

Heavenly Crusaders

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Belvedere



Kook Jin Nim and Soon Ju Nim cut their blessing anniversary cake at East Garden

Today, I just wanted to come and see you. So how have you all been doing? You know for many years I sat here with Parents or watched from the back while my brothers spoke. Yet, I never really got to see any of you and for that, I'm sorry. I'm very glad to see all of you here today. It's very moving. I know you expected to see my brother, but I think he was busy. Since I had a little time to be in New York, I just wanted to stop by once again.

As members of this church, we are very unique people. Don't you think so? [Yes!] Unique in a good way or a bad way? Good way! People in the outside world don't think you are unique in a good way. But that's changing now, isn't

it? [Yes!] So you feel that people are a lot more receptive and comfortable with you now? [Yes!] That's good. As we try to communicate with all the people around us—our neighbors and our friends—we have to create that connection of heart. We have to truly develop the ability to understand their souls.

The big question today is how we can address the issues of what is right and wrong and morality. We must understand how to address the soul of man which has always been so neglected throughout history, and especially in this day and age. People have lost the Christian values of yesterday; they have lost the sense of what is just and correct, what is the right way to live and what motivation to live by. It's very sad to see people today driven not by an ideal of creating a just world, but solely driven by their own self-interest. People are willing to make many promises, only to break them at their own convenience. That is the kind of society we face today. Even the scholars of the world understand that the youth of this generation are more prone than at any other time in history to lie and cheat in order to get ahead.

In the past, there was a sense of ethics that if you made a promise you tried your best to live up to your word. Unfortunately, it seems that as man has become wealthier, he has lost a great deal of his nobility. I have grown up in America and I have seen that it is very difficult in our society to aspire to anything noble. Since I have lived in the U.S. for 17 years, I know you have to think deeply and fight with yourself to understand what is true in a society filled with so many false images. I really admire my brother for his desire to deal with the images of society, because whenever you turn on the TV or listen to the radio, you're flooded with images. These images reflect a type of living which is animalistic, inhumane and corrupt.

Educate your children

When we think about our children and the generations to come, we must be concerned with this issue. Anyone having to grow up in this society will have a hard time. It was hard for me. Children need some standard of right and wrong. As parents and blessed couples, we must understand the need of our children to be educated correctly. We cannot send our children into the world without a sense of morality, of right and wrong, or without a sense of how to live according to God's ideal. You must make every effort to give them that education. Help them become spiritually and morally strong, capable of standing their ground to speak for what is right, no matter how fearful that may be.

It is very difficult to go against the norm of thought, especially when people don't know where you're coming from and when you're not certain what their reaction will be. When we face this kind of difficulty, we really need God, as this situation is very difficult to overcome with only human strength. Even after seeking the help of someone higher and inspiring ourselves to face a group of people who will hate us, being willing to receive their judgment requires great courage.

This is what we must aim to accomplish, if we cannot obtain that goal now. We should teach our children

to aspire to a higher purpose of living, to dream of a more just world in which men can truly understand what it means to be the children of God.

This type of education would enable them to live holistically with their families, with their communities and with themselves. We can have a world where we not only make a difference, but where we can be the crucial pivot on which history may turn. That is what we dream to do and that dream should give us hope in our darkest hours. The many dark hours to come are the price we must pay to be on the vanguard of something new.

New ideas are never accepted easily by the society at large. People in the secular world tend to be very fixed in their ways, preferring not to think about their situation. But we must be the catalyst, the people who can make others think. That's very important. If people think about their state and the state of their nation, then they must reevaluate and work toward a change for the better.

Become society changers

There have been historical precedents of change in society, which should give us hope that our task may be difficult, but not impossible. Christianity rose out of the Roman Empire and changed the entire society of that day. The rise of Protestantism changed Catholicism. To bring about change takes people who are committed and who aspire to something higher than themselves. Only people who reach for a higher dream, in spite of the miserable, decadent and inhuman reality that surrounds them, can bring about such change. Those are the people we need. I'm not saying it's easy to be like that, but if we work together then we have a chance.

That is just basically what I want to share with you to give you a little bit of hope or inspiration with my poor words. By using whatever I have with me today, I'd like to do my best to help you through this difficult time and to inherit this spirit. But there is only so much someone else can do for you. One of the fundamental teachings of religion, both in traditional Christianity and Divine Principle, is the responsibility man has in being the final decision-maker of his own actions.

So I'd like to implore you to make the correct decision, the decision which would help mankind. As a religious person that responsibility rests on your shoulders and it's not an easy burden to bear. It's never easy doing the right thing in a world that recommends you do the wrong thing every day. This secular society suggests a certain decadent lifestyle and decadent forms of human relationships-very impersonal, very selfish and very inhumane.

