

**October 29, 2011**  
**The Disregarded Call to Be Our LORD's Slaves**

We've completed what for now is the last of our [Way of the Lord](#) series on the Lordship of Jesus. We have no further revelation from the Spirit of anything more He wants us to write about this. As we prayed about and worked on these segments about His LORDship, the Spirit filled us with a deeper understanding of our biblical role as *slaves* of Jesus — *His precious possession purchased by His blood* (Acts 20:28). Obviously this role in no way nullifies the joyous privilege of being His friend, His brother or sister, His sheep or any other relational facet of being "IN Christ." But the *neglect* of what His LORDship means as those who are called to do only the will of our Father and have only the mind of Christ's perspective has been sorely overlooked within the realm of ME-centered contemporary Christianity.

Given that the word *doulos* (slave) or its variants is used over 200 times in the Newer Testament, that facet of our living to *serve Him alone* is non-optional! In fact, our loving trust in Jesus through our *obedience* authenticates the reality of knowing Him as LORD of our lives. Jesus did *only* His Father's will (John 5:19), and NOTHING less is expected of us in whom His Spirit abides if we claim to belong to Him (John 14:21). As the saying goes for those who know Jesus as their LORD, "God's Will: Nothing More, Nothing Less, Nothing Else!"

In a number of the recent *Way of the Lord* video segments we discussed the major hindrances to living in the Lordship of Jesus. In the last three segments (42-44), ***Mutually Living With Jesus a Lord***, we expose two more hindrances that seem so obvious because they reflect the SELF-idolatry and individualist absorption that have emerged so radically in the past decade.

- The first is the stubborn resistance among so many to genuinely love our Lord and those in their relational realm **with a sacrificial love that sets SELF aside**. So many perceive that their acts of kindness emanate from love, but in reality they're stroking their own sense of self-worth. Ask yourself this: Do *you* use your discretionary time or resources at ***your own convenience***, but get irritated or agitated when your "kind acts" are INconvenient for you at the point of **someone else's need**? Are you unwilling to be poured out by the Spirit until others can experience the love of Jesus ***through you*** — especially the very ones who live under your own roof?

**What characterizes an intimate, love-based relationship?**

- Whether it's with Lord Jesus or with another person, you intentionally look for ways to please the one you love.
- When you discover you have a behavior or attitude that hurts the one you love, you readily stop it (Galatians 5:13).
- When you love someone, you openly show your affection in ways that uplift their dignity and worth (1 Thessalonians 2:7,8).
- They realize that you honor them above yourself (Romans 12:10).
- Your love for them, especially the love of Jesus in you for them, magnifies their joy and

peace in your relationship (Romans 14:17).

- And being loved by you makes them feel they're precious to you (1 Peter 1:22).

Jesus admonished a man of means who did a "kind act" by inviting Him to lunch. The other guests were also prominent religious leaders, who jostled one another for seats of honor. After soundly rebuking them, Jesus then addressed the host, pointedly calling this Pharisee to *reevalute his motives*: The man knew he'd be commended by these men of influence and probably invited to their homes as well. But that would be his only reward. The INconvenient but *genuinely loving* action would be to invite the poor, the blind, the lame — those who in no way could reciprocate but would be abundantly grateful for the honor and love shown them. THIS would be a righteous invitation that would garner heavenly praise (Luke 14:1-15; see also Matthew 25:31-40).

Consider this: You may be *resisting* your LORD's will by **refusing to cherish** the very ones Father put in your life to teach *you* the love of Christ. Out of the love that only the LORDship of Jesus in you can give, you're to lay everything of yourself down on behalf of the person you love. But *SELF-pursuit* and *ego-building priorities* will prevent this seed of love from germinating and bearing fruit.

- The second hindrance is that many perceive themselves to be "caring" when in fact they've trapped themselves in a **codependent relationship** that robs them of peace and joy. They complain to others about the dysfunction, but refuse to take the biblical steps to resolve the tension, even if it means discontinuing the relationship until repentance takes place (see Segment 43). Sadly, the ongoing emotional tension deprives them of the capacity to fully meet the emotional needs of those who have a right to their love. Codependent relationships are pervasive among so many Christians, yet their very cooperation in this imprisonment brings down His Name. Does this grieve your heart as it does ours?

***"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit,  
nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.  
Every tree that does not bear good fruit  
is cut down and thrown into the fire.  
So then, you will know them by their fruits"  
(Matthew 7:18-20; see also Luke 3:9).***

Through the Hebraic foundations of love-grounded, obedient trust in Jesus as LORD and in the truth of His Word, our Father purposes for you to live a fruitful life as His Son's beloved slave, His blood-bought possession (Ephesians 1:13,14). A good number of you have earnestly asked our Father if He really did recruit us to share the Hebraic foundations. Assured by Him that He commanded us to share these truths, you're prayerfully using the materials He has used us to produce, seeking the changes to your way of life that line up with His will. As a result, you're living by His Spirit at work in you as a responsive and loving slave of the Lord Jesus, looking for opportunities to extend

His Kingdom by word and deed.

**Consequently, when we have contact with you, our conversations center on how you can put these truths into practice in your own life and that of your family and fellowship family. You've "taken ownership" by sharing these truths with others through your own words and testimonies as Father has prepared in advance particular encounters and situations (Ephesians 2:8-10).** These conversations encourage our hearts!

But we want to voice concern for those of you who *haven't* confirmed that these truths have come from our Father. In conversations with you, we can tell that you go through the materials like reading a newspaper; little or nothing of Christ is changed in your life, nor is anyone else helped by you as His emissary.

### **How do we discern the difference?**

Those who recognize our Lord's hand in these truths are burdened in their heart for others. They're describing to us real life encounters and trying to find a way to help the people around them.

The second group, for whom these materials are merely optional and informational, however, contact us only about their *own personal problems*. They have no desire to live with Jesus as Lord of their lives, nor do they really care if anyone else has a saving relationship with Jesus or is headed down the broad road to destruction. We sense that Father is closing the door for the two of us to try to help this second group. Rather, He wants us to focus on coming alongside those who hunger to serve Jesus as their Lord and Master, gratefully doing Father's will.

So if you find that we can no longer help you, it's because by your own admission Jesus *isn't* Lord of your life. Only you can humble yourself to turn from your own priorities — those of the world and its ruler (see Ephesians 2:1,2) — and cry out for the forgiveness and cleansing that His Lordship brings (1 John 1:5-7). We encourage you to go through the videos on His Lordship again, appropriating by His Spirit what a privilege it is to serve the LORD of the universe as His beloved slave, reaching out to others in His name as His hands and heart.

Lastly, we'd appreciate your prayers more than ever. Mike had two appointments at the VA hospital this past week which at this time are leading to two different operations, along with some tests for a possible tumor on his pituitary gland. So for the time being we're going to concentrate on where we believe the Lord can bear the most fruit through us.

Trusting in His faithfulness in the midst of trials,  
**Mike & Sue**