

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

Jesus told Pilate that His kingdom is not of this world, and He said it with the calm certainty of someone who sees the world exactly as it is. Christ rules above all things, and nothing moves outside His authority, yet He allows sin to continue until the last day. The world follows the one permitted to govern it for now, and its ways reflect that ruler's nature. Jesus walked through it untouched, knowing its direction would not change until He Himself brings it to its end. He carried no illusions about the place He entered, and He never asked His followers to hold any either.

He spoke of this more than once because people forget what they see every day. He said His own were not of the world, even as He was not of the world. He said the world hated Him because He testified that its works were evil. He said the ruler of this world was coming. These were not dramatic warnings meant to stir fear. They were simple truths spoken by someone who understood the nature of the place He walked through, and the temporary power allowed to operate within it. He wanted His followers to understand the terrain beneath their feet so they would not mistake it for home.

Paul understood Him. Paul did not try to fix Rome or reshape the culture around him. He did not attempt to make the world behave as if it belonged to Christ. He told believers to live quietly, work with their hands, mind their own business and let their behavior be their testimony; in doing all this, they are doing His will while simultaneously glorifying Him. He knew the world was built in a way that wears a person down. He knew the noise, the pressure, and the corruption would swallow anyone who tried to settle into it. His counsel came from watching how quickly a soul can lose its footing when it tries to live comfortably inside a place where sin is permitted to flourish. He had seen too many fall by thinking they could stand in the middle of it without consequence.

The world has never been a project waiting for repair. It has never been a field waiting for improvement. It has always been a place where Christ rules above yet allows another to govern below for a time. Efforts to change it only pull people into battles they were never meant to fight. They lose themselves trying to fix what cannot be fixed, and the world takes more from them than they ever intended to give. Wisdom comes from knowing when to walk through quietly and when to leave the world

to its own course. The old paths were always narrow because they were never meant to run through the heart of the world's noise.

The narrow way has nothing to do with transforming culture. It has everything to do with walking quietly and faithfully through a place where sin is allowed for a season. Christ rules above it all, and His day will come, but until then the world moves according to the one permitted to influence it. The few survive because they refuse to be shaped by its ways. They learn to keep their steps small, their hearts guarded, and their minds fixed on the One who rules above. The many perish because they try to settle into it as if it were their home, forgetting that the world's comfort is the first sign of danger.

Jesus' words draw the line clearly. His kingdom is not of this world, and neither are those who follow Him. The world will continue on its course until He brings it to its end, and nothing will slow it. Those who understand this walk differently. They do not try to change what Christ Himself has allowed to stand for a time. They do not try to mend what He has already declared corrupt. They move through the world with quiet steps, knowing that the One who rules above sees every moment and will judge every deed when the last day arrives.

I have lived long enough to see how the world pulls men into its conflicts. Nations rise, take sides, and call their battles righteous, but they are only answering to the pressures of the age. Christ rules above all things, yet He allows the world to run its course until the last day, and the world's course has always been war, fear, and the endless settling of scores. Men believe they are defending something sacred, but they are only being swept into battles the world creates for its own reasons.

Jesus warned that there would be wars, but He never told His people to take part in them. His words were not commands to join the world's conflicts; they were simple descriptions of what the world would do as it runs its course. When He said, "My kingdom is not of this world," He was telling us plainly that nothing in the world's violence belongs to Him. If His kingdom is not of this world, then why would He ever condone killing other human beings. War is ugly and evil at its core, and nothing about it glorifies the Father. Nations may call their battles righteous, but they are only answering to the pressures of the age, not the voice of Christ.

People have asked why God allows children to suffer and die, or why women and families are torn apart by evil people, or why

natural disasters strike without mercy. They ask why some are trapped in unbearable situations and why rescue comes too late. The answer is clear to anyone who understands the nature of this place. The ruler of this planet is evil and hates humanity. God did not do these things. For Him to intervene every time evil crossed the line of horrific madness would turn this world into a controlled environment where free volition could not exist. This is not the kingdom of God. This is the world, and it behaves according to the one permitted to govern it for a time.

Our objective in this world is simple: to survive it with our faith intact. Paul, Peter, and Jesus are abundantly clear that all Christians will suffer. It does not say some or a few. It says all. Hard to swallow, but we were warned of what lies ahead for true believers. This is not a gentle place, and it was never promised to be. The world hates what belongs to Christ, and the ruler of this age makes certain that those who follow Him feel the weight of that hatred. Suffering is not a sign of failure. It is the mark of those who walk against the current of a world that cannot tolerate the light.

Men fought believing they were protecting something sacred. They were sincere. They were brave. But sincerity and bravery do not change the nature of the world's battles. The world uses people for its own purposes, and most never realize it. The old man saw this clearly: the world's wars are not Christ's wars, and the world's victories are not Christ's victories. His kingdom is not of this world, and nothing in the world's violence ever glorifies the Father.