

## 15. A Son or a Servant

We want to consider a little bit more about what we were looking at in our last couple of messages - the difference between being religious and being spiritual.

A person can be religious and still be very, very selfish and self-centred and think all the time in terms of his own profit and his own gain. When a person becomes spiritual, he cannot be self-centred or selfish. He thinks not in terms of what he is going to gain, but in terms what God is going to gain; how God is going to be glorified.

You remember the prayer which Jesus taught His disciples, which is commonly known as the 'Lord's Prayer' - "Our Fathers who art in heaven" followed by six requests. The three of those requests, the first three in fact, concern God - His name, His kingdom, His will, and the next three concerns ourselves - our physical and material needs -daily bread, our need for forgiveness - our past life, i.e. "Forgive us our sins as we forgive others," and our need for deliverance from sins in the future. Notice that Jesus taught His disciples that the right way to pray was putting God's glory, name, honour, and His will, and His kingdom first and putting our own needs secondary.

Now, if you were to examine your own prayer, I mean, think of the way you have prayed to God, even if it is half a minute prayer, or one sentence prayer, or a long prayer. What have you basically prayed to God for, say, during the last one year? When you spend time in prayer or make short requests to God, what are you actually asking God for? If you are honest, you will discover how much

## 15. 儿子，还是仆人

我们想继续谈前面两节的内容——“属宗教”与“属灵”的区别。

一个“属宗教”的人，有可能仍然非常非常自私，以自我为中心，所有的时间都在琢磨自己的利益。然而当一个人变得“属灵”，他便再也无法以自我为中心或自私了。他想的不再是自己能获得什么，而是神能获得什么，神如何被荣耀。

你还记得耶稣教导祂的门徒，那众所周知的《主祷文》：开始于“我们在天上的父”，尔后是六个请求。其中最前面三个，都是围绕着神——祂的名、祂的国度和祂的旨意，接下来的三个是关于我们的——身体和物质上的——日用的饮食、我们需要的宽恕（就是处理我们的过往——“宽恕我们的罪，如同我们宽恕他人的罪”）、还有未来我们如何从罪里得到解救。请你注意的是，耶稣教祂的门徒这正确的祷告方式，是将神的荣耀、神的名、神的信誉，以及神的旨意和祂的国度，放在首位，而我们个人的需要，放在第二位。

那么现在，如果你审视一下自己的祷告，我是说，请回忆下你都是怎么对神祷告的，即使是个半分钟的祷告，一句话的祷告，或长些的祷告。想想你过去一年里，基本上每次向神祷告的内容是什么？你花时间的祷告，或是简短地向神请求，那时你实际都在问神要什么？如果你足够诚实的话，就会发现自己祷告的核心内容，都是关于自己和自己的家人。其实这也反映了你生活的方式。你是如何支配钱财、时间和你的能

your prayers are centred on yourself and your family. That is an indication of the way you live also. How do you spend your money, your time, and your abilities? You may find that the answer to these questions show that your life is so wrapped up only around yourself and your family. And to ease your conscience you give a little time to God, may be on a Sunday morning, or may be on a Wednesday evening. Then you feel that you are spiritual because you have given a little time to God or may be because you live what you consider as an upright life.

True spirituality is a lot more than going to two meetings in a week. In fact, a man can be spiritual even without going for any meeting at all in a week. If he is locked up in a prison, for example, he is not able to go for a meeting, or if he is in a hospital or sick, he can't go for a meeting. He can still be spiritual. But you can't be spiritual, if you are seeking your own. A religious person goes through religious acts to ease his conscience but, deep down in the centre of his life, SELF still sits on the throne. That is why Jesus said, "You can't be my disciple unless you take up the cross" - deny that self which is sitting on the throne (Lk. 9:23). "Unless you deny your self-life, dethrone it, kill it, and follow me, you can't be my disciple." He said, "You got to do it every day."

So we see that a religious person can still have SELF sitting on the throne of his heart and go through the motions of every external activity. He may go to every meeting, he may go to six or seven meetings a week, he may engage in evangelism, he may even be a full time worker who has given up his job, and may be travels to some difficult place to preach God's word, still he may be just religious.

