



## Are You Serious?

Today we want to talk about getting serious in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. So let's start off with Luke 9:23.

[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."

He said to follow Him. Not just choose Him one time, and that's it. No. He said to follow Him. That's a daily thing.

Whether you agree or disagree with our understanding of keeping the Torah, the question remains, are you serious in with your relationship with our heavenly Father?

We're all going to be judged on our deeds. That which we do.

[Jer. 17:10](#) "I YHWH search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve."

[James 2:20](#) You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

And then verse 24.

[24](#) You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.

To understand what “deed’s” James is talking about, please see our teaching “What is Sin?”

Now, you can say “Well, I’ve done this.” or “I’ve done that.” That’s great. But that doesn’t guarantee your salvation. If you’re of the mindset of “Once saved, always saved.” I have to let you know that I disagree with that mindset.

No one is saved until it’s all over. That’s why we are to remain faithful. If you don’t remain faithful, there will be consequences.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

This is even mentioned in Ezekiel.

Ezek. 18:21 “But if a wicked man turns away from all the sins he has committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, he will surely live; he will not die. 22 None of the offenses he has committed will be remembered against him. Because of the righteous things he has done, he will live. 23 Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign YHWH. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?”

Ezek. 18:24 “But if a righteous man turns from his righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness he is guilty of and because of the sins he has committed, he will die.

I remember when I was a pastor I heard the story of a lady at the last game of the World Series dressed in black and was sitting by herself with an empty seat next to her. In the middle of the game someone close by asked her who the other seat was for. She said it was for her husband. They asked her where he was since he's already missed half the game. The lady simply responded with "He's dead." Caught off guard, they said "I'm sorry." but then asked why she didn't give the ticket to a friend or relative. She responded with "Because they're at his funeral."

Dedication..... Commitment....

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

But my question is, how dedicated are you to our Heavenly Father? Not to a certain teacher, but to our Heavenly Father. We're told to take up our cross daily and follow HIM. Think about that. Where is your commitment to Him?

As I've said before, YHWH is far more concerned about your character than He is your comfort. Why? Because your commitment will only go as far as your character will allow.

What's your level of commitment? Does your commitment to Him stop when it interrupts your lifestyle? Does your commitment to Him stop when it affects what your family or friends think of you? Does your commitment to Him stop when it affects your promotion at work? Does your commitment to Him stop for any reason at all or do you continue steadfast regardless of the outcome? Where does "Take up your cross" stop for you?

We then have to ask ourselves what our attitude is in the midst of that commitment? Is it an attitude of joy? Or do you continue grudgingly? We live in a generation that likes to focus on the promises of God but rarely on 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 advancement 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 their way.

Doing things for recognition is actually the process of stealing glory from YHWH. Let me say that again. Doing things for recognition is actually the process of stealing glory from YHWH.

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

We can't forget we're all servants. No one is more important than the other.

Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable **your servants** to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Rom. 1:1 Paul, **a servant** of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God —

And 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 <sup>6</sup> who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the

very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.<sup>8</sup> 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. So we are to serve humbly. Take up our cross daily and follow His example.

And remember, complaining doesn't change your circumstances, it only worsens your attitude. Let me say that again. Complaining doesn't change your circumstances. It only worsens your attitude. And attitudes are contagious. So 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 YHWH, not man.

Are you serious about serving YHWH? If your answer is yes, then my next question is “Can others tell?” It's a fair question right?

What's the proof? Are you living life with an attitude like Yeshua's? Can others see the humility of Yeshua in you? Just in case that went through one ear and out the other, can others see the humility of Yeshua in you? Or do they see arrogance, pride, "I'm right - you're wrong" attitude in you?

If following Yeshua's example was against the law today, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Now, have you ever watched people who are wanting to go swimming but the water is cold? In my days of being a youth pastor, I've found that there are 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 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 I just do?!” It’s too late because they know they are past the 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 that decision to take up your cross and follow Him? Do you force yourself into the mindset that there’s no turning back? How serious are you? Can others around you see it?

Do you creep into it slowly? Do you set on the side just feeling things out? You have the intention, 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.”

It’s time to get serious. Don’t let another day go by where you’re not taking your relationship with our Heavenly Father to the next level.

No matter where you're at in your relationship with Him today, don't be satisfied with the status quo. ... Don't be satisfied with the status quo.

He’s calling you to a closer walk. He’s calling you to a deeper commitment with Him. Not man. With Him. Will you follow? Will you follow Him no matter what?

That's a question only you can answer.

Well, that’s all I have.

Think about it. Pray about it.

But more than anything, be a doer of the word and not a hearer only.

Until next time, Shalom!