



Where the rain begins...

Sanctify my soul, O Lord



There's always a place...

- The journey begins in a downpour

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- The rain catches us prepared
 - Umbrella or rain coat
 - Good wipers on the vehicle
 - Dry place to park

There's always a place...

- The journey begins in a downpour
- The rain catches us prepared
 - Umbrella or rain coat
 - Good wipers on the vehicle
 - Dry place to park
- The rain catches us unprepared
 - Umbrella is in the car and we are in the house
 - Sudden storm
 - Park blocks from our destination



At some point in the journey...

- We hit that noticeable, notable point



At some point in the journey...

- We hit that noticeable, notable point
- The rain stops and the pavement is dry

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- The rain stops and the pavement is dry
- The clouds are still present

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- The thunder may sound

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- The lightning may flash

At some point in the journey...

- We hit that noticeable, notable point
- The rain stops and the pavement is dry
- The clouds are still present
- The thunder may sound
- The lightning may flash
- But the rain stops at some point

We usually consider this good

- It is more convenient and safer
 - To drive without the rain
 - To arrive without the rain
 - To plan without the rain

We usually consider this good

- It is more convenient and safer
 - To drive without the rain
 - To arrive without the rain
 - To plan without the rain
- And so we celebrate the place where the rain ends...



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- A spiritual journey through a physical world

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 - We must be prepared

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- A spiritual journey through a physical world
- Our theology tells us that we have not yet arrived to where we are headed
 - Our final destination is a place we are not yet equipped for
 - We must change out these bodies
 - We must be prepared
 - But we also know there are many curves, hills, valleys, and obstacles on the way



Our theology tells us about the journey

- Nothing ever can separate us



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 - Detours



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 - As long as we keep traveling, we will arrive



Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived



Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
 - Salvation is not the destination



Our theology tells us about the journey

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 - It is “setting apart”
 - Jesus sanctifies His saints for His Kingdom’s purpose



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It all belongs to God...

- My time is not my own
- My talent is not my own
- My treasure is not my own
- It all belongs to God
 - I am not an owner
 - I am a steward

Stewardship and Sanctification

- They walk hand in hand



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- It may be when I am humble enough to realize I am a steward than I may be emptied enough of pride to be filled completely with the Spirit

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 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3
- “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Oswald Chambers

- “In the process of sanctification, the Spirit of God will strip me down until there is nothing left but myself, and that is the place of death. Am I willing to be myself and nothing more? Am I willing to have no friends, no father, no brother, and no self-interest— simply to be ready for death? That is the condition required for sanctification...”

Oswald Chambers

- “Am I willing to reduce myself down to simply ‘me’? Am I determined enough to strip myself of all that my friends think of me, and all that I think of myself? Am I willing and determined to hand over my simple naked self to God? Once I am, He will immediately sanctify me completely, and my life will be free from being determined and persistent toward anything except God...”

Oswald Chambers

- “When I pray, “Lord, show me what sanctification means for me,” He will show me. It means being made one with Jesus. Sanctification is not something Jesus puts in me— it is *Himself in me.*”

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- Do we want Him to have it all?
- Do we want to yield all of us to whatever He has for us?

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 - But He “sets apart” that which is prepared for Him
 - Received salvation

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 - Seek more of Him and less of self
 - Stewards of ourselves – not owners