

AO-20090101: [57]: Entering Christ's Kingdom

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Pesto - Entering Christ's Kingdom - Side A #205

Now this is a moment which I regard a very wonderful moment. You see, you have been introduced to making the Lord Jesus Christ the Lord of your life. Particularly in the areas which are very, very sensitive, in other words, in those areas which make us human beings. And if I know anything about the Lord Jesus, He actually makes dehumanised people real human. You see, He came as the divine in the human, so that broken humanity may be restored to what it was meant to be. And areas like marriage, areas like planning the future, areas like relationships between neighbours, and races, and money, and business, and all these things which are very sensitive. Oh, we need someone who is the Lord in those situation.

Michael did say something which reminded me of a little testimony. My wife and I, and I am very glad that she is sitting on the platform this particular time, we had an experience. Some of you, I suppose, are better wives and better husbands and you don't have these little scuffles. And one day we were all keyed up to go out, it was a weekend and we were going to have a wonderful time, and the Lord had provided us with a car to us, and we were just excited to go to this weekend and have a wonderful time with hundreds of christian brothers, open bible and have our souls blessed. And that was Friday night, and we were both in our home and we started discussing the kind of things that we should put in the car for the weekend. Mark that very carefully. And she had

her suggestions and I had mine. It was beautiful. And I made some suggestions, things we need, and of course she said yes, and she made a few and I said yes, and then she made a suggestion about a little practical thing, and I immediately, a strange man in me said "No." I said, "I don't think we need that." I didn't quarrel, I wasn't mad, but I simply refused in a very lovely way. And I didn't use a rough language, I simply said, "Dear, I don't think we need it." And then of course she said, "No, no, no, but darling, we need it." And so this went on a little bit, and the more we talked about this little thing, the more I saw one hundred and one reasons why the thing was not wanted. And the more my wife saw one hundred and one reasons why the thing was wanted. And the language was becoming a little bit more complicated, and although we were speaking the same mother tongue, it was as if I was speaking French and she, Greek.

And the more we talked, the more we were at a distance. And we went to bed on it. I grew silent. You know those funny silences? So that, you see, christian people don't quarrel, you know, and you just keep quiet thinking the quiet means peace. (laughter) And all the time inside you you are actually as noisy as a market. (laughter) And so I went to bed, and we went to bed. And it was rather a difficult bed that evening for me. She went and she slept quickly. And you know, it was after midnight and I was still, as it were, in a courthouse, answering back to this wife of mine. "Wasn't she fussy? Why did she push that thing?" You know, I was quarreling really, and she was soundly asleep. And after midnight the Lord said, "You seem to be right, and your wife

seems to be wrong, as far as you are concerned." And I said, "Yes Lord, she really is wrong." And the Lord said, "But she is soundly asleep, and you are still in the court. Do you mean that holy people don't go to sleep? You mean you are too good to go to sleep? Or do you mean that you don't go to sleep because you are so concerned about your wife?"

And really, the Lord turned the guns on me and showed me where I was wrong, and He made it clear that I was unnecessarily hard on the thing. And that it wasn't the thing, it was my attitude about the thing. And I said, "Lord, but, but . . ." "But what? But what? You were wrong, you were hard, wont you accept it?" In the end I had to say, "Yes Lord, I was wrong, but what shall I do? Wake her up?" "Not now, don't interrupt her sleep. Early in the morning and ask for forgiveness about your attitude." But I said, "Supposing she doesn't accept it?" "You leave that to me, you do your side and leave the rest to me." Early in the morning I woke her up, and I was a bit hesitant, and I said, "I am sorry about the hardness of the night." And at first she wondered whether I meant business. And in the end I said, "Please forgive me." And let me tell you, you may think this was very easy, but when I said "Forgive me," there was a bit of embarrassment and in the end she did forgive me, bless her. I don't know how, but she does that kind of thing. And immediately the Lord had removed the barrier, and I said, "I'm sorry I was unnecessarily hard over that thing, please forgive me. It interrupted our fellowship, it caused a kind of feeling between us, and a distance. I am sorry about it. And I wasted so many hours. Precious hours wasted on it."

And she said, "I am sorry, I also was a bit, rather fussy about the thing." And I said, "No, no, no, it wasn't your fault." And she said, "No, no, no, it wasn't your fault either." (laughter) This time I wonder whose fault it was. (laughter) In other words, no one, now, was blaming the other, or pointing the finger the Adam way. You remember? "This woman. ." This time it wasn't. The Lord had made it clear what had gone wrong, and in the end it was clear. We forgave, we were forgiven by the Lord, and He was the Lord of the situation. And we were in each others arms. And my wife and I call those moments of renewal, re-weddings. You can take it if you like. Re-weddings. Immediately, we were singing together, and it all became light, and of course, in the end we packed the car and she put the thing in. (laughter) And it was a beautiful day, it was a blessed day, our hearts were open, we had a lovely testimony, the Lord won the day. Praise God for that.

