

THE “2 THEATRES” DREAM: DEC 20, 1998—

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A “DOUBLE FEATURE”

by Mike Bickle

In a spiritual dream, I saw the kingdom of God as having two theatres operating concurrently.

The first theatre represented **God’s sovereign activity** in relation to his purposes.

The second theatre represented **the arena of human responsibility** as it relates to God’s purposes.

It was like a “double feature”, only the shows were playing at the same time. This was a word play on “two features” of God’s kingdom purposes—God’s part and our part. This could also represent “two features” of God’s ways with humanity.

I saw many people milling around the first theatre, trying to peer into the deep mysteries that surround Divine sovereignty. They were captivated by the intrigue that it involves. However, the second theatre was almost empty. This was an urgent concern on the Lord’s heart. Many of God’s people were so fascinated by the first theatre that they were neglecting their arena of responsibility. Their inquisitiveness was paralyzing them from taking action. In this particular scenario, they were “philosophizing” as a subtle fleshly substitute for obeying!

I knew that the Lord wanted to shift his people’s attention on to the second theatre and draw them into it. The show that was playing there was not as intellectually intoxicating. It was very simple and practical. **There was a posture of heart** that was required to properly participate in this arena. It involved being in awe of the mystery of God’s sovereignty and allowing this to lead them into humility, prayer and worship. The mysteries of God will never be exhausted by our finite minds and God has strategically ordained this dynamic.

In the next scene I saw the Lord as a general contractor of a vast building project. He had hired us as sub-contractors on the project. The sub-contractors weren’t to concern themselves with trying to do, or even comprehend, the job of the general contractor—this would distract them from doing their part. They needed to focus upon their job. The Lord didn’t want people trying to occupy His office.

In the last scene, I saw the sovereignty of God as a “safety net” under some acrobats. I knew that we were like those acrobats who, if they concentrated upon the net’s presence, would be unable to perform their feats. They would miss their timing, their queues and their leaps and catches.

God has called us to do kingdom exploits that require much preparation, self-discipline, timing, coordination, teamwork, courage, trust and skill. We should be truly grateful for the safety net, but should not allow its reality to distract us from the responsibility before us. We are being called to do our part in the enterprise of God’s kingdom. We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves us is not alone. Faith without works equals dead religion.

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26 (NKJ)

It is intriguing that the above verse compares “works” rather than “faith” to the “spirit” and not vice versa. We would tend to link faith to the spirit and works to the body if we were drawing the analogy. However, it is the outworking of our faith that keeps the life force of faith flowing in and through us. Jesus said to the Ephesian church that the antidote for the loss of their “first love” was to repent and return to their “first works.”

“Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent.” Rev 2:4-5 (NKJ)

Through faith we must intercede, fast, humble ourselves, give generously, study and meditate, remember the poor, love our spouses and children, go to the unreached peoples, minister to the sick, evangelize the lost, serve our local church, preach and teach the word of God, disciple new converts and develop a rich secret devotional life. God will not do these things for us. We cannot do the things that only God can do and God will not do for us what he has called and empowered us to do with the promised help of the Holy Spirit.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law. Deut 29:29 (NKJ)

We tend to be motivated by what is novel, but the things God has ordained for us to do, although we may find fresh expressions for them, are simple, reasonable and historically established activities—things like apostolic intercession. May God help us to find our way back to the joyful labor and profound practice of “calling down” the power of His Spirit and kingdom, both night and day, upon the regions of this earth in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. And, may we be enabled by Him to live out the other aspects of our lives in such a way that they become totally supportive of and integrated with this holy occupation.

Amen.

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