

## TWO KINGDOMS

By Don Krider

This teaching is on John 18:35-36, where Jesus has been brought before Pilate, and is getting ready to be crucified. Pilate is questioning Him.

*(John 18:35 KJV) Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? (36) Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

The word 'world' here is not talking about the earth. It is talking about a system. It is talking about us, where we are in the world but not of the world. We dwell in the natural realm but we are super-spiritual people. I don't mean that we are so greatly exalted, but that we have the ability to do super great things for God if we can understand the principle of these two kingdoms.

Because we see the kingdom that is natural, we give more credence to it. We feel, touch, see, hear, and we live in that natural carnal realm (Romans 8:7), but it is a kingdom that influences us greatly. If we don't grow out of that to be influenced by the kingdom of God, and begin to be influenced by the King of that kingdom, we are going to fail in the calling that God has given to us.

We have to begin to identify with another kingdom. I love to witness to people when they ask me where I am from. I always tell them that I am from heaven, just passing through. Look what Jesus said in John 8:23 to the world:

*(John 8:23 KJV) And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.*

I am from above and so are you if you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. That new creature inside of you did not come from the pit. It didn't come from this natural world, but came from God almighty. That new creature in you was born of God, and so you have a right with Jesus to say these words, "The kingdom of this world is not my kingdom."

Jesus said, "If this was the kingdom that I am working with and the kingdom that I run, then my servants would fight. There wouldn't be any real contest here if this were the kingdom I was working with and the kingdom that I run, it would be taken care of. Satan caused men to fall into this kingdom

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of darkness."

Thank God for Colossians 1:13, which tells us that God hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. That kingdom is called the 'kingdom of light'. We are talking about two kingdoms: one is darkness and one is light.

Men love darkness more than light because their deeds are evil, so it is no wonder that it is hard to get people to really hear the gospel because they can succeed in their own natural strength, and do things in their own ability. But when you come to Christ, you are totally helpless. You cannot live in the

kingdom of God without His strength, His joy, His grace. You cannot live in the kingdom of God on your own abilities.

God wants us to realize that there are two kingdoms and I am identifying with one or the other in my life. If I concentrate mainly on the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of flesh or the realm of that darkness, then the words and works that come out of me are carnal. Even though I am born of God, they are carnal because my concentration and all my effort have been toward getting ahead.

We are taught from the time we are children to get ahead. You are told that you have to succeed in this life, but being truly successful in this life means you have died to it. Galatians 6:14 says that the world is crucified to me, and I am crucified to the world.

Look at Gal. 2:20:

***(Gal. 2:20 KJV) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.***

So I have to make a choice as to which kingdom do I want to manifest, which kingdom do I want the world to know that I am of. Jesus said that this kingdom, the one you see is not My kingdom; the world is not My kingdom. He came to die for the sin of the world. That means that every one who is locked in that dark kingdom has an opportunity to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

The world hated Him because He was the light that shined into the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not (John 1:5). The darkness did not want to comprehend it. So don't feel bad when you go out to witness and share Christ, and you bring the light there, don't try to make it so the natural man can understand it.

There are bibles written so the natural man can understand it better. There are all kinds of things done so the natural man can understand, but the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them because they are spiritual and must be spiritually discerned (1 Cor. 2:14).

The Church should be a mystery to the world, just as Jesus was a mystery to the world. The Church is not just a gathering place, a building made with hands. The Church is an actual body. We are members of that one body, which is the body of Christ (Romans 12:5). They crucified Jesus because they didn't want the light.

If you think the dark world loves you, you are thinking wrong. It doesn't love you. Jesus said it hated

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Him, and that it is going to hate us. That is okay when you die to it, it doesn't bother you. Jesus says in Matt. 5:44: ***"Do good to the one who hates you; love your enemies; bless those who curse you; pray for those who despitefully use you."***

The gospel has been made so carnal over the years that nobody has ever had to make a choice. We have been taught that we are Christians on our way to heaven, so we make the outer man better. It should be that we are Christians on our way to heaven, so we should make the outer man deader. The deader, the better. So we must identify with the kingdom of God.

Jesus continually identified with the kingdom of God. He continually said things like "I am from above, you are from beneath." In His mind there was a separation. In His mind and in His heart, what He represented was a spiritual kingdom that had fallen into darkness, and He brought the light to restore that kingdom again to light.

We have been translated into His kingdom and been delivered from the power of darkness, which means satan is defeated. Heb. 2:14 says that the Lord Jesus Christ, through death, destroyed him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Jesus destroyed him when He died on the cross of Calvary. He ruined the kingdom of satan.

