run our spiritual race. The strength, nourishment and our eventual transformation is all in the eating of our Lord.*

Cleveland, OH

*I certainly have enjoyed the ministry of teachings by Witness Lee. The past five years have been a struggle in my personal life, and the teachings have come alongside of me in a great way. Keep up the blessed work. The world needs it and so does the church.*

Glenn Heights, TX

*Your recent article "What is God's purpose?" is quite uplifting. I have been contemplating the subject of God's will in the lives of His people. What a wonderful example we have in Christ our Saviour who elevates and follows the Father's perfect will.*

El Cerrito, CA

*I listen to your radio program on the Internet. I listen to the archives because I am going through the New Testament in order. I thank God for your ministry and what it has done for me. Christ is ministered to me in such a new and living way each time I listen. I am fed a rich meal of Christ—strong delicious meat! The love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Flossmoor, IL

## Highlights

### FROM LIFE-STUDY OF MARK

Many Christians do not realize that the Gospel of Mark gives us a biography of a life that is fully according to and for God's New Testament economy. The New Testament economy of God is for God to dispense Himself into His chosen people to make them sons of God and members of Christ for the formation of the Body of Christ to express the Triune God. This is a simple definition of the wonderful matter of God's New Testament economy.

In order to have a proper understanding of God's New Testament economy, we need the entire New Testament. The Gospel of Mark by itself is not sufficient for this...In the Epistles we have the explanation and definition of the life presented in Mark. Therefore, in the light revealed in the Epistles we can see that the life recorded in the Gospel of Mark is a life fully according to and for God's New Testament economy.

#### THE SIMPLICITY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK

When I was young, Mark was not as precious to me as Matthew, John, and Luke were. My impression of the Gospel of Mark was that it was too simple. Matthew, on the contrary, presents wonderful teachings and parables concerning the kingdom of the heavens. I spent much time to study the Gospel of Matthew, and, as early as 1939, I put out a series of messages on the kingdom of the heavens based on the Lord's teaching in chapters

*We need to ask why the Gospel of Mark was written in such a simple way.*

five, six, seven, thirteen, twenty-four, and twenty-five. I have also given many messages on the Gospel of John. Although I have not given as many messages on Luke as on Matthew and John, in the book entitled Gospel Outlines there are a good number of outlines of subjects taken from the Gospel of Luke. Those outlines are based on the different gospel stories and parables in Luke.

In the past, I appreciated Matthew, John, and Luke, but I did not have nearly as much appreciation for Mark. It seemed to me that this Gospel could be compared to a cup of plain water that had no particular color or flavor. However, recently, while I was preparing the Life-study Messages on Mark, the light began to shine from this Gospel. Now I see that in the Gospel of Mark we have a record of a life that is absolutely according to and for God's New Testament economy.

I believe that the Gospel of Mark is the most simple book in the New Testament. But the simplicity of Mark is very striking, and we need to consider it. We need to ask why the Gospel of Mark was written in such a simple way. We need to ask why, apparently, this Gospel has no particular taste or color. I can testify that this kind of questioning opened the door for the light to shine in. The simplicity of the Gospel of Mark is very meaningful.

*Life-study of Mark*, pp. 525-526, by Witness Lee

## SECOND GARMENT (continued from page 1)

righteousness of the overcoming believers in Matthew 5:20. The man not clothed with a marriage garment is saved, because he has come to the marriage feast. He has received Christ as his righteousness that he might be justified before God (Phil. 3:9; 1 Cor. 1:30; Rom. 3:26), but he has not lived Christ out as his subjective righteousness that he might participate in the enjoyment of the kingdom of the

*The second garment has been neglected by today's Christians.*

heavens. He has been called to salvation, but he is not chosen for the enjoyment of the kingdom of the heavens, which is only for the overcoming believers.

The wedding garment signifies our qualification to participate in the marriage feast. The New Testament mentions this feast at least twice, in Matthew 22 and in Revelation 19. According to Revelation 19, those invited to the marriage feast are clothed in white linen. The white linen in Revelation 19 is the marriage garment in Matthew 22. This white linen signifies the surpassing righteousness. Matthew 5:20 says, "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpass that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens." This surpassing righteousness which qualifies us to participate in the manifestation of the kingdom in the coming age is typified in Psalm 45, where we are told that the queen has two garments. We, the believers, should also have two garments. We all have the first garment, the garment that qualifies us to be saved. This garment is the objective Christ whom we received as our righteousness before God. In Christ, who is our

righteousness, we have been justified and saved. But after receiving Christ, we need to live Him out. We need to live by Christ so that Christ may become our subjective righteousness. This subjective righteousness, Christ lived out of us in our daily life, is the white linen, the second garment, the marriage garment that qualifies us to participate in the marriage feast...

