

OBEDIENCE DEMANDS CHANGE

Luke 14:33

Introduction: Most Christians have wanted God to do something "great" with them. Have you ever wanted, even asked God to give you something "big" to do for Him? Have you always obeyed God? Jesus' declaration in the text really gives one something to think about. What He demands in order to be a disciple of His is life changing. We want to be obedient, but being obedient causes us to have to make changes and we are hesitant to make changes. Elisha (Old Testament) wanted to be obedient to what God wanted him to do, so he killed his oxen, burnt his plows and made drastic changes in his life style. So, how obedient do you want to be to God?

I. TO OBEY GOD, ONE MUST MAKE SOME CHANGES

1. Sometimes in order to do what God wants one to do, there must be changes in one's job, in one's home life/style, in one's finances, sometimes there will be less income than one wanted.
2. Sometimes in order to do what God wants one to do, there must be changes within one's family, with his/her friends, and people who were once his/her enemies, must now become friends.
3. Sometimes in order to do what God wants one to do, there must be changes in the way one thinks, in one's prejudices, in one's vocabulary, even one's language.
4. Sometimes in order to do what God wants one to do, there must be changes in commitment to one's family, one's Church, one's job, one's plans for his/her future.
5. Sometimes in order to do what God wants one to do, there must be changes in how one gives, prays and serves.
6. Sometimes in order to do what God wants one to do, there must be change in what one believes about God.
- 7.. Some examples of people who made changes in order to obey God are: Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Amos and Jonah.
8. The most difficult part of obeying God are the adjustments He requires.

II. OBEYING GOD IS COSTLY

1. Obeying God is costly to YOU.
 - God's ways and thoughts are not ours and He will not change, therefore WE must.
 - Remember the rich young ruler who wanted to do what God wanted, but he refused to make the changes Jesus told him to make.
 - Most of Jesus' followers left Him after they found out that it would be "costly" to continue to be a true follower, a real disciple.
 - Most people refuse to make the changes or to accept the cost of following Jesus.

2. Obeying God is costly to OTHERS.
 - The obedience of Moses cost Israel a lot of suffering.
 - Paul's obedience to God cost some of his friends to be jailed.
 - What about YOU and your family. What has it cost THEM for you to be obedient to God?

III. TO OBEY IS TO TOTALLY RELY UPON GOD FOR EVERYTHING

1. When doing what God wants, our ways and attitudes won't work, all must be God's way.
2. So, can God be trusted to provide all that one will need to do whatever it is that God wants?
 - What about one's finances?
 - What about the welfare of one's family?
 - What about meeting daily needs?
 - What about one's future?
3. Has God ever shown Himself to be unreliable, undependable, uncaring, unresponsive?

CONCLUSION:

1. Read the text again.
2. Christian, do you really want to obey God? Do you really want to do what He wants you to do?
3. What changes has God already asked you to make in your life?
4. Have you been obedient and made those changes? Are you going to?
5. If you want to obey God, if you really want to be a "disciple" of Jesus, then you are going to have to make some changes.