



## Thy Kingdom Come

As we approach the advent of the New Year and the advent of a great *avatar*, a great descent of Divinity, who proclaimed: “Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven” and “What availeth it a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?” He proclaimed the secondaryness of all things in comparison to the attaining of God, the attainment of the great Goal, which is the fulfilment of the central purpose of life.

His greatest commandment was to adore God with all your heart, with all your mind, with your entire being. Let your life be whole-souled devotion to God – *para-bhakti*. He not only preached this teaching, but He also lived this teaching. He was perpetually and continuously engaged in doing good, helping others, relieving suffering. At the same time, inwardly He was permanently rooted in God, inwardly permanently in a state of God-communion. He literally lived, moved and had His being in God.

In Him we find the very embodiment of Gita *jnana* and the Gita *yoga*, “Be rooted in God, and do good to your fellow beings”. He taught this and said that the secret of this is to always be in a state of prayer within. Prayer is a state of being connected in spirit with God inwardly. Lord Jesus taught us this yoga of God-oriented living in the midst of activity. And He Himself personified this state – the outer state of constantly doing good and the inner state of constantly being rooted in God through prayer, remembrance and dedication.

Even as the rivers keep on flowing towards the ocean, your antah-chetna, your inner spiritual consciousness, is in a state of constant flow towards the source and origin of its being. Inwardly your life is God-oriented. It is a continuous, unbroken flow towards God unceasingly. Your real being belongs to God, ever keep on moving towards God through remembrance and prayer.

He taught His disciples to pray. “May your kingdom come into my heart! May you reign over my heart! Establish your kingdom here. May you be the monarch of my heart and not gross passions, selfishness, worldliness, or desire! Rule over me. Rule over my life. Be my centre. May You alone, Your divinity, Your wisdom, Your light prevail and not my ego! Let me thus be filled with Thee, filled with Divinity.”

Our Father who art in the heaven; Hallowed by Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil.

May God Bless You All! May Gurudev Bless You All!

■ *Swami Chidananda*