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Are You Serious?

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”**

There once was a lady at the last game of the World Series dressed in black and who was sitting by herself with an empty seat next to her. Finally someone close by asked her who the other seat that was next to her was for. She said it was for her husband. They asked “Well, where is he? He’s already missed half the game.” The lady simply responded with “He’s dead.” Caught off guard, they responded hesitantly, “Then why didn’t you give the ticket to a friend or relative?” She responded “Because, they’re at his funeral.”

Dedication.....

Commitment....

I’ve seen people dedicated to ball teams, be it professional, college or even high school. Dedicated to their favorite race car driver, or even to their church and pastor.

But my question is this, how dedicated are you to God?

We are told to take up our cross daily. Think about that.

What’s your level of commitment? Does your commitment to God stop when it interrupts your lifestyle? Does your commitment to God stop when it affects what your family or friends think of you? Does your commitment to God stop when it affects your promotion at work? Does your commitment to God stop for any reason at all or do you continue steadfast regardless of the outcome?

Again, I’m not asking what your commitment level is to your church or to your pastor. I’m asking, what it is your level of commitment to God?

And then we have to ask ourselves just what our attitude is in the midst of that commitment? Is it that of

obeying in joy? Or do you continue on grudgingly? We live in a generation that likes to focus on the promises of God and not the commands of God.

Many love to quote "... and all these things shall be added" while their lifestyles tend to skip over the "Seek ye first the kingdom..."

Many seek the furtherance of the Kingdom only at the furtherance of their ego. Others will seek it only in the ease of their schedule. And quite often both of these can be the source of complaining and dissension when things don't go our way.

Doing things for recognition is actually the process of stealing glory from God.

And call it what you want, but that's real close to Satanism. Trying to steal glory from God. Seeking praise instead of giving it.

We must remember that we're all servants. No one is more important than the other.

If by chance you hold a "higher position," it should only remind you of the fact that you will be judged more strictly.

James 3:1

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

We should have the same humility in serving, as our Lord and Savior did.

Philippians 2:5-8

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

Our Savior set the example for all. Serve humbly. Take up your cross.

And remember, complaining doesn't change your circumstances, it only worsens your attitude. And attitudes are contagious. Is yours worth catching?

We need to be faithful in the small things from the heart; to be a true servant, and He will take care of the rest. Again, faithful to God, not man.

Are you serious about serving God? If your answer is yes, then my next question is ... Can others tell?

What's the proof? Are you living the life with an attitude of demanding things be done your way? Or can others see the humility of Yeshua in you? If being a follower of Yeshua was against the law, would there be enough evidence to convict you? Does your commitment show?

Have you ever watched people who are wanting to go swimming but the water is really cold. I have found that there is basically three types of people when it comes to getting into cold water.

First we have the “creepers,” those who creep into the water as gently as possible. But the deeper they go, the harder it gets. Then we have the “swayers.” These are the ones who set on the side of the pool just swaying their legs side to side in the water. They say they’re going to get in but they get upset if you even get their hair wet. Then lastly, we have the “divers,” those who dive right in regardless of the temperature. They know they want to go swimming, and that’s it.

Even at that moment when they’re in mid air and all time seems to stop, everything in them is screaming “What did you just do?!” It’s too late, because they know that they are past that point of no return. They put themselves in the position where there is no turning back. It’s all or nothing.

How committed are you to the Maker of the universe? Do you wake up every morning making the decision to take up your cross and follow Him? How serious are you? Does it show?

Do you creep into it slowly, hoping to get on the cross? Or do you set on the side just feeling things out? Saying you have the intention of actually getting on the cross, but just ... waiting for the right time. Or do you jump in because you know that is our call? Though everything around you and in you is screaming “don’t do it!” It makes no matter. You’re committed.

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

We pray you have been blessed by this message.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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