God is wanting us to realize something. I have to identify today, and I have to begin to consciously identify when I make my choices. Are those choices those that reflect the glory of God, or are they choices that I want to make? Dead men can't make good choices.

Jesus brought us an example. He said, "I do nothing of Myself, but that which My Father showeth Me to do" (John 5:19-20). Also in John 14:10 He said, "The words that I speak, the Father giveth me to speak." He acted like He was helpless without the Father, and that is exactly where we are. Without Him we can do nothing. Without Him we are nobody. Amen!

So we need to begin to make choices of life, of the kingdom of God, but in order to do that I have to know what the principles are. I had better know how to choose over flesh. Things that seem good to me aren't always good. Things that sound good to me aren't always good. They must be weighed in the light of the Holy Spirit.

It seemed right to the rich young ruler to come to Jesus and boast on what he had done, but Jesus said, "There is one thing you lack; go and sell what you have and give to the poor" (Matt. 19:20-24). It wasn't the selling that hurt him so much; it was giving to people who could not give back to him. The one area that we lack in, the Holy Spirit is going to keep dealing with it.

That is the principle of the kingdom of God: doing good to those who can do nothing for you. To those who ask of you, you lend and you give, expecting nothing in return. It is a giving life. That is what begins to show that we are representing the kingdom of God, when we begin to be giving people. Giving people; giving of our time, giving of our life because it is not ours anyway.

We should be motivated by the Holy Spirit so we can say with Jesus, "Whatever I say and do, I do it because My Father shows me to do it." Whatever I say I can have a great boldness, because they are not my words. They are words by the Holy Spirit.

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I love teaching on the kingdom of God. The more you teach on that kingdom, the more real it becomes. The more you live it, the better it gets. The more you apply the principles of the kingdom of God, the more your life changes until pretty soon you can say, "I don't have to fear death now, because I don't live anymore."

I don't have to be afraid of sudden destruction coming upon me. I don't have to be afraid of these things that the world is afraid of. I don't have to make provision for six months from now. I can get up in the morning and know that today is already taken care of. As long as I live, as long as I breathe, as long as I have breath in my body, I can get up every morning, day after day, with the same assurance.

Whatever I need, my heavenly Father will provide it, because I belong to His kingdom. I am a child of the King.

Too many times people identify with the world because they can see it, they can reason it, they can sense it. When they crucified Christ, the princes of this world didn't know Him (1 Cor. 2:8). The devil and the demons knew Him, but the rulers of this world, the princes and the high priest didn't know Him. He came to His own, and His own received Him not, because they didn't know Him (John 1:10-11). So they crucified Him.

Caiaphas, the high priest, said that one man should die than for the whole nation to suffer (John 11:49-53). He thought he was doing a good thing. He said, "This will take care of it. We will take care of this idiot. We will put him away, and then we won't have any more trouble. We will just be good servants to Rome and they will leave us alone."

There are a lot of people who like to stay in slavery because they feel secure in it. That is why a lot of people stay religious because they feel secure in religion. But there is always a bondage in religion. There is no bondage in salvation. You are free to mess up. You are free to blow it. You are free to try things, and if you fall down and bust your nose, you can get up again and repent and you can go on with God.

There are two definite kingdoms and you have to identify with one or the other. I want to identify with the kingdom of God. One of the marks of the kingdom of God is Romans 14:17:

***(Rom. 14:17 KJV) For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.***

The kingdom of God is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. That means there is an endless supply of righteousness, peace, and joy because it is from the Holy Ghost. The world gives a supply of joy, but it is only for a season. They have a self-righteousness they deal to you. But when it comes from the Holy Ghost, you can give your peace away, because it is becoming more like a gushing river. The more you give away, the more there is. The more you bless people, the more blessed you are. You are the one who releases the blessing of God in your life.

One of the signs that we are walking in the kingdom of God is that we are a giving people. "It is not what I want to do, Lord. It is what You want me to do." That is what Jesus said, and if I am going to be like Him, then I have to follow that principle. It is not what people want me to do, but it is what the Lord wants me to do. If you please men, you have to change all the time, because they change; but with God you know the rules from the beginning. If this pleases Him today, it will please Him

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tomorrow. If I live a hundred years, it will please Him even when I am a hundred years old. I should be projecting righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. I should have enough to give some away.

