

Two Kingdoms

by Oswald Chambers

Oswald Chambers emphasizes the necessity of a personal relationship with Jesus and the transformative power of repentance in entering the Kingdom of God.

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-6, John 3:3, John 18:36, 2 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 6:13

Topics: "Spiritual Renewal", "Kingdom Living"

Description

Oswald Chambers emphasizes the importance of personal devotion to Jesus Christ over worldly activities, highlighting the need for a deep, private relationship with God rather than just outward displays of Christian work. He stresses the significance of seeking God's Kingdom first, trusting in His provision, and focusing on spiritual truths rather than worldly concerns. Chambers delves into the necessity of repentance, conviction of sin, and the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. He also discusses the radical nature of being born again, the purity required by God, and the continual renewal and dependence on God for spiritual life.

Transcript

"My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36

"The great enemy to the Lord Jesus Christ in the present day is the conception of practical work that has not come from the New Testament, but from the systems of the world in which endless energy and activities are insisted upon, but no private life with God. The emphasis is put on the wrong thing. ... An active Christian worker too often lives in the shop window. It is the innermost of the innermost that reveals the power of the life...

"In Our Lord's life there was none of the press and rush of tremendous activity that we regard so highly, and the disciple is to be as his Master. The central thing about the kingdom of Jesus Christ is a personal relationship to Himself, not public usefulness to men....

"You have no idea of where God is going to engineer your circumstances, no knowledge of what strain is going to be put on you either at home or abroad, and if you waste your time in over-active energies instead of getting into soak on the great fundamental truths of God's Redemption, you will snap when the strain comes; but if this time of soaking before God is being spent in getting rooted and grounded in God on the un-practical line, you will remain true to Him whatever happens." (October 19)

"The type of Christian experience in the New Testament is that of personal, passionate devotion to the Person of Jesus Christ. Every other type of Christian experience, so called, is detached from the Person of Jesus. There is no regeneration, no being born again into the Kingdom in which Christ lives, but only the idea that He is our Pattern. In the New Testament Jesus Christ is Saviour long before He is Pattern. Today He is being dispatched as the Figurehead of a religion, a mere Example. He is that, but He is infinitely more; He is salvation itself. He is the Gospel of God." (November 29)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

"Immediately we look at these words of Jesus, we find them the most revolutionary statement human ears ever listened to. 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God.' We argue in exactly the opposite way, even the most spiritually-minded of us. 'But I must live; I must make so much money; I must be clothed; I must be fed.' The great concern of our lives is not the kingdom of God, but how we are to fit ourselves to live. Jesus reverses the order: Get rightly related to God first.....

"'Take no thought for your life...' Our Lord points out the utter unreasonableness from His standpoint of being so anxious over the means of living. Jesus is not saying that the man who takes thought for nothing is blessed; that man is a fool. Jesus taught that a disciple has to make his relationship to God the dominating concentration of his life, and to be carefully careless about everything else in comparison to that. " (May 21)

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation." 2 Corinthians 7:10

"Conviction of sin is one of the rarest things that ever strikes a man. It is the threshold of an understanding of God. Jesus Christ said that when the Holy Spirit came He would convict of sin, and when the Holy Spirit rouses a man's conscience and brings him into the presence of God, it is not his relationship with men that bothers him, but his relationship with God: 'against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight.'

"Conviction of sin, the marvel of forgiveness, and holiness are so interwoven that it is only the forgiven man who is the holy man, he proves he is forgiven by being the opposite to what he was, by God's grace. Repentance always brings a man to this point: 'I have sinned.' The surest sign that God is at work is when a man says that and means it. Anything less than this is remorse for having made blunders, the reflex action of disgust at himself.

"The entrance into the Kingdom is through the panging pains of repentance crashing into a man's respectable goodness; then the Holy Ghost, Who produces these agonies, begins the formation of the Son of God in the life. The new life will manifest itself in conscious repentance and unconscious holiness, never the other way about. The bedrock of Christianity is repentance. Strictly speaking, a man cannot repent when he chooses; repentance is a gift of God." (December 7)

"Have we been slandering God by daring to worry when He has said: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you'? ... Never forget that our capacity in spiritual matters is measured by the promises of God. Is God able to fulfill His promises? Our answer depends on whether we have received the Holy Spirit." (April 20)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." Matthew 5:3

"Beware of placing Our Lord as a Teacher first. If Jesus Christ is a Teacher only, then all He can do is to tantalize me by erecting a standard I cannot attain. What is the use of presenting me with an ideal I cannot possibly come near? I am happier without knowing it.... I must know Jesus Christ as Saviour before His teaching has any meaning for me other than that of an ideal which leads to despair. But when I am born again of the Spirit of God, I know that Jesus Christ did not come to teach only: He came to make me what He teaches I should be. The Redemption means that Jesus Christ can put into any man the disposition that ruled His own life, and all the standards God gives are based on that disposition.