力？那会告诉你，你生活完全是围绕着自己和你的家庭。然后可能为了消除负罪感，你会花那么一丁点时间给神，兴许周日的早晨，或是周三的晚上。然后你就自以为很“属灵”了，或是自认为完全正直，因为你给了神一点时间。

真正“属灵”的生活，可远不止是每周参加两次聚会。实际上，一个人即使这周一次聚会都没参加，他也可能是“属灵的”。比方说，他在监狱里，没法参加任何聚会，或者生病在医院。但他的生活仍然可能是“属灵的”。但是，一个总给自己寻好处的人，则不可能是“属灵的”。一个“属宗教的”人参加各种宗教活动来消除负罪感，得到心理平衡，然而他生活的核心，那个大大的“我”仍然稳稳在宝座之上。这就是为什么耶稣说“你们若要跟从我，就必须每天背起十字架”——舍弃那个你放在宝座上的“我”（路加福音 9 章 23 节）。“除非你舍去自我，把它从宝座上赶下来，消灭它，才可能跟从我，否则，你无法做我的门徒。”祂说：“你们必须要每天都这么做。”

由此我们看到，属宗教的人表面看起来，可能参与各种宗教活动，然而那个大大的“自我”却仍坐在他心灵的宝座上。他参加各种团契，一个星期去六七个聚会，也可能参与传福音的活动，甚至可能放弃了事业全职侍奉，甚至可能到很多不同的地方传讲神的道，即便如此，他也仍可能只是“属宗教”的。耶稣有一次对法利赛人（耶稣时代的“属宗教”的人）说：“你们走遍海洋陆地引人入教。可你们成就了什么？你们只是

Jesus once said to the Pharisees, who were religious people of his time, 'You travel and cross lands and seas, you travel here and there to make converts. What do you accomplish? You produce people exactly like yourself. They have become double the children of hell. In fact, they would have been better off if you had left them alone, because you made them like yourselves - self-centred, thinking that they are spiritual, when they are only religious'. Lot of conversions are like that.

Even in Christendom today, people are converted to a form of religiosity. They never become spiritual because the SELF sits on the throne. They have never thought to take up the cross every day. Think about yourself; has anybody ever taught what it means to deny yourself every day, to take up your cross every day, as you read Luke 9:23? What does it say there? It says, 'Unless you do that every day, you can't be His disciple, you can't follow Him; it is impossible.' He said that in Luke 14:27 too.

The religious man thinks like this, i.e. when he becomes Christian, this is the way his thought processes work: What can I get from the Lord? Can the Lord give me forgiveness of sins? Yeah I want that. Can He give me healing? Yeah I would like that. Can He give me heaven after I die? Yeah I want that too. Can He bless me? Yeah I want that. Can He bless me materially? Boy, I would love that. Can He anoint me so that I can be a mighty, famous preacher going around with my pictures here and there in Christian magazines? I would love that too.

Now, do you think such a man is spiritual? He may be talking about a lot of Christian activities, but his goal is something for himself. He is seeking his own name, his own fame, his own gain, his own

弄出来了像你们一样的人，结果是让地狱里的人翻倍。你们要是压根就没去影响过这些人，还倒好些。结果你们把他们变得像你们一样，以自我为中心，误以为自己是属灵的，可实际上只是属宗教的。”那时候很多入了教的人都是那样。

甚至现今的基督信仰里，很多人也同样，只有形式上的归信。他们从来都没有变的“属灵”，因为他们一直让那个大大的“自我”坐在宝座上。而且他们也从来不愿意每天背负十字架。想想你自己，是否有人曾教过你，路加福音 9 章 23 节所说的那样，每天都要去拒绝自我，每天都要去背起十字架？那说的是什么意思？那说的是：“除非你每天都那么做，否则你就无法成为祂的门徒，就无法追随祂，因为是不可能的事。”耶稣在路加福音的 14 章 27 节中也说过。

一个“属宗教”的人的想法是这样的，比如他成为了基督徒，他的想法就会是：我能从主那里得到什么？主能够宽恕我的罪吗？被宽恕，嗯，我想要。祂能治愈我吗？嗯这个我也想要。我死后祂能让我进天堂吗？这个我也想要。祂能赐给我祝福吗？我想要。祂能给我物质上的祝福吗？噢天呐，我太想要这个了。祂能赐给我大大的能力，让我成为世界著名的牧道人，让基督教杂志上到处都是我的照片？我太想要这个了。