There is no problem regarding our salvation, for we have been called and justified. But what will be your situation before the judgment seat of Christ? Will you be qualified to enter the marriage feast? If you believe the first part of the gospel, then you must also believe the second part. How we need to look to the Lord for His mercy! We need to pray, "Lord, have mercy on me. I have received You, Lord, but I need more grace to live by You. Lord, because You are my Savior, I know that I am eternally saved. But I need Your grace that I may live by You as my life." We need to speak by Christ, and even our anger must be according to Christ. When we are about to lose our temper, we should consider whether or not we are losing our temper by Christ. If we do this, we shall have a proper Christian living by Christ.

The second garment has been neglected by today's Christians. Martin Luther helped us to know the first garment, Christ as righteousness for us to be justified by God. This truth was recovered more than four hundred years ago. But in the Lord's recovery today we have come to the second garment. We need both the objective and subjective righteousness. This is an important matter in the Gospel of Matthew, for it is a requirement of the kingdom.

*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 685-687, by Witness Lee

## **LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE** *with Witness Lee*

THE RADIO PROGRAM OF LIVING STREAM MINISTRY

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# The PATH OF Life

*Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of the spiritual life as revealed in God's Word. May the Lord show us "the path of life" (Psa. 16:11) that we may have a daily living of enjoying, experiencing, and gaining Christ.*

## HAVING THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE SPIRIT TO PRACTICE RELATEDNESS IN THE CHURCH LIFE

A marriage life is a related life. Many times a husband does not tell his wife before he goes somewhere. Sometimes wives also act independently. This is because they have not realized that after being married, they now have a related life. After getting married. A husband must not only tell his dear wife where he is going, but he may also need to ask her permission. In order to be a good husband or wife, one must always go to his or her spouse before doing anything. To keep the relatedness in this way

*Relatedness  
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only in our  
spirit.*

removes all the misunderstandings. It causes the family life to be full of joy and the husbands and wives to be happy

with each other.

In the same way, the church life is also a related life, an enlarged marriage life and family life. Therefore, we all need to learn to be related. However, whenever we are in our mind, we are separated, not related. Relatedness can be realized only in our spirit. This is not mere knowledge; it is something practical for the building up of the church. Sometimes we may say, "Let us come together and thoroughly discuss the situation." This may help in a small way, but we need to be careful. The more we talk in the mind, the more problems we have. When we have a problem, the secret is to say, "Brothers, let us pray a little." We need to

stop the exercise of the mind and pray. To pray is to come back to the spirit and exercise the spirit. After everyone prays, we are restored to oneness. Whenever we come back the spirit, we are immediately in oneness...

### BEING RESTRICTED BY OUR SPIRIT TO HAVE A BALANCED RELATEDNESS IN THE BODY

On the positive side, we will be very related to all the ones who are also in the spirit. Our real relatedness is in the spirit, and this relatedness in the spirit is the true building up of the Body. Sometimes we see in the church that certain ones are too related to one another. This is not the genuine relatedness but something natural. It simply indicates that the persons involved are not in the spirit. If we are in the spirit, we will not be overly related. Rather, we will be related to a proper extent, because whenever we are in the spirit, there is always the proper restriction. We will realize that we can love and deal with a brother only to a certain extent.

In our spirit there is both the release and the restriction. In this way we are kept from being overly related with anyone. If we do not have this balance in the spirit, we will eventually have divided and divisive parties among the brothers. One group of brothers will be overly related; another group will be related among themselves but not to the first group. We all must reject being unrelated and overly related. We must have a balanced relatedness. Whether or not

we like a certain brother, we need to have the proper relatedness in our spirit, and at the same time the relatedness must be restricted by the spirit. Then we will have the proper and genuine relatedness with all the brothers. Whether or not we like someone, we still need to keep the balanced relatedness in our spirit. Then whether we are happy with the brothers or not happy, there will be no parties. Rather, the relatedness among us will always be balanced. Through this kind of balanced relatedness we will have the genuine building up the Body of Christ.

*The Vision, Practice, and Building Up of the Church as the Body of Christ, pp. 152-153, 156-157, by Witness Lee*

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is a publication of Living Stream Ministry. All subscriptions are free. In addition to portions of ministry, this newsletter features broadcast updates and other items of interest. We hope that this newsletter will not only inform you of current news but will also nourish and refresh your spirit. Please be sure to read our reply card and feel free to use it to make comments or ask questions.

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According to the revelation of the Scripture, we believe that any ministry that comes from God should trust in God for all its needs. Therefore, we have made it our policy not to solicit donations or contributions. However, if any of our listeners are led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

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