"The teaching of the Sermon on the Mount produces despair in the natural man; the very thing Jesus means it to do.... 'Blessed are the paupers in spirit,' that is the first principle in the kingdom of God. The bedrock in Jesus Christ's kingdom is poverty, not possession; not decisions for Jesus Christ, but a sense of absolute futility: 'I cannot begin to do it.' Then Jesus says, 'Blessed are you.'... The knowledge of our own poverty brings us on to the moral frontier where Jesus Christ works." (July 21)

"The preaching of to-day is apt to emphasize strength of will, beauty of character--the things that are easily noticed. The phrase we hear so often, 'Decide for Christ,' is an emphasis on something Our Lord never trusted. He never asks us to decide for Him, but to yield to Him, a very different thing. ... The thing I am blessed in is my poverty. If I know I have no strength of will, no nobility of disposition, then Jesus says, Blessed are you, because it is through this poverty that I enter His Kingdom....

"The true character of the loveliness that tells for God is always unconscious. Conscious influence is priggish and un-Christian. If I say, 'I wonder if I am of any use,' I instantly lose the bloom of the touch of the Lord. 'He that believeth in Me, out of him shall flow rivers of living water.' If I examine the outflow, I lose the touch of the Lord." (August 21)

"...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle

than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.■" Matthew 19:23

"He can do nothing for us if we think we are sufficient of ourselves; we have to enter into His Kingdom through the door of destitution. As long as we are rich, possessed of anything in the way of pride or independence, God cannot do anything for us. It is only when we get hungry spiritually that we receive the Holy Spirit." (November 28)

"Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5: 20

"...Jesus Christ claims that by His Redemption He can put into any man His own disposition, and make him as unsullied and as simple as a child. The purity which God demands is impossible unless I can be re-made within, and this is what Jesus has undertaken to do by His Redemption. No man can make himself pure by obeying laws. Jesus Christ does not give us rules and regulations; His teachings are truths that can only be interpreted by the disposition He puts in. The great marvel of Jesus Christ's salvation is that He alters heredity. He does not alter human nature; He alters its mainspring." (July 24)

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

"I cannot enter into the realm of the Kingdom of God unless I am born from above by a birth totally unlike natural birth. 'Ye must be born again.' This is not a command, it is a foundation fact. The characteristic of the new birth is that I yield myself so completely to God that Christ is formed in me. Immediately Christ is

formed in me, His nature begins to work through me." (December 25)

"Being born again of the Spirit is an unmistakable work of God, as mysterious as the wind, as surprising as God Himself. ... Being born again from above is a perennial, perpetual and eternal beginning, a freshness all the time in thinking and in talking and in living, the continual surprise of the life of God. Staleness is an indication of something out of joint with God: 'I must do this thing or it will never be done.'... Guard jealously your relationship to God. Jesus prayed 'that they may be one, even as We are one,' nothing between.... Are you drawing your life from any other source than God Himself? If you are depending upon anything but Him, you will never know when He is gone." (January 20)

"Do I seek for signs of the Kingdom, or do I perceive God's rule? The new birth gives a new power of vision whereby I begin to discern God's rule. His rule was there all the time, but true to His nature; now that I have received His nature, I can see His rule." (August 15)

"Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God." 2 Corinthians 10:5

"Deliverance from sin is not deliverance from human nature. There are things in human nature, such as prejudices, which the saint has to destroy by neglect; and other things which have to be destroyed by violence, i.e., by the Divine strength imparted by God's Spirit. There are some things over which we are not to fight, but to stand still in and see the salvation of God; but every theory or conception which erects itself as a rampart against the knowledge of God is to be determinedly demolished by drawing on God's power, not by fleshly endeavour or compromise (v. 4).

"It is only when God has altered our disposition and we have entered into the experience of sanctification that the fight begins. The warfare is not against sin; we can never fight against sin: Jesus Christ deals with sin in Redemption. The conflict is along the line of turning our natural life into a spiritual life.... It is done only by a series of moral choices.... We can either go back and make ourselves of no account in the Kingdom of God, or we can determinedly demolish these things and let Jesus bring another son to glory." (September 8)

"Every now and again, Our Lord lets us see what we would be like if it were not for Himself; it is a justification of what He said: 'Without Me ye can do nothing.' That is why the bedrock of Christianity is personal, passionate devotion to the Lord Jesus. We mistake the ecstasy of our first introduction into the Kingdom for the purpose of God in getting us there; His purpose in getting us there is that we may realize all that identification with Jesus Christ means." (December 23)

"In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord." Isaiah 6:1.

"Over and over again God has to remove our friends in order to bring Himself in their place, and that is where we faint and fail and get discouraged. ...

"Until I am born again and begin to see the Kingdom of God, I see along the line of my prejudices only; I need the surgical operation of external events and an internal purification.

"It must be God first, God second, and God third, until the life is faced steadily with God and no one else is of any account whatever. 'In all the world there is none but thee, my God, there is none but thee.' Keep paying the price. Let God see that you are willing to live up to the vision." (July 13)

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,. . . praying always." Ephesians 6:13,18

"You have to wrestle against the things that prevent you from getting to God, and you wrestle in prayer for other souls; but never say that you wrestle with God in prayer, it is scripturally untrue.... If, when God comes in some way you do not want, you take hold of Him as Jacob did and wrestle with Him, you compel Him to put you out of joint. ...

"Wrestling before God tells in His Kingdom. If you ask me to pray for you and I am not complete in Christ, I may pray but it avails nothing; but if I am complete in Christ, my prayer prevails all the time. Prayer is only effective when there is completeness. 'Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God.'" (December 16)

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