

True Mother Kang Hyun Shil

Rev. Seon Yang Moon - The Apostle of Peace

April 27, 2017

Bible Reading: Acts 7:59-60 (KJV)

⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

⁶⁰ And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Good morning everyone,

Today I'd like to speak to you about Rev. Seon Yang Moon who is known as the apostle of peace. He was born in the Southern part of Korea in the early part of the 20th century. He studied in Japan, was witnessed to in Tokyo and converted to Christianity there; he joined the Holiness Church. He did some evangelism activities and he graduated from a Bible college- he entered a seminary in Pyongyang in 1935 and graduated in 1938.

On September 25th 1940 he was arrested and imprisoned for refusing to worship at the Shinto shrine as the Japanese required, and he was imprisoned for six years. After coming out of prison he became the pastor for the Ae Yang Moon Church

On Oct 21st 1948 his two sons were killed in an uprising in Yeosu area. He himself was killed on June 25th 1950 when the North Koreans invaded South Korea; he was killed during that invasion. His father was an elder in the church, his two brothers were also ministers, but they were all killed by the North Koreans during the invasion of the South.

This family was a model of faith. As a young man he was known to give strong prayer, and he was famous for his faith. The church that he was in charge of, the Ae Yang Moon Church, focused on helping lepers, and it was famous for that. Rev. Seon not only helped lepers but he also would comfort them. He was not afraid to touch them, or even to lick their wounds. That was why he was known as the 'apostle of love'.

When Rev. Seon went someplace else to attend a revival meeting he would always buy presents for the lepers in his community that he would give them when he returned. He was not only their father of faith, but also their father of love.

Then on Oct 19th 1948 there was an uprising in the Suncheon area of Yeosu. This was an uprising by young students who had been influenced by communist ideology and many of them were killed by the government forces during that uprising. Rev Seon had two sons at that time and they were attending middle school in that area. The communist students however captured the two sons of Rev. Seon and they became sacrifices.

The communist students demanded that Rev. Seon's two sons betray and deny Jesus. The communist students told the two sons, "If you deny Jesus Christ we will forgive you. You can join our revolution." But one of the sons replied very forcefully as follows, "You can cut out my head, but you cannot cut out my faith. You are being fooled by Satan and I challenge you to obey Jesus!"

So the communist student commander of the firing squad told the squad to begin to fire at the son. The son said, "I have no regret. I am dying because I know that if I die now I will go to Heaven, but you will go to hell for committing this murder." That made the firing squad commander even angrier, so he told the firing squad again to fire, and they began to do so. As they began to fire, the son prayed, "Father please receive my soul, they are committing a great sin." But even before he could finish those words, his body was killed.

His younger brother was watching his elder brother being killed in such a way, and when he saw this he shook off the people who were holding him and he went to embrace his elder brother's body. He declared, "Elder brother you have gone to Heaven now, I will follow you to Heaven!"

The younger brother then turned to the firing squad and spoke, "Why have you killed this innocent man? I challenge you even now to repent and to accept Jesus!" One person in the crowd shouted, "Let's kill that boy too!" and the others echoed, "Yes! Let's do that! Let's do that!" The younger brother exclaimed, "I will go to Heaven just as my elder brother has. My faith is no less than my brother's!"

He held out his arms horizontally in the form of a cross and declared, "I will go to Heaven in the same posture as Jesus did." So he held out his chest towards the firing squad and commanded, "Go ahead and shoot!" Then the crowd said, "This younger brother is worse than the older brother. We cannot let him be; we have to kill him." And so they did! They shot him dead!

As he was being shot, the younger brother said, "Father, please forgive them, they are committing a sin; please help them to repent." He called out to his father and mother, and he crumpled dead besides his older brother. This is how his life was taken away!

Among the shooters in the firing squad was a student named Jae-Seon, who was later given a sentence to also be killed by firing squad. Rev. Seon contacted a Christian minister who lived in that area and asked him to save Jae-Seon, so that he would not be killed by firing squad.

His family name was Ahn, and Rev. Seon went to the home of Ahn Jae-Seon a few days later. The wife of the minister that he had contacted pointed out that the boy was part of the firing squad that had killed his two sons. Rev. Seon called on the young man to come to him and the young man's father with a trembling voice told his son to go to Rev. Seon and to give him proper greeting. Jae-Seon was also trembling as he got up and went near the reverend.

When he drew near, Rev. Seon took Jae-Seon by the two hands and said, "Are you Jae-Seon? You don't need to worry about anything. I have already forgiven your mistake. I believe that God also has forgiven you. "He told the young man, "I have forgotten your sin, I will not remember it. I just want you to get rid of that wrong ideology that you believe in, and I want you to accept Jesus."

And he added, "I want you to do the things that my two sons were to have done." He told Jae-Seon that he wanted him to model himself after the faith of his two sons and live as a strong Christian as his two sons would have. Jae-Seon could not respond with any words. He just bowed his head and wept.

From that time on Rev. Seon did not refer to Jae-Seon as Ahn Jae-Seon which was his original name, but as Seon Jae-Seon, in other words giving him his own family name. He sent Jae-Seon to the Bible College in Pusan so that he could become a minister and prayed for that.

Rev. Seon is a famous minister. When the North Koreans invaded in 1950, everyone else went south to escape the invasion, but he refused to go. He said, "How can I leave my flock here and just be saved by myself?" He was killed on September 23rd 1950 by a communist uprising.

He treated the young man who had killed his two sons as his own son, and he even paid for his education. If he had not inherited Jesus' heart he could not have done that. This shows what a wonderful minister he was. I met that young man when he was studying at the Bible College.

These people did not live long lives but they lived meaningful lives, and I feel very strongly that God was able to guide their lives. He did things that would have been impossible for the normal human being to do, but he was only able to do it because he had inherited Jesus' heart of love.

The reason that I tell you this story today after speaking about Rev. Chu Ki-chol a couple of days ago, is because we need to inherit their spirit of sacrifice and martyrdom, and they can be models for us as we try to emulate ourselves after father's life of giving and sacrifice.

If we can live our lives in such a way, we will be able to fulfill God's will on this earth.

Thank you very much,

Video Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wro9Pm04p6I>