

The Way of the Lord

42. Mutually Living With Jesus As Lord (Part 1)

We've already discussed several key parts of the Bible which Roman Catholicism altered or eliminated, and some of the truths which the Protestant Reformers restored and *failed* to restore. It's *not* that the Roman Catholic councils *or* Protestant Reformers had bad intentions! But both the *organizational system of clergy domination* as well as *widespread anti-Semitism within Christendom* kept them from restoring the Hebraic foundations on which the first followers of Jesus built their faith practices.

Be clear on this. None of us can offer excuses to our heavenly Father based on what *others* have determined you should believe or neglect in God's Word. You and those close to you must purpose as your *personal and collective responsibility* to begin living with Jesus as LORD of your life and keeping all that His Word commands. Our Lord has purposed that you leave spiritual infancy behind and become *mature in Him*, fully equipped to serve Him in Kingdom living (Hebrews 5:12-14). That means *turning away from* depending on clergy to pre-digest God's Word for you, and purposing to *wholeheartedly live* in a way that represents Jesus as His Word and His Spirit have made clear.

We've adapted a research model from years ago to show you a scale of how people are *hindered* from living for Jesus as LORD. You'll notice that wholeheartedness *decreases* dramatically as people *disregard intimacy with Jesus* and focus instead on themselves.

- 1. *Follow Jesus as LORD*

These hunger to please their Lord out of grateful love and appreciation, and are willing to pay any cost to obey Him. (Colossians 1:10-12)

- 2. *One Foot in the World*

These people would like to live with Jesus as their Lord, but are deterred by life's worries, and the desire for riches and pleasures. (Luke 8:14)

- 3. *Neither First Nor Last*

These *think* about following Jesus as Lord, but usually don't because they're overly concerned with what everyone else is doing. (Proverbs 25:29; John 9:20-22)

- 4. *Need Institutional Endorsement*

These people look for the opinion of noted religious leaders before considering anything new. (John 7:25-27)

- 5. *Stuck in Cement*

These will never change, as they have no trust in what the Holy Spirit *would* do if they humbly asked Him. (Sadly, this group represents a large portion of religious leaders who *resist* the Spirit, and are easily threatened when someone proposes change (Mark 7:6). Jesus frequently encountered resistant religious authorities and called them "Hypocrites!")

We think you get the picture. If you're to *collectively* help one another live with Jesus as Lord of your lives, you need to pursue this wholeheartedly as a lifestyle. This means coming alongside one another to love and build up each other in obedient trust. The clergy system will only stand in your way, keeping you spiritually immature. If you wait for *them* to teach the whole truth, you'll get stuck in cement yourselves! And, if you *are* endlessly waiting for religious leaders to adopt the LORDship

of Jesus in your midst, you may find yourselves discrediting and nullifying the work of the Spirit of Christ.

This whole series thus far has shown you the *Way of the Lord* and how to live in His Lordship. If you're in agreement with it, you're now *collectively* responsible to *do* something about it. We've described the passive aggressive symptoms in your brain to help you *mutually* rid yourselves of the strongholds and toxic memories that are holding your minds captive. We also exposed how Revisionists brought about the blasphemous alterations and eliminations to God's Word that may be keeping *each* of you from serving our Lord Jesus with all your heart and soul.

If you're disturbed by the idea of living as *slaves of Lord Jesus*, remember that He Himself took the form of a *slave (doulos) to His Father's will* even to the point of sacrificial, obedient death! (Philippians 2:7) Now is the time for you to *mutually* discover what's hindering each of you from living as our Lord's beloved slave. You do that by prayerfully *seeking His guidance* and *relying on His spiritual power*.

Living with Jesus as LORD of your lives comes from the *love-based motivations* of your hearts. *What* you do is not as important as *why* you do it. If *LOVE for Jesus* and for *one another* is your heart motive, then each of you will yearn to live according to what pleases your Lord. Your heart motives and the actions they produce in the daily life of *each* of you will be the authentic measure of your love and obedience to Jesus as LORD of your life. If Jesus *is* your Lord, He is able to command you as *His own beloved possession*. You are privileged to be at His disposal to *do His will*. If this *isn't* how you see yourselves, find out what's hindering you!

Moses understood how essential it was for God to be *with him*. It was God Who both guided the Israelites through the desert, and cared for their every need. Moses pleaded with God, "*If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here*" (Exodus 33:15). The man God sent to deliver the Israelites wasn't going to *budge* without God going with them. And that's the same resolve we each need today about *having His guidance* and *following through* with it.

Back in Segment 30 we discussed how critical it is to receive our Lord's direction. Jesus promises to be wherever two or three are seeking to do His will (Matthew 18:20). And when you've discerned His guidance, He provides the power of His Spirit in you to accomplish His will. This is important, so it bears repeating. Our Lord has many ways to *reveal His will* to you:

- He may use a Bible passage;
- or spiritual gifts of prophecy, exhortation, wisdom or knowledge.
- He may use dreams or visions;
- You may hear a still, small voice within you;
- A thought may come to you that you sense is God revealing His will to you.

If Jesus is LORD of your life, when you're asked why you've made a key decision, you should be able to relate one or more ways in which He commanded you. The trail should lead to His LORDship over you. How can you know if you as a family or fellowship family are living with Jesus commanding your life as your LORD? You're mutually persistent in seeking His guidance and obeying it no matter what it costs you. That's one of the best assurances you have! In our next segment you'll learn more about your *shared* pursuit of Jesus as Lord of your lives.

For Further Study

- Hebraic Article: *Mutually Growing Christ-like Relationships*
- Lifebyte 34. *The Abrahamic Covenant, Groundwork For The Hebraic Restoration*

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