

Footprints in the Sand, Standing on Higher Ground as God's Children

Demian Dunkley

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Higher Ground North America Tour at Capital Family Church, Washington, DC



At a recent stop on the Higher Ground North America Tour at Capital Family Church, Rev. Demian Dunkley delivered a message that cut through the noise and went straight to the heart. His sermon was less about theory and more about identity - and what that identity demands of us right now. He opened with a quiet moment from Florida. Sitting on the beach at sunrise with his wife Yumiko, shoes off, feet in the sand, he noticed birds gathering and the footprints they left behind. Seagulls made clean, webbed impressions. Pigeons left more complicated tracks. Each one different. Each one intentional. "Each of them leave their unique mark," he said.

Creation, in all its detail, carries God's signature. So do we. That image led him to reflect on Dr. Hak Ja Han - Holy Mother Han - and a line from her memoir describing her walking barefoot on the beach. "There's a sermon in that one sentence," he said. Before titles, before leadership, before history, she is a child of God, a daughter of God." That, Rev. Dunkley reminded members, is the core truth of faith. "The primary function of their ministry," he said of Jesus and the great spiritual leaders, "is that, like them, we too, are children of God, and God is our parent." When faith becomes heavy or confusing, it's usually because we've forgotten that. Children haven't.

They run freely. They leave footprints without fear. "More often than not," he said, "they're probably reminding us...that we too, are children." Then came the question that shifted the room. "What would you have done at the time of Jesus?" Rev. Dunkley asked to an attentive crowd. Would you have helped him carry the cross - or stepped back and stayed quiet? "I often wonder why there was not even one disciple that stood up to say, 'If he's getting nailed to the cross, I'm going with him.'" Courage is easier to admire in hindsight than to live in real time.

That question became urgent as he spoke about Mother's imprisonment. No dramatics. Just facts. "The size of her room is the size of a Mini Cooper," he said. Nearly blind. Crawling on the floor. Ten-minute visits. Glass partitions. Constant surveillance. And yet: "They cannot stop her spirit. They cannot stop

True Parents' legacy." He recalled her words plainly: "They don't know who I am." This, he said, is bigger than a legal case. "That framework is way too small." What's happening is part of something larger - a global struggle over whether human beings are recognized as children of God or reduced to something less.



That's why America matters. "Our freedom comes from God, not the state," Rev. Dunkley said. And what happens here never stays here. "For every inch that we deteriorate here, it's a mile elsewhere." He closed with a call to action - not perfection. "Mother doesn't have time for us to all be perfect before we act." "What Jesus was asking us to do," he said, "is stand up with me...on the higher ground." The footprints are already there. The only question is whether we're willing to follow them - together.