

Giv05 - **Jesus is MY Lord** - **Luke 9:23**

Last week we looked at the "**Stand-Alone**" **Truth** that **Jesus IS Lord**

He **just is** - **no matter** how we **FEEL** about it - or **what** we **DO** about it
Jesus IS Lord - over **Heaven** & **Earth** - & **all that is** in **them**

But **that fact** - *in & of itself* - **doesn't DO** anything for you *personally*

Today - we **want to talk** about **HOW That Truth** (that Jesus is Lord)
Can Radically **TRANSFORM** Your **LIFE** - For Eternity

The fact that **Jesus is LORD** - is **just that** - it's a **FACT**

But if you will **make** him **YOUR LORD** - In **Every WAY**
& in **Every AREA** of your life . . .

He will **Incredibly** - & **Completely** - & **Radically**
SAVE You - & **TRANSFORM** You

& **Make you** a **Joint-Heir** with **Him** - in **All** His **Heavenly Reward**

Today - We want to **talk** about the **Difference BETWEEN**
Jesus IS Lord - - & **Jesus is MY Lord !!**

Let's Pray

Jesus IS Lord

But **EVEN** Just **Acknowledging** that **Truth** (in & of itself)
Doesn't SAVE you - & **Doesn't TRANSFORM** your life

It's a **GREAT PLACE** to **START** - But **don't get STUCK** there

The N.T. makes it **CLEAR** - The **DEMONS Believe THAT** Truth
& it's **Not doing** Anything for **them** - but **Prep'g** them for **Judgment**

Here's the **only thing** that **MATTERS** in **Your Life** - Personally
Here's the **only thing** that **TRANSFORMS Your Life** - Personally
Here's the **only thing** that **SAVES You** - Personally . . .

Is Jesus YOUR Lord?

DO you **SAY** - - **CAN** you **SAY** - - **WILL** you **SAY**
*Jesus, you are **MY Lord***

You are **MY PERSONAL LORD** - -
You are **MY Lord** - in **EVERY WAY** - In **EVERY AREA** of My **Life**

THAT is Really - the **ONLY OPTION** Jesus **OFFERS**
Lord of ALL - or Not Lord AT ALL

There is **SO MUCH** that it means
For us to Truly **MAKE** Jesus our **LORD**

It **impacts EVERY area** of our **lives**

The CONCEPT - of **Jesus** being **OUR Lord**, *Personally*
Is **SO BIG** - I **can't BEGIN** to **Address it** in Just **One Message**

So - I can **ONLY Pick** a couple of **CRUCIAL Areas**
To **TALK about** - **Jesus** being **OUR Lord**

& **Then** - **if** you'll **go ALL-IN** in **these Areas** -
The Rest will come **AS** you **walk** with Him **as your Lord**

So - **TURN** in your Bibles to **LUKE Ch 9**

Matthew, Mark & Luke - Are called **The Synoptic Gospels**
& **this text** is in **ALL 3 of** these **Gospels** (great study)

Here's the background - **Jesus** went up to **Caesarea Philippi**
(*One of my FAV places*) - w/ his **disciples** - **AND** a **crowd** following

It was **Here Peter** made his **FAMOUS Confession (v.20)**
That ***Jesus IS the Christ, The Son of the Living God***

& Jesus **commended him** for it (*in the other accounts*)

& then **Jesus began** to **explain (v.22)** that he
Must **SUFFER** many things, Be **REJECTED**, & Be **KILLED**

But that he **would RISE** again on **the 3rd Day**

& **then** (in the other accts) - **Peter** takes **Jesus aside** & starts to
REBUKE him for **saying** these **things**

& **just after** Jesus had **COMMENDED Peter** - we **now read**
using Mark 8:33 (ESV)

33 But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

& at **THAT Point** - At **THAT Time** - Jesus **MAKES it CLEAR**
what it TAKES to Make Jesus **LORD** of **OUR OWN Life**

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Luke 9:23 (ESV)

23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

IF - Jesus simply says **IF**

IF anyone would **COME AFTER ME**

IF anyone would **JOIN ME**

IF anyone would **CALL ME LORD**

let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me

He says it to his **OWN DISCIPLES**

He says it to **THE CROWD** that was them

He says it to **YOU & ME** Today

IF anyone would make **Jesus LORD of their life**

let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Him

NO Big **Emotional Plea** - **NO** **Fanfare** - **NO** **Drama**

Jesus simply **says** - **IF you Desire** - to **make me**

LORD of Your Life - **HERE** is what it takes . . .