Somebody said to me one time that I was getting so heavenly minded that I wasn't going to be any earthly good. But Phil. 2:5-6 tells me something:

***(Phil. 2:5 KJV) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:***

Paul also wrote in 1 Cor. 2:16 that we have the mind of Christ.

***(1 Cor. 2:16 KJV) For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.***

If we have the mind of Christ, we should think like Christ; and until you become heavenly minded, I don't believe you will be any earthly good. When your mind is stayed upon the Lord, He will keep you in perfect peace, because you trust in Him (Isaiah 26:3). That means that we are constantly seeking the will of God. Instead of making our own mind up now, we take the mind of Christ, and we do what He says to do.

The Church should be heavenly minded because we are going home. This isn't home. More Christians are worried about America than they are thinking about going home. When the Church walks uprightly before God, He will withhold no good thing from them. When we pray, God will hear us. But we have to walk uprightly before Him. The only way I can do that is to walk according to the word of God. We will walk according to His principles and His laws.

Someone said that the laws are all messed up, but we are just to fulfill the laws of righteousness. The laws only lead you to good things. They keep you out of trouble. David said in Psalm 19:11 that he is warned by the laws of God not to do things that he shouldn't do.

Look at John 18:36 again:

***(John 18:36 KJV) Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.***

He said to Pilate: "My kingdom is not from hence." Think about that a moment. He said, "I am a King. I live in the kingdom, but you don't know that kingdom, so you are going to do the only natural thing you can do. You are going to try to put the light out because there is conviction coming on you. You are not going to crucify me for a good work. You are going to crucify Me because when I came, your sins were revealed."

That is why religions don't mind talking about God, but they don't want to talk about Jesus because when He came, He brought a revelation of sin. He said, "If I had not come, you would have had no sin, but I am the light. The light shined into that darkness and all your sins were manifest."

When the Holy Spirit deals with you about sin in your life, you should give up, because you are not going to quit having to deal with your sin. You can't put that light out. You can't crucify that light. He

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begins to tell them: "You have to have the mind of Christ, the mind that I have. You are going to have to think like Me." Especially now in the times that we live in, dwelling in this world like we are doing right now upon the earth, these are wicked times. Three years ago God showed me two spirits that were going to be loosed upon the earth: murder and rebellion.

I read in the newspaper that we have already hit a record in murder (yr. 2002). Even children thirteen and fourteen years old are beating their fathers in the head with a baseball bat and killing them. Just young guys who should have been out playing baseball, instead of killing someone. When murder is in your heart, it doesn't know any bounds.

There is no such thing today as obedience. Everybody is doing their own thing, and that is rebellion. The only way you can get rid of rebellion out of your life is to do the same thing Jesus did: be obedient to the Father. So we need the mind of Christ to be in our lives.

Let's look at John 16:31-33:

***(John 16:31 KJV) Jesus answered them, Do ye now believe? (32) Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.***

Jesus said, "Nobody physically is going to be with Me, but the Father is with me." Instead of seeking people, we need to seek the presence of the Lord. As we begin to develop that true mind and spirit and heart of Christ, we are going to find out that we count it greater treasure and greater privilege to sit in the presence of the Father than to sit in the presence of dignitaries of the earth.

Look what He goes on to say:

***(John 16:33 KJV) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***

Tribulation = Conc. 2347 = pressure (lit. or fig.): --afflicted, (-tion), anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble.

Why would any one want to stay in the world and have tribulation? You get tribulations when you go back out in the world and begin to mix with them, whether it is natural family or whether it is friends, it makes no difference. They are going to try you. Don't blame them because they are in darkness. When you start talking about Jesus or the things of God, and you start challenging them to accept Christ into their lives, the conversation begins to get a little shaky and iffy here.

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me you shall have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

We have a choice here to live where we want to. If you are an over comer, you can live in the overcoming realm with Christ. You can live in the joy of the Lord and the peace of God, and the righteousness of God; or you can go out in the world and compromise your walk with God, and find out how much trouble it really is living there. Then you come crying to the Church, "Pray for me, Brothers and Sisters. Pray for me. I am really having tribulation. Boo-hoo!" What have you been doing? "I'm not going to tell you."

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We need to be so honest and open with one another. I have blown it so many times. I do appreciate grace. I found that every time I tried to compromise the gospel to win somebody to Christ, or make it a little less light so it wasn't so convicting, I got in real trouble. Then I got in real trouble with God, and I would want the Church to pray for me. Thank God I had a Pastor who said: "If you would quit messing with the world, and would quit compromising the gospel, you wouldn't have the problems you have. That is why you are having tribulation."

