



Where the rain begins...

Sanctify my soul, O Lord



There's always a place...

- The journey begins in a downpour

# 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

# 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

# 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

# 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



# 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

# 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...



# We are on a journey

- A spiritual journey through a physical world

# We are on a journey

- A spiritual journey through a physical world
- Our theology tells us that we have not yet arrived to where we are headed

# We are on a journey

- 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 are on a journey

- 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 are on a journey

- 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

# We are on a journey

- 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



# Our theology tells us about the journey

- Nothing ever can separate us
  - Detours



# Our theology tells us about the journey

- Nothing ever can separate us
  - Detours
  - Roadblocks

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- Nothing ever can separate us
  - Detours
  - Roadblocks
  - Broken vehicles

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- Nothing ever can separate us
  - Detours
  - Roadblocks
  - Broken vehicles
  - Inclement weather

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- Nothing ever can separate us
  - Detours
  - Roadblocks
  - Broken vehicles
  - Inclement weather
  - 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

- We have not yet arrived
  - Salvation is not the destination
  - Salvation is the vehicle for the journey

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
  - Salvation is not the destination
  - Salvation is the vehicle for the journey
    - Pride will tell us that it says everything about us

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
  - Salvation is not the destination
  - Salvation is the vehicle for the journey
    - Pride will tell us that it says everything about us
    - Our theology tells us it says everything about Jesus



# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
- Sanctification
  - Wesleyan/Armenian belief in a spiritual work which happens after salvation, but prior to us arriving in heaven (glorification)

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
- Sanctification
  - Wesleyan/Armenian belief in a spiritual work which happens after salvation, but prior to us arriving in heaven (glorification)
  - It is “setting apart”
    - Jesus sanctifies His saints for His Kingdom’s purpose





# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived



# Our theology tells us about the journey

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



# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
  - Sanctification is not the destination
  - Sanctification is a vehicle for the journey

# Our theology tells us about the journey

- We have not yet arrived
  - Sanctification is not the destination
  - Sanctification is a vehicle for the journey
    - Pride will tell us that it says everything about us
    - Our theology tells us it says everything about Jesus

# 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

# Stewardship and Sanctification

- They walk hand in hand
- 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

# Sanctification...

- “For this is the will of God, your sanctification...”  
– 1 Thessalonians 4:3



# Sanctification...

- “For this is the will of God, your sanctification...”
  - 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.*”

# Where the rain begins...

- Holy Spirit, rain down

# Where the rain begins...

- Holy Spirit, rain down
- Over and over in Scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as rain or as a river

# Where the rain begins...

- Holy Spirit, rain down
- Over and over in Scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as rain or as a river
- Do we want that rain to interrupt our day?

# Where the rain begins...

- Holy Spirit, rain down
- Over and over in Scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as rain or as a river
- Do we want that rain to interrupt our day?
- Do we want Him to have it all?



# Where the rain begins...

- Holy Spirit, rain down
- Over and over in Scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as rain or as a river
- Do we want that rain to interrupt our day?
- Do we want Him to have it all?
- Do we want to yield all of us to whatever He has for us?

# Sanctification is part of the journey

- It's mentioned in both Old and New Testaments

# Sanctification is part of the journey

- It's mentioned in both Old and New Testaments
- It's part of our Theology

# Sanctification is part of the journey

- It's mentioned in both Old and New Testaments
- It's part of our Theology
- It's part of our experience

# Sanctification is part of the journey

- It's mentioned in both Old and New Testaments
- It's part of our Theology
- It's part of our experience
- It's part of God's plan for His people
  - But He “sets apart” that which is prepared for Him
  - Received salvation

# Sanctification is part of the journey

- It's mentioned in both Old and New Testaments
- It's part of our Theology
- It's part of our experience
- It's part of God's plan for His people
  - But He “sets apart” that which is prepared for Him
  - Received salvation
  - Seek more of Him and less of self

# Sanctification is part of the journey

- It's mentioned in both Old and New Testaments
- It's part of our Theology
- It's part of our experience
- It's part of God's plan for His people
  - But He “sets apart” that which is prepared for Him
  - Received salvation
  - Seek more of Him and less of self
  - Stewards of ourselves – not owners