

Chapter 24

Storing Spirit Wisdom in Human Vessels

“When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Most likely, the above saying was put into the mouth of Jesus after his death by disciples who were experiencing its meaning. What were they experiencing? What did this saying mean to them?

First of all, what does the saying mean by “gathered together in my name”? Surely this means something more than calling out “Jesus” or “Jesus, the Christ” or “Jesus Christ” or still more theological words. Gathering in this name has to mean something more than saying words. The word “name” in biblical lore means “nature” or “essence.” So we might ask what is the “essence” in which these two or three are asked to gather? The answer is: “being the Awed Ones.” And this means being true to themselves as biological beings in space/time who are also ramps from their space/time coordinates to the Eternal Awesomeness.

When you or I and one or two other persons gather in this way, then Jesus, understood as the Christ, is bodily there in the midst of us. Christ is there because we two or three are Christ to one another. We are the Body of Christ. We are the living embodiment of the resurrection of Jesus. We are each Jesus in living relationship to one another.

This saying also hints that we cannot be Christians by ourselves. We have to meet with one or two or five or twelve other persons. We have to meet with them daily or at least weekly. Monthly will not do. We cannot be Christians in all the aspects of our lives if we only meet as the Body of Christ once a month.

This book has been written to assist circles of people who wish to be the Body of Christ in a completely serious manner. If this book is studied with two or three or five or twelve other persons who are serious about growing up into the full stature of their authentic humanity, then this book is meeting the purpose for which it was written.

This book may help clarify someone’s theology. It may help open up the message of the Bible and the wonder of the Christian heritage. It may challenge some demons and deliver someone to their Trust, Love, and Freedom. But if that someone does not meet weekly with other such persons, this book will fail to do what it is intended to do.

This book is a guide for growing up as Christians in our essential humanity. It might assist Buddhists and others as well, for essential humanity is not limited to Christians. But this book contains Spirit wisdom crafted for Christian groups. Its purpose is to assist Christian groups to become human vessels for the Spirit wisdom pointed to in this book and pointed to by the great words of the Christian heritage.

But the words of the Christian heritage, including all the insights of this book, cannot be stored in a library. The core insights of this book are about authentic states of Being, and these states of Being have to be stored in human vessels. The words of this book and the charts of this book are useless if they are no more than furnishings in the minds of some individual thinkers. Theological clarity is important, but it is only important if it is part of actually living these primal states of Trust, Love, and Freedom.

These three grand words point to core realizations of our inner being. They point to everyday manifestations of these primal inward states in our outward responding to the Wholeness of Reality.

So if we, the readers and writers of the words of this book, are not meeting weekly with others in this "name," we are still lost in our minds. We have only acquired a few more mental pieces to move around in our interior chess game.

This book is written to assist us to put our bodies into the master game of the cosmos. And this game begins by meeting once a week or more often with others who play the game of life by being the Body of Christ. It is true that the Body of Christ is a game to be played in every moment of our living, not just when meeting with others who are in this game. But if we are not meeting with others, we are not in the game.

And if we are not meeting with others, we are closing ourselves off from the journey of Spirit that constitutes this game. Christ is present in the brother or sister with whom we meet. We meet together in order to meet with Christ. Why would we ever think we can be Christ if we don't meet with Christ and thereby continue becoming more aware of what being Christ means?

If we are not going to be Christ, perhaps we should be Buddha or be some other symbolization that points to our essential nature as a ramp from here to Eternity. If we are going to be Buddha, then we need to meet weekly with others who play the Buddha game.

I have written this book as a call to Christian-identified people and to people who might opt to be Christian identified. I do not intend this to be a call to bigotry or to any sort of contempt for other religious practices. But I do intend to promote Christian practice. I intend to make this call to be the Body of Christ plausible to the most aware persons of our era.

And this call calls for wholeheartedness. Being the Body of Christ cannot be a minor sideline of religious piddling alongside the more important things of our lives. Being the Body of Christ is the whole game. It is the context for everything else. If it is not, it is not being the Body of Christ.

Being the Body of Christ is an alternative to being the body of despair. In truth, being the Body of Christ is a continual dying to the body of despair in which we also participate – dying in order to be resurrected to an aliveness beyond despair, beyond malice, beyond bondage, beyond death, beyond life, beyond all definitions. The resurrected life is the triune experience: life with the Awesome, life in Awe, life as a member of the Awed Ones in history.

Such life does not take place in some far off place or future. Such life takes place here and now, and it takes place in human vessels. These human vessels may own books and read books and write books, but the Spirit wisdom to which they point is not stored in these books, or in whole libraries of books, but in the human vessels themselves.