

The Most Precious Relationship We Have

Luke 10:23-24

1. In our lives, it is important to know how to put things in order and how to put things in order and how to “close the books.” We cannot evade our physical death. We should not be afraid of it, or cling to our physical life too strongly. In closing their books, people in general try to apologize for themselves to others, and to seek forgiveness from God in accordance with their original mind.

The last moment of Jesus was solemnity itself. He was quiet, though facing people who had unjustly indicted him, and who spat at him, accused him, mocked him, and insulted him. He did not apologize for himself at all.

He made only one comment. “Thou sayest,” said Jesus when Pilate asked if he was the King of the Jews. He affirmed clearly his relationship with God, but without any apologies and without soliciting forgiveness. He was not concerned with reasonableness based on common sense, because he did not care about defamation, public opinion, or saving face. Neither was he concerned with the legal process. His focus was only on God’s Law and God’s way.

Furthermore, he asked God to forgive those persecutors, asked those crying women to cry not for him but for their descendents. He, in the most miserable situation, thought of the nation and the future generations.

2. When the disciples came to Jesus saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” his answer centered on one’s relationship with the living God (Matthew 18:1).

At the moment of his physical death, any fallen man cannot help apologizing, repenting, and wanting to be forgiven. But Jesus was standing far beyond this. He cried out to God only through his living relationship with Him, and became the model for all believers in the New Testament era.

Christians are those who prepare for the end of their physical lives; those who try to go beyond the physical desires, step by step; those who eliminate the wall of death located between them and Jesus; and those who cultivate their relationship with the transcendent God.

Focus of prayer, repentance, determination for a new start, believer's hope everyday life based on attending God – all these things have to do with cultivating one's relationship with God long before one's physical death.

3. Just as Jesus was not afraid of his personal death and was concerned with the nation and mankind, and as Jesus was ready to go to the cross in order to obey God, we should think about our living relationship with God and follow His will. In accordance with the guidance of our original mind we should consider the purpose of our birth and close the books. Then we may be able to overcome physical death.

The last moment of closing the books in our life is our physical death, while that which should be liquidated day by day is the true life of faith.

We should be concerned with God's heart rather than with logic; with God's response rather than with that of others; with cosmic law and cosmic justice rather than with secular law and justice.