

# The Lordship of Christ – Doers of the Word

Lordship- subjecting ourselves to the leadership of the Lord (Christ).

World Leaders LORD it over their subjects. The Lord Jesus Christ appeals to you.

He wants you to subject yourself to Him by choice

He gives you the options and lets you make the decision.

Lordship is obedience – Plain and simple!

“...Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it”. Luke 11:28

**“But be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving your own selves!” James 1:22**

This is Lordship. Lordship is obedience to the word of God in all areas of your life.

We shall look at the lives of 5 men in the scriptures.

1. Joshua
2. Samuel
3. King Amaziah
4. King Asa
5. The man who spoke too much
6. How about you? How are you doing?

## 1. Joshua – Joshua 24:15

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house hold, we will serve the Lord”

Joshua desired for all to serve the Lord but he could not force them. BUT *he* chose to serve the Lord.

**Joshua 24:31** – Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived Joshua who had experienced everything the Lord had done to Israel.

**Judges 2:10** – After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up which knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel

Contrast - Spies in Jericho

## **Joshua 2:8-11**

“I know the Lord has given this land to you...we have heard of how the Lord dried up the red sea...when we heard all of it our hearts melted...for the Lord your God is God in heaven above...”

How old was Rahab?

Godliness is not IMPUTED from generation to generation. It is INTENTIONALLY PASSED ON.

1 Timothy 4:7(b) “...but TRAIN YOURSELF to be Godly”

Your spiritual leader CANNOT make this decision for you. You need to make it YOURSELF.

## 2. Example of Samuel

1 Samuel 12:23

“As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. **And I will teach you in the way that is good and right**”.

Samuel made this Lordship decision when leading a rebellious people who had rejected the Lord and preferred to have a human rule over them.

### 3. King Amaziah

2 Chronicles 25:1-2

“Amaziah was twenty five years old when he became king...he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, **but not wholeheartedly**”.

He listened to the counsel of the man of God and won a battle against the Edomites. (verse 7)

Amaziah's downfall

When Amaziah returned from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought along the gods of the people of Seir. He set them up as his own gods, bowed down to them and burned sacrifices to them. The anger of the Lord burned against Amaziah and he sent a prophet to him, who said, “Why do you consult this people's gods, which could not save their own people from your hand?”

Thereafter Amaziah's life went down hill.

Can you identify with Amaziah?

Maasai Mara camp fire illustration

We fail to walk with the Lord long term when we let the fires of the Word of God grow dim in our lives.

When we give ourselves to sin and greed, when we focus on the affluent life, promiscuity etc then the eyes of the evil one come closer to the camp.

Do not be half hearted

Deuteronomy 20:8 “...Is anyone afraid or fainted hearted? Let him go home so that his brothers will not become disheartened too”

Faintheartedness or discouragement breeds more of the same. Bad company corrupts good morals.

Lordship is a choice. The decision must not be half hearted – like that of Amaziah

What if I'm fainthearted?

Deut 20:1-4 “When you go to war against your enemy and see...an army greater than yours, DO NOT BE AFRAID... because the Lord your God will be with you... do not be fainthearted or afraid...God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory”

Strengthen yourself in the Lord

Surround yourself with people who will encourage you.

What kind of company to you keep?

### 4. Heart for Obedience – King Asa

“Although he did not remove the high places from Israel, Asa's heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life” 2 Chronicles 15:17.

God's standard

God wanted the abolition of high places, which were an occasion for Israel to fall into idolatry. Evidently Asa didn't consider them all that important, for his obedience was incomplete.

Asa is an illustration of a man who had a perfect heart towards God, **but did not take the Bible seriously**.

He obeyed God, at least for the most part: “And ... Asa heard these words, and ....took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin...”

He chose what to obey

Evangelical Christianity is replete with men and women like Asa. Their hearts are perfect toward God, **but they don't take seriously God's commandments**.

It is also possible to have a perfect heart toward God while considering biblical commands as cultural or non-essential. By definition commands are essential. Amaziah was outright disobedient. Asa on the other hand had a good heart, but was only partially obedient

## 5. The Man who talked too much

Mark 1:40 Jesus encounters a leper who comes to him to be healed, “If you are willing you can make me clean”

Leper saw in Jesus the power to heal, but not necessarily the willingness.

Many followers of Jesus know that He can; BUT they are not sure that He will.

Moved with compassion, Jesus heals him, and then “sternly charged him ...’see that you say nothing to any one...’”

The Leper disobeyed

**“See that you say nothing to anyone....” Mark 1:44**

“But the cleansed leper “began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news.”

What was the outcome?

Jesus could no longer enter the cities but was outside in deserted places.

## 6. How are you doing?

Can you identify areas in your life where strict obedience to the Lord has not been that important to you?

Your love for God is evident to all – but deep inside you know you have issues

What is your attitude towards purity in man-woman relationships?

Are you quick to quote examples of bad Christian marriages and use them to justify why you don’t walk with God in this area?

How are you doing?

What is your attitude towards fun? Do you want to see how close you can get to sin without sinning or do you steer clear of sin?

Do you often find yourself asking the question “what is wrong with that” instead of seeking to do the right thing?

Illustration of driver interviews on the cliff

## Commands and Examples

1 Samuel 16:1-2 “...fill your horn with oil...I am sending you to the house of Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king”...”But how can I go? Saul will hear of it and kill me” the Lord said to him, take a heifer with you and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord”

The Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and were honored by God Exodus 1:15

David lied to Ahimelech in 1 Samuel 21 and got sacred bread from him. Later Ahimelech was put to death. The Lord, referring to this in the new testament does not condemn David

We cannot negate God’s command even when we see examples in scripture of honorable men and women who disobeyed

We cannot build our doctrine on what is unclear.

He who has my commandments and Keeps them, he it is who loves me... John 14:21

**Rev 3:20** “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and eat with him and he with me”.

This verse has been used in evangelistic settings to invite people to Christ but it was actually written for believers. It is a Lordship verse.

What is God saying to you in the area of obedience?