When It’s Not Enough October 6, 2019

*2 Kings 23:21-27 Series: Revive Us Again!*

To become a Christian is not to get help for your agenda, but to take on a whole new agenda—the will of God. – Tim Keller

Intro: Was Clarence Jordan’s sacrifice worth it?

1. Following Jesus means saying yes to the things that please Him.
2. We follow Jesus when we say yes to His Word.

v. 21 *And the king commanded all the people, “Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.”*

1. We follow Jesus when we say yes even when it’s not our tradition.

v. 22 *For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah.*

1. We follow Jesus when we say yes even when it’s not our habit.

v. 23 *But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.*

Ephesians 4:24 *put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness*

* Do you feel Clarence Jordan’s sacrifice was worth it? Why might people have judged his life a waste?
* Why does it take more effort to obey God in areas that you’re not used to or that are new to your family or traditions?
* How would the Passover celebration have witnessed to the Israelites as they faced the invasion from Babylon?

1. Following Jesus means saying no to the things that don’t please Him.
2. We follow Jesus when we say no to His rivals.

v. 24 *Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem*

1. We follow Jesus when we say no based on His Word.

v. 24 *that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD*

Ephesians 4:22 *put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires*

* Why was it so important that Josiah did away with the mediums and those who consulted the dead?
* What are some of the rivals to Jesus in our world today?
* Why is it important that the decisions to say no to things for the sake of Jesus come from God’s Word rather than just our feelings?
* The words used for “put off” in Ephesians 4:22 and “put on” in Ephesians 4:24 are often used for taking off and putting on clothing (Acts 7:58; Mark 1:6, 6:9, 15:20). What do you think it means to “put off” our old self and “put on” the new self?

1. We follow Jesus to bring pleasure to Him not because ‘it works.’
2. Sometimes we do all that we can and it’s not enough.

v. 25 *Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.*

v. 26 *Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah*

1. Obedience isn’t a bargain that we make to get God to do what we want.

v. 27 *And the LORD said, “I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.”*

1. Many of the consequences of our obedience will only be seen in eternity.

Matthew 25:21 *His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’*

* What was the point of all of Josiah’s reforms if God brought His judgment on Judah anyway?
* Where are you tempted to use obedience as a bargaining tool with God? i.e. Where do you do what God says because you think it will get you what you want?
* Where do you most need prayer in applying this passage?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 2 Kings 23:28-30.

Notes