SURRENDER - *To Jesus as your **ONLY** Lord*

CRUCIFY - *Your Self-Life - **DAILY***

FOLLOW Jesus - *in His New Life for you*

Jesus Gave 3 Commands - to make Him LORD of our Lives

1) **SURRENDER** - *To Jesus as your **ONLY** Lord*

2) **CRUCIFY** - *Your Self-Life - **DAILY***

3) **FOLLOW Jesus** - *in His New Life for you*

Guys - the Greatest - Truest - Most Abundant LIFE Possible
Comes from Truly making Jesus OUR Lord

But the PATH to that Greatest, Truest, Most Abundant Life
Might NOT be What you Think it is

Jesus says the PATH to the Glorious & Abundant Life
that He has for you - Looks like THIS:

SURRENDER - CRUCIFY - FOLLOW

FIRST - Jesus says - Let this person - DENY Himself
We'll Call that - SURRENDER

WHY is that Surrender? - *Denying Your Self*

Because SELF- is the Natural LORD of your life
SELF is the Natural little 'g' god in your Life
SELF is Naturally on the THRONE of Your Life

SELF is in CHARGE
SELF is in CONTROL

& Jesus will NOT Share the Lordship of your life with SELF

SELF - MUST BE DENIED
SELF - MUST SURRENDER

If you would Truly Make JESUS the Lord of your Life

The 1st step - is to DENY the LORDSHIP of SELF in your life

Maybe you've HEARD that *(if you've been around here)*
You May Even KNOW - you HAVE to AGREE with it

But, can I ask - HOW are you ACTUALLY doing with it?

Because this is the FIRST - & The MOST SEVERE - Requirement
To making Jesus Christ Truly LORD of our lives

DENY the Lordship of SELF
& SURRENDER to the Lordship of Christ - ALONE

In ROM Ch 7 - The Apostle Paul makes it clear
Our BATTLE - w/ the LORD of SELF - Is a Life-Long Battle

But - Thru FAITH in Christ - We have the Chance to SWITCH Lords
We can DENY the Lord of SELF
& SURRENDER to the Lordship of JESUS CHRIST

Let me read you just a few Vs's from ROM Ch 6 - (from NLT)

Romans 6:16–19 (NLT)

16 Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.

17 Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you.

18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

19 . . . Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

Sounds easy enough - Right? - (to anyone who's Never tried it)

Listen to what Paul says - As he shares HIS OWN struggle w/ this FIRST & MOST SEVERE Requirement of Making Jesus LORD

Romans 7:24–25 (NLT)

24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

Pls Lstn Carefully

In & of OURSELVES - We do not actually have the POWER to DENY the Lordship of SELF in our lives

This is NOT just “*TRY HARDER to be a Better Person*”
That’s the LAST THING this is

You don’t have enough TRY IN YOU
to Accomplish this ON YOUR OWN

The Only ANSWER - INVOLVES DEATH

NOT the TYPE of DEATH that SIN Brings
But DEATH - to SELF

& THAT is exactly what Jesus Lays out in our Key Vs;

Again - Luke 9:23 (ESV)

23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself (surrender) and take up his cross daily and follow me.

FIRST - Surrender - Meaning: Deny the Lordship of SELF -
& make Jesus your ONLY Lord

SECOND - CRUCIFY - *Your Self-Life, DAILY*

Meaning - We've **Got to Live** as **DEAD** to the **LORD OF SELF** - Daily

There's **NOT ENOUGH TRY** in you
to **BREAK** the **LORDSHIP of SELF**

But **SELF- CAN** be **CRUCIFIED**

& so - **immediately** after **Jesus tells** us to **DENY - SELF**
He **immediately tells** us **HOW**

HOW ?? - By **taking up YOUR cross daily**
& **he's not** saying "**Put on your best GOLD NECKLACE**"

He's **saying** "**Walk in the DEATH of SELF - Daily**"

