

The Way of the Lord

31. The Lordship of Jesus Requires Responsive Action

The Newer Testament overflows with examples of the love of Jesus *taking action* to meet very real needs. Jesus healed the sick, blessed the children, fed the hungry, cast out demons. Jesus was showing His followers by His *actions* what Kingdom living looks like! He was putting into action how *doing good* is a loving response to others. He was fulfilling the Proverb which says, “*Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act*” (Proverbs 3:27).

If Jesus is to be LORD of all you have and do, then this verse is a guiding principle on which to base *your* actions. Just don't fall into the pharisaic trap of reacting to God's opportunities for you as though they were a burdensome obligation. Instead, let's look at how to respond with a grateful and joyful heart when the Holy Spirit prompts you to take action.

We mentioned in Segment 27 that people generally have interpersonal tension in any of 4 areas: *goals, values, methods, or facts*. But these four areas don't have to create tension either toward God or with other people. Rather, they're a sequence of steps in which you joyfully serve our Lord's purposes as His beloved disciple.

First, you need to establish *noble goals* for which our Lord would commend you, and from which He would receive glory. When you cherish goals that please our Lord and fulfill His will for you, you persevere in accomplishing them because you *love Him*. For example, this primary goal is noble indeed:

- “Father, whatever I do in life, I want it to glorify Your Name.”
- A goal for you regarding your spouse, family or a close friend is noble as well: “As long as I live, I want you to experience the ever-increasing love of Christ through me.”

After you establish goals which you know are acceptable to your Lord, you need to develop *Christ-like values*. Values are the character qualities of Jesus which enable you to meet your goals. Consider these values which deepen your character in Jesus as LORD when *His* purposes become *your* highest purpose:

- “I will overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of my testimony; I will not love my life so much as to shrink from death” (Revelation 12:11).
- “As His beloved slave, I will serve my Lord by denying myself and taking up my cross daily and following Him” (Luke 9:23).
- “I will do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than myself. I will first look to their interests and needs” (Philippians 2:3,4).
- “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus as my LORD, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:8).

Your *Bible-based methods* emanate from the values that define your character. Methods describe how you intend to meet your goals:

- “If I speak, I will do it as one speaking the very words of God. If I serve, I will do it

with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever” (1 Peter 4:11).

- “Whatever I do, I will work at it with all my heart, as working for the LORD, not for men, since I know that I will receive an inheritance from the LORD as a reward. It is the LORD Christ I serve!” (Colossians 3:23,24).

Noble goals, Christ-like values, and Bible-based methods reveal *why* you do what you do. Remember, our Father looks at your heart. He sees the motives behind your actions. Your *actions* will reveal several things about you: whether or not your *goals* are noble enough for our Lord to receive glory through you; whether or not your *values*—your character qualities—reflect Jesus; whether or not your *methods* show the wisdom that’s gained as you apply God’s Word to your way of doing things.

The goals, values, and methods in your life that befit the LORDSHIP of Jesus must begin *at home*. If Jesus is to be first in your life, you need to intentionally give Him first priority at the start of each day. Begin each morning allowing sufficient, undistracted time to spend with Him in prayer and in His Word. That’s how you’ll receive His guidance for that day. Throughout the day, recognize that the people you meet are potential *divine encounters*. You may have the opportunity to practice treating them as more important than yourself, and looking to their interests and needs. Mike and I pray before we leave home, asking our Father for “God sightings” in which we can be our Lord’s blessing to others.

Your goals, values and methods are a mutual endeavor that begin in your home. If you have a family or live with others, purposefully use your home life to reflect the love of Jesus to each other. Make time to mutually develop the character of Jesus and seek His guidance together. Keep this in mind: your *actions* reveal the *Christ-likeness* of your goals, values and methods as you walk in the way of the Lord.

For Further Study

- Book: Christian Halakhahs, p. 14: *Steps In Establishing Halakhahs*
- Lifebytes 47 thru 50: *Marriage As A Covenant Lifestyle*
- Lifebyte 30. *Your Home: Our Father's Primary Place For Combating Your Sin Nature*

Each is a free download on our website: <restorationministries.org>