And I wanted just to remark on one thing before my time is up, and that about young people when it comes to you todecided, Michael gave you that lovely word, make the Lord Jesus Christ the Master of the situation and things will go well. In Africa children are fond of eating mangoes, a special kind of fruit from a mango tree, they are very nice, delicious fruits, something like your apples. And the children in Africa know that in order to know, or to eat a mango, it must be ripe. And to test how ripe it is you put your finger and you press, and it is soft. And they are so greedy, and when the mangoes are still hard and green, they pluck them and then they put their little fingers on the mango

and it is hard, and they say, "Well, we know what to do. If you want to ripen it quickly you just soften it." So, they take a green mango and they begin to knock round it with stones and sticks, and then they keep on putting their fingers to see whether it is ripe. And when they feel it is soft, then they bury their poor teeth into unripe mango, and it is a terrible thing. It really is a terrible thing.

And now, young people, don't you do that. If your young man is not yet ripe, don't you try to soften him up like a mango. If your girl is not yet ready, you let the Lord Jesus prepare her, as Michael had to wait a bit until the Lord brought Carol round. We praise God for the waiting. The Lord never spoils anything. Now, the precious thing that you have been put, exposed to this evening, is making the Lord Jesus, making Him Lord of your life, your marriage, your money, relationships, whatever. How do you do that? Have you got ability to enthrone Him? Don't you end by saying, "I wish I could, but I can't." And isn't this the problem with christianity, when you want to love and yet you hate? When you want to be humble and yet you are proud. When you want to do right, and yet you keep doing wrong. Romans chapter 7 is a confession. Now, what is the secret? The secret is this. That the Lord Jesus Christ is not enthroned by this man here. The Master of Ceremonies, if you want to make Jesus Lord, the Master of Ceremonies is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is 1) The power of God which puts into practice what you believe in your head. It is the Spirit of God who can make actual what you have known and believed intellectually and with your mind.

So now you want to make the Lord Jesus Lord of your life. You want to enthrone Him as King in every sphere of your life here. You want Him to be practical when you go on the farm, you want Him to be practical, your King in the office, your King in the bedroom, your King in the kitchen, your King as you farm and work, and study in the school. How do you do that? Very simply. The Spirit of God, in John chapter 17, 16, 17, Jesus says, "When the Spirit of God come, He will glorify me." In other words, "He will put me on the throne of each life, and He will announce very clearly "Jesus is Lord." And when the Spirit of God puts Him on the throne of each heart, and when you and I bow before the King, then life is made beautiful. You heard Vernon calling us beautiful people, none of us can really qualify to be beautiful until Jesus Christ has been made the King of your life. And the Spirit of God tonight, has one great desire, it is to make Jesus Christ the King upon each heart, but you must be ready, as Michael pointed to us, you must vacate the throne. Most of us are so fond of being the kings of our lives that we simply sit on the throne, and we are rigid on the throne, and of course, we are conspicuously too small. When you become the king of your life, you are conspicuously out of place. When the husband becomes a king, he really confuses the home. When the wife becomes a queen, then, of course, the queen and king, the queen and the king can't live together. And when a god and a goddess try to share the throne, what happens? Battles. The goddess wants to take the throne, and the god wants to take the throne, what next? A war. A war is declared between husband and wife. Why do we fight

and struggle? Because each one of us wants the throne.

I want to sit on the throne. My wife must be also wanting to sit on the throne, because she is a human being. And so what happens. We are fighting for the throne. We can't understand each other. There is no peace in the home, because each one of us is struggling to take the throne. But when you come down, and you take your rightful place at his feet, and I come down, do you know what happens? Both the husband and the wife are now citizens of the new kingdom. They look at each other with amazement. And Jesus makes them beautiful. He gives them a completely new colour. They are fresh. Do you realise that when Jesus is the king, your wife is fresh, you are fresh, the children are fresh simply because you are all enjoying the presence of the King. Will you give the Holy Spirit permission tonight to enthrone Jesus Christ upon your heart? Will you call Him in? That is His work. Jesus says, "When He comes, the comforter, He will help you. He will put me on the throne, and then. ." what happens next when the king is on the throne? Then the Holy Spirit will come and open your eyes, and say, "Look at Him, isn't He wonderful?" And then you look at Him and He is wonderful. And then you look down and you see your friend and you say, "MY friend is also wonderful."

In the light of Jesus Christ men and women are wonderful. They are wonderful people, redeemed by the love of Jesus Christ, enthroned, or rather, governed by the King of peace, they are enjoying the peace of Jesus Christ. That's why Ephesians chapter 2 says, "He is our peace." When He comes in there is peace in the



home, there is peace in business, there is peace in the work. Even when there is trouble, there can be peace. I told you the story recently in my country, when I saw three young men, and I was standing in front of them, and they were going to be executed by a firing squad, they were going to die. The government had given them this terrible punishment. And I came there to see them before they died, to pray for them as a Bishop. And as I came, with a trembling heart, tears in my eye, overcome with emotion, when I came to stand in front of them I could hardly believe my eyes. The Spirit of God had entered into their hearts, and had brought Christ and put Him upon the throne of these three so-called criminals, and my, what a joy. As I stood in front of them, one of them turned before we came to stand, and he was shining. And they were all full of light, they looked beautiful.