That is the gauntlet we must accept and overcome. I truly hope you find the strength within yourselves, within God and within our True Parents. If you feel tired and worn out in the face of a challenge, then try to find strength in your brothers and sisters.

Our ultimate goal is to live in an ideal world. People have many different conceptions of the ideal world: some may think it is a place where you can live very leisurely, without working; others may feel an ideal world can exist only if you exert yourself and actively make a difference. And so from that perspective making an ideal world, even though we come to one, may not always be easy either. Living in this physical world is a process of growth, which of itself requires change and therefore by definition, is not always easy.

Although we want to create an ideal world and a more ideal situation for our children to come, we must not expect that we won't have to do anything in the ideal world. The more realistic expectation of an ideal world is to understand that we will have a more ideal setting in which to raise our children and to live according to God's Will. But it will also be necessary for us to give our own effort to perpetuate that ideal world. It will not be maintained by God alone; we, as the children and objects to God, will have a responsibility to maintain the right kind of life.

The Principle teaches us that Heavenly Father desires to exist in a subject-object relationship, able to have give and take with mankind. God wants to share His heart centered on the ideal of true love and, based on that kind of give and take with His object, to bear fruit-a more ideal universe. Can we as His people have one standard for ourselves and one standard for God? American is famous for its individualism. If God desires to live with all mankind, how can we in our daily living habits cling to our individualism? If we don't want to be hypocrites, then we have an obligation to be more Godlike and live according to the standard of God. That's a big responsibility isn't it?

Judge yourself before others

If we want to be honorable people, people of character, we must be able to understand the other person's point of view. It's much easier to take a self-centered point of view because your entire body is wired into your brain which tells you what you're feeling. Since your brain is not really connected to anyone else, you only receive input from yourself. But we must overcome that. Using our senses of responsibility and

justice, we can extend our mind to encompass other people.

That's a task we must do and it is not going to be easy. Many times we will fail to see what is just. Although we may not get it right at first, we must try to do better the next time. By our increased effort after each failure, we've done something to make a better society. We must try.

I know each one here is a great dreamer, otherwise you wouldn't be here. You all have great potential and great imagination; otherwise you couldn't dream. Now is the time to use that to aspire to create a better world, to grow yourself, and to reach out to other people around you. **In** so doing, you may grow and also give strength to others. These are very high expectations, but if we never try, we will never get there.

By trying, our dream will become more real step by step until we eventually get there. But it's going to take a lot of effort, a great deal of patience, and much struggle at times. If we hold onto our dream, then our dream should get us back on our feet again.

So I pray that you can really look at your actions every day and judge yourself before you judge others. Upon evaluating yourself and critically determining whether you are living a right way of life, receive the judgment and accept its consequences. Change your ways to live a better life and, after you've lived a better life, go to others and help them think. Let them judge themselves, look at their own lives and change themselves.

In the ideal world, people will live according to the right way of life, without having to be forced. We have to restrain ourselves from dealing harshly with others, because we have not always lived according to the right standard and therefore must give others a second chance. Ultimately, they come to a point where they have to judge themselves and seek a higher understanding. Until that day, we simply push people in that direction, helping them to think about their standard.

Let us be the just men of this society. Although we may not be perfect, we are people who try to be good. With these credentials behind us, let's wake people up. Can we be bold people? [Yes] You don't seem very confident. Do you think you can be bold? [Yes!] Take a little time to remember promises, commitments and dreams. Through our remembrance, we can get inspiration and hope. Then we can reach out to other people and remind them of their promises, their dreams and their hopes giving *them* inspiration. We all need to be reminded of what we must do-it keeps us awake.

I truly hope we can make more determination to find our youthful spirit and bring it back to life. Then we can become young again-you're never too old to become young. That comment was for the old people here. [Laughter.] Seriously, medical science shows that even 80-year-old people who exercise can build up their muscles and become stronger. Now let's extend that a little further to the people who haven't used their hearts or their souls in 20 years, maybe if they exercise them a little bit, they will start feeling and living a better life. Let's be the conscience of this society. Let's be the ones to wake up that soul which has been so suppressed by the society and give them real encouragement to start feeling.

Be the moral backbone

People of the outside world are not the only people who have the right or the freedom to criticize and say that we're a piece of junk. We can tell them that they are a piece of junk too, on the condition that we take in their criticism and improve ourselves. Then we can go back and criticize them. As long as we go through the process where we try to grow within our hearts, then we have the justification and the right to criticize society.

