

Unadorned Life

by Charles E. Cowman

The sermon emphasizes finding purpose and beauty in serving God through ordinary, everyday tasks despite life's hindrances.

Scripture: Psalm 16:11, Psalm 37:23, Psalm 84:10, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 3:23

Topics: "Faithful Service", "Spiritual Discipline"

Description

Charles E. Cowman preaches about the significance of dwelling 'with the king for his work' in any circumstance, emphasizing that the King will come and dwell with us wherever we are placed, even amidst hindrances and daily tasks. The obstacles we face may actually be for our protection, and the work we have in our hands is what the King has entrusted to us. Our service to Jesus in the ordinary, unremarkable aspects of life is more beautiful than the wonders of nature, and even those who live quietly and unseen can lead a saintly life.

Transcript

"These were the potters, and those that dwelt among plants and hedges: there they dwelt with the king for his work" (1 Chron. 4:23).

Anywhere and everywhere we may dwell "with the king for his work." We may be in a very unlikely and unfavorable place for this; it may be in a literal country life, with little enough to be seen of the "goings" of the King around us; it may be among the hedges of all sorts, hindrances in all directions; it may be furthermore, with our hands full of all manner of pottery for our daily task.

No matter! The King who placed us "there" will come and dwell there with us; the hedges are right, or He would soon do away with them. And it does not follow that what seems to hinder our way may not be for its very protection; and as for the pottery, why, that is just exactly what He has seen fit to put into our hands, and therefore it is, for the present, "His work."

--Frances Ridley Havergal

"Go back to thy garden-plot, sweetheart!

Go back till the evening falls,

And bind thy lilies and train thy vines,

Till for thee the Master calls.

"Go make thy garden fair as thou canst,

Thou workest never alone;

Perhaps he whose plot is next to thine

Will see it and mend his own."

The colored sunsets and starry heavens, the beautiful mountains and the shining seas, the fragrant woods and painted flowers, are not half so beautiful as a soul that is serving Jesus out of love, in the wear and tear of common, unpoetic life. --Faber

The most saintly spirits are often existing in those who have never distinguished themselves as authors, or left any memorial of themselves to be the theme of the world's talk; but who have led an interior angelic life, having borne their sweet blossoms unseen like the young lily in a sequestered vale on the bank of a limpid stream. --Kenelm Digby

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