

Message Two

Living in the Kingdom by Living a Hidden Life

Scripture Reading: Isa. 45:15; 37:31; Matt. 6:2-4, 5-15, 16-18; 14:22-23

- I. We need to learn from the pattern of the Lord living a hidden life in His going up to the mountain privately to pray – Matt. 14:23; cf. Luke 6:12:**
 - A. The Lord did not remain in the issue of the miracle with the crowds, but He went away from them privately to be with the Father on the mountain in prayer.
 - B. We should treasure three phrases – *to be with the Father, on the mountain, and in prayer.*
- II. The principle of the kingdom people is that they live a hidden life, not performing their righteous deeds before men – deeds such as giving (vv. 2-4), praying (vv. 5-15), and fasting (vv. 16-18):**
 - A. Regarding each of the three illustrations, the Lord uses the word secret (vv. 4, 6, 18); our Father is in secret, and He sees in secret; the kingdom people, as children of the heavenly Father, must live in and care for the Father's hidden presence.
 - B. The kingdom people are not allowed to do anything in the flesh for the praise of men; this kills the flesh and the self.
 - C. The saints who grow openly do not grow in a healthy way; we all need some secret growth in life, some secret experiences of Christ; we need to fellowship with the Lord in a secret way.
- III. “Surely You are a God who hides Himself, / O God of Israel, the Savior” – Isa. 45:15:**
 - A. God does countless things in the midst of His people and countless things in their personal lives, yet He conceals Himself.
 - B. God was obviously with Elijah on Mount Carmel, but when God withheld His manifest presence, Elijah could not bear it – I King 19:9-18.
 - C. We need to realize the hidden nature of God's working; we should not think that only mighty influences, great visions, and tremendous revelations are of God; God's surest work is done in the secret of our beings.
 - D. When the only begotten Son came for the purpose of declaring God, He hid Him a human life whose appearance was “marred” and that had “no attracting form nor majesty” – Isa. 52:14; 53:2.
 - E. God has the kind of temperament that dislikes ostentation; He likes to work secretly rather than openly – Matt. 17:1-9; John 20:14-17; Luke 24:13-37; John 20:24-29; Isa. 39:2-8.
- IV. The kingdom life is a life in the depths (Psa. 42:7), a life that can “take root downward and bear fruit upward” – Isa. 37:31; cf. Acts 6:7; 12:24; 19:20.**
 - A. On the one hand we need to allow Christ as the seed of life to take root deep in the soil of our heart; on the other hand, we, as living plants in Christ, need to take deep root in the soil of the all-inclusive Christ as the reality of the good land – Col. 2:6-7.
 - B. We need deep experiences of Christ like that of the apostle Paul – 2 Cor. 12:1-4.

C. In order to live a life in the depths, it is necessary to have a direct and intimate fellowship with the Lord – S.S. 4:12.