

"The Kingdom Is Within You" (Yielding Daily to the King)

For all of its eternity, there is a lot of dailiness, a lot of moment-by-momentness to Kingdom living. There is a "treasure" hidden in the field of every one of our days (Matt 13:44) - a new and living way to know the King and be a fresh expression of His never-changing life (Rev 21:5). Our King is an artisan, a craftsman. He is always "making something" (Jer 18:3). And, He is not going to make us into anything that He is not! (Ro 8:29)

In Mark 1:14-15, Mark begins his introduction of the King and His authority with these words, "Jesus came". He wasn't necessarily invited - He didn't need to be if He is the King! He came "proclaiming the gospel of God" - not the kingdom of fallen man and his desires. And, He asserted that His timing ("now") was perfect - He is not only the King of "what" but also of "when". He simply does not seem to ask "what" we think we need nor "when" we think we need it. He doesn't appear to be interested in discussion or debate over His choices. He does seem to be looking for a response from His hearers - whenever we hear the King speak, the time to respond is "now".

In the Kingdom of God, every crisis is a call to worship the King. Whenever He shows up in whatever form, it is TIME TO CROWN HIM KING! It is always time to believe His Word, trust Him to be our Supply, let go of what is "not" Him, and abandon to His redemptive presence. Kingdom people do not deny what is "seen", what is happening. We only deny the finality of what is seen and rely upon the "unseen" and greater reality that He is working - "making something" - in a way we cannot. And the only reason we would consider His uninvited intervention to be "bad news"? We want to be our own king (ala, Herod!). Then, He and His works are an interruption - He is in "MY" way!

How will we respond in the moment of intervention ? In the season of God "making something" new? We are always free to take up ADORATION - an ardent and affectionate honor and respect for our Sovereign, Loving, Redemptive King at work for our good. We may choose ACCEPTANCE - a willingness to trust Him and receive from His loving hand the determined conditions and timing. (This is not resignation - it is a faith receptivity of an accepted sorrow - and there is always grace for an accepted disruption or sorrow for the Kingdom's sake - II Cor 12:9-10!) Also, ABANDONMENT to the King is never wasted - a non-selective yieldedness to His character and (often) unseen purposes. We may still experience soul (and body!) pain - anxiety, restlessness, discouragement, anger and the like. However, in bowing before our King in adoration, acceptance, and abandonment... these reactions begin to move to the periphery of our lives as the King Himself increasingly takes over the center!

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Greetings

("Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." II Cor 11:14)

The devil is a "poser". He loves to pose as...
...a really good "friend", even though he has on unholy hatred for you
...a wise "investment" counselor, even though he wants to bankrupt you
...the uber "psychologist", even though he wants to disintegrate your soul
...a "cruise ship" captain, even though he wants to sink the ship
...an "amusement park" director, even though he is a prison warden.

Getting the point? Mostly, he "poses" as you! With first person pronouns, he mimics your dialect and tries to convince you that you know better than anyone what is best for you and those you care about. We are told to be "on the alert" for this and to "give him no opportunity" to mislead us (I Pet 5:8; Eph 4:27).

However, we are never instructed to be devil-conscious, Satan-centered, demon-focused. In fact, just the opposite - to set our minds on the One who is our Life (Col 3:1-4), to be in a constant "Yes, Lord" posture before we ever try and say "No" to the devil's tricks (James 4:7). We submit to the One whom the devil could taunt and tempt, but never conquer. We submit to the One who took on everything the devil could throw at Him, yet it was not enough to defeat Him. We stand in Christ who "keeps" us Godly, and the devil finds no place in us to land. The whole world may "lie in the power of the evil one", but we lie in the power of the Crucified, Risen One - Who has defeated every "poser" to the Throne (I Jo 5:18-21)!



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To crown Him King of the moment we are in

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