Apart from Jesus Christ our lives are hum-drum. Marriage can be boring. Homes can be hell instead of heaven on earth. Lives can become just misery, but these three men who should have been miserable, and sad, and cursing, and bitter, when we came near, you couldn't believe it. One man began, in his excitement, he began to give his testimony to me and to those three other men. And he was so excited, and this is what he said, he said, "Bishop, oh, I want you to know that two weeks ago, on the day when I was arrested by the government, and in my cell in the prison, Jesus Christ came into my heart. Heaven opened," he said, "My sins were forgiven, and," he said, "there is nothing between me and God." And he was really glowing. A fresh colour covered his face. And when he finished he said, "Tell my wife, tell my children

to receive Jesus Christ." Jesus had become the Lord of this man. Who did it? The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had made the living Christ such a reality that this man was all full of light.

And then his friend added, when he finished his friend began and he told the same story. And a young student of twenty years old who was going to be shot, gave his testimony. The soldiers stood there, their hands were frozen on the triggers of their guns, these men were so excited, were so heavenly. What had happened? Jesus Christ had become the Lord of their lives. And although they were going to die, yet they were completely beyond death. The Spirit of God had done a miracle. I want to ask a question here. Has the Spirit of God made your heart the throne for the King of heaven? Has He put Him there? Or are you one of those who are seeking little things, little, little things, instead of knowing that when the Spirit of God brings the King, puts Him on your heart, and He proclaims, "King Jesus this is your throne. This life belongs to you." Everything is completely different. And then Jesus said, "And the Spirit, when He comes, He will declare, He will take the things which belong to me, peace, love, joy, reality, fullness, all these beautiful things, and the Spirit of God will come," says Jesus Christ, "And He will declare to you my things. He will say to you, "This is the peace which Jesus can give, and it is yours. This is the fullness which Jesus can give, and it belongs to you. This is the love which Jesus can give, and it can now flood your heart."

Everyone of the things. And I want you to feel ready now, the Spirit of God is the servant of the good things, He is the

comforter of heaven, and He wants to take each one of you, as we conclude this crusade, by the hand, and He wants to introduce you to every department of God's grace tonight. What are you lacking tonight? In the presence of King Jesus all things are ready, and the Spirit is just absolutely vibrating with excitement. He wants to lead you into all the fullness of God tonight, so that you may leave this crusade saying, "My, I never knew that heaven is at my disposal. That the King of heaven is my King. The stores of heaven are mine. My Father is on the throne, and therefore, if I am weak it is simply because I have despised the provision. If I am still hating another person, it is because I am not willing to be a servant of the King." When Jesus becomes the King, then you are a citizen of the kingdom, and you must obey the law of the kingdom. The kingdom is the kingdom of love, and if you are there and you don't love, then you are disqualifying yourself.

Jesus Christ, tonight, has become your Lord. Have you bowed and said, "Yes Lord, you died and you bought me. I now belong to you. Other kings have taken the throne, my pride, myself, my money, my neighbours, all the things they have been fighting to take the throne of my heart, but tonight, Lord Jesus, is my decision. Come, take over so that tonight I can say, 'Yes, He is my King.'" And when He is the king, all is well at home, all is well in society, all is well in school, all is well in marriage. The reason why marriages are breaking is because it is a marriage between man and wife and there is no third person. You need Jesus on the throne, and then the man is the head of the home

only when he is under Jesus Christ. And the woman can only submit to the husband only when she submits to Jesus Christ. It makes sense, doesn't it? When Jesus is ruling then I can love my wife with the love which comes from Calvary. When Jesus is ruling, then my wife simply submits, not as a slave, but as a lover. And she builds me up, and then it becomes a sweet fellowship. When Jesus is ruling, children, you simply love to obey your parents because it makes you happy. But when He is not ruling, then everybody is running wild, everybody is running wild. Children are running away. The wives are running away. And husbands are running away, and ministers don't know what to do. Case after case. Oh my, what a confusion.

Life without King Jesus is a broken, miserable, wild life. Life under His government is a beautiful life. Do you want to be beautiful tonight? Do you want to sit at His feet? Do you want the Holy Spirit to introduce you to the wonderful King, and to proclaim to the angels, "Tonight, she belongs to Jesus, and Jesus is the King of her life/ his life." I hope that tonight there is not going to be anyone who is going to go still ruling yourself. Don't you hug your independence, hug your dependence upon Jesus is true freedom. You depend upon Him, you submit to Him, then you are the freest human being ever. Then you can walk, then you can live, then you can praise, then you can eat, then you can drink under His government, and you are no longer a victim, but you are a conqueror.