I don't know how he knew all of this, but thank God for him. I found out that you could bring the joy, the word of God, you can bring the things of God to the world, and they leave you unless the Lord is drawing them. In fact you are told to go into all the world. He didn't die to save the earth. He died to

save the world, a realm, a kingdom that satan had snared and brought into his control and authority. I am so glad He delivered me out of there.

He said, "I have overcome the world." You can live where you want to. You can live down in mumbling and grumbling avenue if you want to, and then blame everybody for your trouble. I found out it is fun and joy to get up in the morning. It's a blessing to get up and read the word of God, and talk to people about Christ. I found out that most of them will leave you alone.

Let's look at John 8:21-24:

***(John 8:21 KJV) Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come. (22) Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.***

They didn't understand a thing He was saying. When people don't want to go to church, we shouldn't worry about it. It doesn't make sense to them. The Church should be preaching and teaching spiritual food. Invite them to come to church and they might get saved, but they can't be in the Church. They might be in the same building with you, but they are not in the Church. There are only two kinds of people: saints and ain'ts. You saints can understand what I am saying, but the ain'ts are saying, "What a boring time that was."

***(John 8:23 KJV) And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. (24) I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.***

What a statement to make! Thank God, the Church is in this world but not of this world. I call this body a space suit now, or the temple of the Holy Ghost. I am an alien here. I can't even get used to it, and I don't want to get used to it. If this is heaven, we are in trouble. We concentrate so much of our effort on trying to think this is a heavenly place, and mostly occupants of this nation aren't really interested in a heavenly place. They want to go to heaven when they die, but they want to live like the devil while they are here.

What we have to do is live in such a way that people desire what we have. We have to speak in such a way that when the world hears us, they have to make up their mind. We have to react toward each other and toward the sinner in such a way that they can know there is something better than the way they are living. The best sermon you will ever preach is your life. The best message you will ever bring is the life that you live.

So there are two kingdoms that we really need to be aware of. A lot of times we are not aware of it.

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We need to realize that there is a kingdom of God, which is the kingdom of light; and the kingdom of this world, which is the kingdom of darkness. The only way out of that darkness is through Jesus Christ. He delivered us out of the power of that kingdom.

The power could not hold us; once He delivered us from that power, we could make a choice. The choice was "Yes," so we don't have anything to do with that ugliness of the kingdom of darkness now, except to go in and warn them. I don't hang around there. I don't build a house there. I am not taking up residence there.

We have a need to go out into the world to minister to people, but we are not to fellowship with fornicators and such. Jesus did most of His recruiting in the world. He called them, but He did not dwell there. He dwelt with the Father. He lived in the presence of the Father, just like we can because He has overcome the world. Whatever power is holding you back has not the strength to keep you there.

We need to live in such a way that we can honestly say, "My Father shows me what to do. My Father tells me what to say." The book of Acts started off with that. When they chose the apostles, they chose them by the Spirit. Then when they were sent out, the Holy Ghost told them where to go. The apostles were happy to do it, because they were not living their own lives. The life of Christ was being lived through them.

When you come to a point in your life that you would rather be with the Lord Jesus, you would rather walk in the fellowship with Christ than the company of thousands of people who are patting you on the back or anything else, you can truly say, "Listen, I have chosen to walk with Him, and now I am from heaven just passing through. I am not bragging on myself, I am boasting on what Jesus has done." Then every one of us who are saved can truly say we are not from beneath. We were birthed from above, and we are just passing through.

Father God, thank You for being with each one who is studying this little booklet. Thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ, and the blood of the sprinkling that speaketh better things than Adam and Abel. The mediator of the new covenant has been with us. Father, we thank You so much.

Lord, help us to begin to relate more to Your kingdom than we are to the kingdom of this world. Help us to loose our grip upon the kingdom of this world. Help us to realize the power has been broken, and we can dwell wherever we want to dwell. It is a choice that You have given to us. You have overcome the world for our sake. God, we are in the world, but we are not of it. God, we are in the kingdom of light and of majesty.

Speak into our lives as we finish this study; let the new joy of the Lord be found in our hearts. Let an abundance of peace be there. Let righteousness cover our minds and our hearts. Lord, this world needs the light, the true light. It needs the light that will shine and convict. The light that will bring truth and life. We want to be those lights, Lord. We want to do what You tell us to do, and be what You want us to be. Help us to study Your word that we might be approved of You. Help us to study Your word that we might know what You are speaking of, that our hearts can be challenged again and again, and become more like You. In Jesus mighty Name. Amen!