



# RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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## THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST—PART ONE

<sup>10</sup> *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* (Philippians 2:10-11 KJV)

Jesus is the Lord of Lords, is He not? Glory to God! Does that not thrill your heart when you think about it? Obviously there are many millions of people who do not acknowledge that He is Lord of Lords. And one day every one of their knees shall bow and acknowledge who He is.

Those of us who are born again have already acknowledged that He is Lord of Lords, and surrendered our lives to Him as our Lord. In fact that acknowledgment and that surrender was a fundamental part of our being born again. *If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.* (Romans 10:9 KJV)

We believed on Him in our heart and we confessed with our mouth that He is Lord, meaning that we surrendered to Him as the Lord of our own life. But what does it mean that He is the Lord of our life?

It certainly does not just mean acknowledging with our words that He is Lord. That is not enough.

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* (Matthew 7:21 KJV) It does not even mean doing good things in His name. That does not mean that He is Lord of our life.

<sup>22</sup> *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? <sup>23</sup> And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* (Matthew 7:22-23 KJV)

There are many that call Jesus their Lord, when really He is not their Lord. There are many that preach and teach and work miracles and do many good deeds in His Name, when really He is not their Lord. They are doing what seem to be good things, but they are not obeying the Lord.

So what does make Jesus Lord of our Life? Obviously we start with acknowledging that He is Lord and surrendering our lives to Him as our Lord. But how do we continue with Him as our Lord?

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*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?* (Luke 6:46 KJV) What makes Jesus Lord of our life is not that we call Him Lord. It is not that we do good things in His name. What makes Jesus Lord of our life is doing the things that He tells us to.

The word “Lord” comes from the Greek word ‘kurios’, which means “supreme in authority”. “Supreme” means “Greatest in power, authority, or rank; paramount or dominant”. “Authority” means “The power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge.” In other words, the Lord is the highest power that exists, and has the absolute right to judge and to command us.

Now, we obviously agree that this is who Jesus is. But is this who we allow Him to be in our daily lives? Who is really the Lord of our lives? Jesus? Or us? Are we doing what He says?

Maybe we have allowed Jesus to be Lord of certain areas of our life. But can you imagine a Kingdom in which the King only had authority in certain regions of his Kingdom? What would happen? The Kingdom would be in disorder. Things would not be as they should be.

Jesus has to be Lord of all areas of our life. Think of it like this. Imagine your life is a house. You have taken good care of your house. It is nicely painted. You keep all the surfaces and floors and furniture clean. All of your belongings are tidy and ordered. But then God comes in and he opens that small cupboard that you have hidden from view, into which you have thrown all your junk, and He says, "You need to clean this one out and put it in order." You reply, "But Lord, it's only a small cupboard and it doesn't really matter because no-one can see it!" And the Lord replies, "I can see it, and it matters to me."

At times our lives are like that house. Many areas are already in order, and in those areas we are allowing Jesus to be our Lord. However, there are other areas, perhaps areas which can't be seen easily, in which we still need to let Jesus be Lord.

<sup>18</sup> Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. <sup>20</sup> You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not bear false witness," "Honor your father and your mother." <sup>21</sup> And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." <sup>22</sup> So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." <sup>23</sup> But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. <sup>24</sup> And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:18-25)

We all have riches. Even if we do not have financial or material wealth, we have riches in terms of areas of our lives in which we want to maintain control rather than allow Jesus to be Lord. And Jesus says to us, "You have to give everything to Me, I must be Lord of every area of your life". And like the young ruler, we become sad.

Oswald Chambers comments on this passage:

*"The rich young ruler went away from Jesus speechless with sorrow, having nothing to say in response to Jesus' words. He had no doubt about what Jesus had said or what it meant, and it produced in him a sorrow with no words with which to respond. Have you ever been there? Has God's Word ever come to you, pointing out an area of your life, requiring you to yield it to Him? Maybe He has pointed out certain personal qualities, desires, and interests, or possibly relationships of your heart and mind. If so, then you have often been speechless with sorrow. The Lord will not go after you, and He will not plead with you. But every time He meets you at the place where He has pointed, He will simply repeat His words, saying, "If you really mean what you say, these are the conditions. "Sell all that you have . . ." In other words, rid yourself before God of everything that might be considered a possession until you are a mere conscious human being standing before Him, and then give God that. That is where the battle is truly fought—in the realm of your will before God. Are you more devoted to your idea of what Jesus wants than to Jesus Himself? If so, you are likely to hear one of His harsh and unyielding statements that will produce sorrow in you. What Jesus says is difficult—it is only easy when it is heard by those who have His nature in them. Beware of allowing anything to soften the hard words of Jesus Christ."* (quoted in "My Utmost for His Highest", August 18)

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV).* May your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless. See that Paul mentions your whole being. Your spirit, your soul, your body. Nothing is left out! Everything must be blameless- everything must be submitted to the Lord Jesus, to His authority and His will! God has made us blameless in Christ, but we need to live and order our lives according to that blamelessness. In other words, let Jesus be Lord of your whole life. Including those small hidden cupboards. Those parts of your heart in which you want to retain authority. Those parts of your life that you are ashamed of so you don't want to bring them into God's light. Don't be afraid. Let Him shine His light and bring His Lordship into your whole life. He is the supreme Authority, and His authority is an authority of love. You have nothing to fear.

Please look at your life this week, and ask God to show you where you have not been letting Him be Lord. Ask Him to shine His light in your heart. And when He shows you those areas, let Him be Lord in those areas. He will show you what to do, and as you obey Him, the mercy and power of His Lordship will flood your life.

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