

CHANGES HAVE TO BE MADE

(Thoughts from Henry Blackaby and Claude King's "Experiencing God" Study)

Luke 14:26-33

Introduction: It is no secret, especially to any pastor or church leader, that around 20% of a church family do most of the work within the church and the other 80% just come and go but cannot be depended upon and certainly do not volunteer to help out in any situation that might require very much time or effort. However if those 80% were asked if they were saved and loved the Lord, they would all say "yes" to both questions. Just why is it that the majority of Christians are not willing to make changes in their lives to become or do what the Lord has in mind for them?

I. THE FIRST STEP IN DOING WHAT GOD WANTS IS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS

1. The very first thing a person must do in doing what God wants is to become one of His Children and that happens when one believes with all his/her heart in God's Son, Jesus Christ, turning his/her self's total existence over to Jesus. This is done through the believer having FAITH in what God has said and what Jesus has done and will do.
 - Choosing to do this is considered being born into the Kingdom of God, thus becoming a Child of God, a Christian.
2. This first step changes the life of only the one taking it, the one believing in Jesus Christ. A decision was made and it was done! God had done all beforehand and believing and trusting was "all" the person had to do, but to do in all sincerity.

II. THE NEXT STEP IN DOING WHAT GOD WANTS REQUIRES CHANGES TO BE MADE

1. This step is the one the 80% of church members don't want to do or take.
2. God has plans for everyone's life and to live, to become, to do what God has in mind requires changes, adjustments to be made and your adjustments and obedience to God's plans for you can be costly to you those who are a part of your life.
3. To know what God wants you to do requires adjusting your life and as you adjust your life, God will reveal more and more of His will to you and the more and more His will is revealed, the more obedience is needed. To do God's will, you have to make some changes.
Remember these men?
 - Noah had to change his life in order to build the ark.
 - Abram (Abraham) had to leave Haran (home country) to become the father of a nation in Canaan.
 - Moses had to leave sheep herding in order to go bring Israel out of captivity in Egypt.
 - David had to leave his family and sheep herding to become Israel's king.
 - Amos had to leave tending Sycamore trees to become God prophet to Israel.
 - Jonah had to leave his home and be swallowed by a large fish in order to preach in Nineveh

- Peter, Andrew, James and John left their family fishing business in order to follow Jesus and become His disciples.
 - Matthew had to leave his tax collecting business to follow Jesus.
 - Saul (Paul) had to make a complete change in his doctrine and life in order to become God's missionary to the Gentiles.
4. Throughout Christian history men and women have had to make enormous changes, leaving their families, their countries, drop prejudices, change preferences, leave behind ideals and desires, everything had to be yielded and adjusted in order to be obedient to what God wanted them to do.
- Talk to just about any pastor and he will tell you that he was going in another direction when God called him to the pulpit and listen to the changes he and his family had to make.
 - To do what God has for you to do requires changes.
 - That is why most Church members, most Christians are not doing what God wants them to do! They have refused to make the necessary changes.

III. THE GREATEST PROBLEM IN OBEYING GOD IS IN MAKING THE CHANGES

1. "I can do God's will and not have to make any major adjustments or changes" some think.
 - What kind of changes, adjustments did Jesus make? What did Jesus give up in order to bring salvation to us?
2. What did Jesus say one would have to give up in order to be one of His disciples?
 - Major adjustments in one's life.
3. Until a person is ready to make any and all adjustments required to do what God wants, that person will be of little use to God.
 - Most people want to skip adjustments and go from becoming a Christian to having the rewards of being a Christian.
 - The only way to follow Jesus as He requires is to make the adjustments in life to whatever it takes to do God's will.
4. A rich, young ruler came to Jesus and asked what he would have to do to become a disciple of Jesus (*Luke 18:18-27*). Jesus told him that money was in the way to go give it all away. As you remember, the young man went away in sadness for he didn't want to make that kind of adjustment. He wanted the things of God but he refused to make the necessary adjustment to be able to do what God wanted.
5. Elisha heard God's call and he made the necessary adjustment. He left his family and livelihood, burning his farm equipment and killing his oxen, cooking the meat and giving it to the nearby community of people. He had no plans of turning back. He made the adjustments to do what God wanted him to do.

CONCLUSION:

1. God has His will for every single Christian. It is not the same for every person, but He has something that only each Christian can do that nobody else can.
2. God has something that only YOU can do. Do you know what it is? Do you want to know?
Will you make the necessary changes to do what God wants you to do?
3. To do God's will, will require adjustments and changes in your life.
4. Be obedient to God's will and He will show you what He wants you to do for Him.
5. Are you part of the 80% of the Church family who do practically nothing for God or are you a part of the 20% who do most of the work within your Church?
6. What if every Christian had YOUR record of service to the Lord Jesus?
7. What changes in your life have you made for the Lord Jesus?