好了，现在请你想想，这样的人是“属灵”的吗？他也许会谈论很多基督教的活动，然而他的目标是为了他自己。他在为自己寻求名气，他自己的声望，自己的成功，自己的福气，所有一切都是为了他自己。那个

prosperity, his own blessing, everything for self. Self sits on the throne of his life. He is got a form of godliness though. He may be a fulltime worker. But a lot of people in fulltime Christian work today are doing it for their own profit. If those people were in secular jobs they would not be earning even half of what they earn in Christian work. It has brought them profit. They are doing business with God. Jesus turned such people out of the temple in His day, in His time - People who sought their own, who appeared to be selling sheep and doves to help people sacrifice in the temple, but who were actually just thinking in terms of their own profit and gain. Do you know the amount of religiosity there is in Christianity today that goes undetected, disguised as Christian work? Oh, there is such a lot of that.

A spiritual man, on the other hand, is not thinking what he can get out of the Lord. He thinks, 'What can the Lord get out of me? What can the Lord get from this one earthly life that I have? What is the maximum that He can get?' Now, if you are honest, as you read this transcript, you can ask yourself, what is your attitude towards the Lord? Are you always thinking, what is the next thing I can get from the Lord for myself, for my family? Or is your attitude is, 'What more can the Lord get out of my earthly life before I leave this earth? What more can He get out of me?' Personally, I want Him to have everything of me from head to foot, and I want my life to be dispensed for Him.

There is a lot of difference between these two attitudes. Both people may sit next to each other in a Christian church, and you may not be able to distinguish between the two, because it is a question of heart attitude. Both may go out for evangelism, both may go out to serve the Lord, and both may

大大的“自我”坐在他生命的宝座上。即使他有着一副虔敬的外表，即使他可能是全职侍奉的。现今很多全职侍奉的基督徒，都是在为他们自己的利益而工作。因为这些人若是从事其他工作，可能也就能挣在教会工作一半的薪水。在教会工作让他们获利。他们是在和神做生意。耶稣在世的时候，曾把这些人赶出了神殿——那些表面上看起来是卖羊和鸽子，来帮助庙里献祭的人，而实际上想的全是自己挣多少，获利多少。你知道吗，现今的教会工作有多少是披着宗教外衣，冒充的教会服侍？哦，太多太多了。

反过来说，一个“属灵”的人，想的则不是他能从主那里得多少好处。他想的是：“主能从我这得到什么？我在世上的日子，能为主做些什么？如何能让我最大限度地为祂而活？”如果你在读到这时足够诚实，请你扪心自问，你对神的态度是如何？你是否一直在想，我接下来能从神那里得到什么，我的家人能得到什么？还是你会想：“在我离开这个世界之前，我还能为主做些什么？如何让神最大限度地使用我？”对我而言，我渴望祂能够从头到脚，使用我的一切，我想要把我的生命全部给祂。

这两种态度是有巨大差别的。两个人可能并排坐在教会里，你可能根本看不出他们有什么不同，因为差别是在于内心的态度。两个人可能都在参与传讲福音，两个人可能在外服侍主，都在做出牺牲。然而最本根的动机却截然不同。要知道，是内在的动机，而非外在的行动，决定了我们灵命。

sacrifice. And yet the fundamental motive underneath may be totally different. You know it is the motive that determines the spirituality, not the actions.

Jesus went to the Synagogue and the Pharisees went to Synagogue. Do you think they were both equally acceptable to God? Jesus studied the Bible and the Pharisees studied the Bible. Do you think they were equally acceptable to the Father? Jesus went out to preach, the Pharisees went out to preach. The Pharisees were full time workers and Jesus was a fulltime worker for three-and-a-half years. But do you think they were the same? There was a vast difference. In fact, in the gospels, we constantly see the contrast between Jesus and Pharisees. It is the contrast between true spirituality and religiosity. It is the contrast between living according to the Spirit of the New Covenant, the new agreement that God has made with man and living according to the letter of the law - the Old Covenant. There is a vast difference between the two.