We don't want to look down on people, we want to help them-that's our ultimate goal. But if it gives us more strength and ability to accomplish that goal, then go ahead and criticize. I don't think Heavenly Father would mind too much; He might even applaud you if, when you criticize other people, you turn around and try to live up to that criticism yourself. In that process, I think we will become people who are more noble in heart and in mind. Then we have taken a big step in creating our ideal world.

We do have a lot to say about the society that will give society food for thought, allowing them to change a little bit. So think about witnessing in that way. Let's try to take our creativity, imagination and our ability to think to show the outside world the problems they must face: the moral degradation in their country and the weakness and vulnerability it brings to society as a whole. Without moral unity, a people fall apart and scatter into millions of different directions. Such people don't have the strength that comes from uniting into one body. Such a weak society can't change the world or be a model for others to follow. That's one of America's greatest problems today-its loss of moral spirit and its inability to uphold what is right and just. Americans today don't concern themselves with the standards of justice and right in the international world. Because the Middle East crisis is going to be difficult and costly, some don't want to make the sacrifice that is required to set a new world order or to create peace. They don't have the moral courage.

That is why we must be the backbone of the society. We must uphold a certain moral standard and criticize society for not understanding the need for a moral standard. Should they ask you what gives you the right, we know the answer: "I have already judged myself. Therefore, I have done a little bit more than you and that gives me the right to tell you that you are a piece of junk." [Laughter] So we do have a certain degree of power and strength in our position, it just takes a little bit of courage and some creativity to understand how to use it.

We must take our weapon of the truth and use it to shock people in the outside world. Of course, we're shocking them for a godly purpose, so they can become better people and go to Heaven and not to Hell. In order for people to understand, they must see it in their minds. So if you make a clear contrast as to what is right and wrong then they can't fail to see it. If you examine what the secular world has to say, many of their arguments are based on a series of assumptions that don't hold water. So when you face people full of such arrogance and pride, then question the assumptions they have made for their secular life and make them think about something more godlike. They have many questions to answer, but they try to push them under the rug. Well, don't let them do it. Bring those questions to the forefront and make people address them; force them to consider the answers-by the strength of your own noble character and the truth.

We need men of ability and imagination to not only bring those questions to the forefront, but to improve the questions, making them relevant and the grounds for many discussions. We must be the philosophers of a new era and give possible solutions to these questions. By making those questions relevant, we create a foundation for a discussion of what is true. Thus we have an opportunity to make God relevant. This is what Father has been trying to do through the various international Conferences -- and that is what we must try to do as well.

Set the agenda

We must understand the goal and strive for it. We must be the ones to use those questions as our arms. There are many arms. I'm sure the Church scholars can tell you of many false premises secular scholars base their views on. And so we'll take our arms and set our agenda. By setting the agenda, we create the form of discussion. Once we do that, they have to at least acknowledge what we say, reevaluate their point of view and humble themselves a little bit. Once they become more humble, they become open to new ideas. So let's question them and really change the society.

The existence of God gives us our ultimate foundation; if we really know God, by our personal experience and our feeling, we have justification for challenging their assumptions. We must set a new agenda for this world-that's very important. We don't always have to be on the defensive or try to show that we fit in. We can start making decisions and influencing how they think. They will listen because God gave man the capacity to seek and understand the truth. They may not want to believe and call you a fool; but in the back of their mind, they will be thinking about what you said.

Let's not be on the defensive anymore. That's the wrong strategy. We must be on the offensive: setting the agenda, asking the relevant questions. We can't just let Father go on doing everything. People will listen to us because they need to, they are tired of this immoral secularism and all the lies and corruption that it breeds. They're tired of being part of it and of having to accept it.

The fact is, we must start taking the initiative and through setting the agenda, seize the forefront. We must take this opportunity to lay the foundation for the acceptance of a new philosophy for our society. That can only come from our own effort, and from our own ability to understand what is right. We are crusaders trying to bring a new idea. We are soldiers who speak from our desire to bring a change to society through the use of our own mind and heart, which are of God. We must be the center of a new philosophy and new way of looking at society, providing new forms of policies which will specifically address pressing issues of the day. But in order to do that, we must be diligent and innovative. It's very important to do what no other religion in history has done which is to be current and relevant to the world in which we live. We must be the leading philosophy which can take the judgments others levy against it, examine them and show how they are wrong. Simply put, we must take the offensive.

We have the strength available to do it. We only have to reach out and find it. We have to use our imaginations to be soldiers of God and Heavenly Crusaders to preach a new morality and new justice for all mankind. Do you think we can do it? [Yes!] Well, thank God! Then let's make a pledge: let's do it. [Yes!]

Thank you very much.