When Adam sinned, do you know what he did? He covered himself with fig leaves. Fig leaves are a picture of religiosity with which a man tries to make himself presentable before God and before man. You know what Jesus did when he saw a fig tree covered with leaves, he cursed it and the whole tree withered out. That teaches us that there is a curse on religiosity. He came looking for fruit in that fig tree; He didn't want its leaves. Fig trees were not created just to have leaves. Likewise God did not create man just to be religious. Yes, there are religious activities but underneath it all if there is not a spiritual life, then God is not interested. There is a curse over it.

那个时候，耶稣去会堂，法利赛人也去会堂。你觉得两个人是同样被神所接受吗？耶稣学习《圣经》，法利赛人也学习《圣经》。你觉得他们同样地合天父心意吗？耶稣出外讲道，法利赛人也出外讲道。法利赛人是全职侍奉，耶稣的三年半也是全职侍奉。但你觉得那会是一样的吗？这之间是有巨大差别的。实际上在福音书中，我们总能看到耶稣与法利赛人的对比。这是真正的“属灵”与“属宗教”的对比。这是新约时代活在圣灵里，与旧约时代活在律法之下的区别。两者之间的区别是巨大的。

在亚当犯罪后，你知道他做了什么吗？他用无花果树的叶子遮盖自己。无花果树的叶子，所形容的是人通过个人努力去试图得到神和人的认可。你知道吗，当耶稣看到一棵只有叶子的无花果树，祂咒诅了那棵树，尔后那棵树枯萎了。这教给我们，虚伪的宗教上面，是有咒诅的。祂来到那棵无花果树是为了寻找果子，祂不想要叶子。无花果树被造出来不是为了只长叶子。同样地，神造人也不是让我们仅仅“属宗教”。我们的确有很多宗教活动，但若是内里没有属灵的生命，神是不感兴趣的。甚至这上面是有诅咒的。

What is it that God gave Adam? God stripped him of those fig leaves and gave him a covering of skin. He killed an animal and put its skin over him. It is a picture of God giving us his own nature. The dress of the fig leaves was what Adam manufactured. He sewed up the fig leaves and made a dress for himself, to cover himself. When God saw it, He said, 'Throw that away, I don't want it.' They may be good fig leaves, i.e., they were not rotten but still not acceptable. God said, 'I will give you a dress.'

God gives us the nature of Christ. That is what that skin of the animal means. We can then ask, 'Why did God keep people under the law for 1500 years?' - To show man the emptiness of it. He never intended that man should live under The Law all his life. God left man under The Law to show that that is not the way. 'You will never attain to my nature that way.' He wanted man to come to an end of himself and that is what The Law was meant to accomplish. Those people who did come to an end of themselves, they began to seek God. To them God is able to give His own nature, and that is throwing away the fig leaves of religiosity and giving us the nature of Jesus Christ.

The nature of Jesus Christ means that we serve God with the same Spirit with which Christ served the Father - Not as a servant but as a Son. Beloved friends, God has called you not to be his servant but to be his son and to serve Him with the Spirit of His Son.

神给亚当的是什么？神撕去了亚当身上的无花果树叶，给他披上了动物的皮子。神杀死了一个动物并用这皮子来遮盖亚当。这个画面象征着神把祂自己的天性加诸给我们。无花果树的叶子这件衣裳，是亚当自己制造的。他把叶子缝起来给自己做了衣裳来遮盖。当神看到时说：“把它扔了，这不是我要的。”那些也许是好的无花果树叶，就是说还没烂，但仍然是无法被接受的。神说：“我会给你一件衣裳。”

神给我们基督的天性。那就是动物皮子的含义。尔后我们可能会问：“为什么神使人在律法下活了 1500 年？”答案就是，神为了告诉人类律法的空洞。祂从没想让人一直那样活着。神让人体验在律法之下生活是为了让人明白，那不是真正的道路。“那样的方式，你永远无法得到我的天性。”祂要通过律法，来使人了解自己所能做的极限。那些在律法中走到了尽头的人，会开始寻求神。神会给他们祂自己的天性，那就像是让人们扔掉无花果树叶子的宗教，而接受耶稣基督的天性。

耶稣基督的天性指的是我们用同样的灵来臣服于我们的父——不是像仆人般，而是像一个儿子。我亲爱的朋友，神呼唤你，去做祂的儿子，而不是仆人，祂要你怀揣着祂儿子的灵，来臣服于祂。