The cross that **Jesus** spoke of - Had **NOTHING to Do**
with a **SYMBOL of BEAUTY**, or **LOVE**, or **SENTIMENT**

The Cross meant **ONE THING** - **DEAD PEOPLE**

Listen to what A.W. TOZER says about the Cross

Men did not wear that cross; but that cross wore men. It stood naked until a man was pinned on it, a living man fastened like some grotesque stickpin on its breast to writhe and groan till death stilled and silenced him. That is the cross. Nothing less. And when it is robbed of its tears and blood and pain it is the cross no longer

The way to the **Abundant Life** in **Christ**
Can only come thru the **DEATH of SELF**

The Abundant Life in Jesus Christ - Is the Life of;

The Greatest JOY,

The Greatest PEACE,

The Greatest FULFILLMENT, &

The ONLY Path to Eternal Life with God in Heaven

The Problem is - the PATH to THAT Abundant Life

Comes ONLY Thru - The LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ . . .

& the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ comes ONLY thru DEATH to SELF

So - **ONLY in Grasping what it means
to *Walk in DEATH to SELF - Daily***

Can we begin to grasp the GLORY of Following Jesus as LORD

So - What does THAT Mean - *Dying to Self Daily* ?

What does that LOOK LIKE?

The Apostle Paul said it this way in Romans 8:13 (ESV)

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Dying to Self is

“BY the SPIRIT - Putting to DEATH the SELF Nature”

I suppose we could all DEFINE what that looks like a little differently

But here’s a Good Synopsis - *Someone once said:*

***When the will of God crosses the will of man,
somebody has to die***

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It has to do with

**What YOU Want - Vs's What GOD Wants
YOUR Will - Vs's GOD'S Will**

& it has to do with - WHO is WINNING those Battles !

**& when You - BY THE POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT -
begin putting to DEATH the Deeds of SELF**

You will **BEGIN to EXPERIENCE**

The Glory - & the Peace - & the Abundance
that comes on the OTHER SIDE of the CROSS

**The CROSS is NOT the END of YOUR LIFE
The CROSS is the Beginning of Your NEW LIFE**

**When you HANG the SELF-LIFE on the Cross - DAILY
THEN You Can Begin to WALK - in the NEW LIFE w/ Jesus**

Which is **EXACTLY** What Jesus says -
AT the **END** of our **KEY VS**

Again - Luke 9:23 (ESV)

23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself (surrender) and take up his cross daily (crucify self) and follow me.

First - SURRENDER - To Jesus as your ONLY Lord

Second - CRUCIFY - Your Self-Life - DAILY

Finally - FOLLOW Jesus - in His New Life for you

**In the END - Jesus simply says - FOLLOW ME as your LORD
& you will Experience My NEW LIFE for you**

But what Prevents us from Simply Following Jesus, is:

- 1) **REFUSING** to **Kick SELF** off the **Throne of our lives**
- 2) **REFUSING** to **DIE DAILY** to the **SELF-Nature**

Let me Just **BOIL IT DOWN** for you - **As Simple** as I **can make** it

Following Jesus is the **ANSWER**
The Self-Nature is the **PROBLEM**

Following Jesus - is;

- the** Most **AWESOME** Life
- the** Most **RADICAL** Life
- the** Most **MEANINGFUL** Life
- the** Most **REWARDING** Life

The REASON we **Don't Experience** it more
is **because** it **involves Two Things** we **HATE** . . .

- 1) **DENY SELF** - which we **HATE**
- 2) **Living as DEAD to SELF** - Which we **Really HATE**

But - **Listen to TOZER** - **one more time** on this **passage**
Speaking of Following Jesus

A.W. Tozer says;

Each heart can have its own dream of fair worlds and new revelations, of the [pilgrimage] of the ransomed soul in the ages to come, but whoever follows Jesus will find at last that [Jesus] has made the reality to [be far greater than] the dream

We will **NEVER** fully know -
all the **blessings** & **rewards** of **Following Jesus**

UNTIL we **Finish the Race** - & **MEET HIM** at the **Finish Line**

In the Mean time - THIS is what it Means to Follow Jesus

#1) DENY SELF - You cannot SHARE the Throne of your life
With the LORD of SELF- And the LORD of HEAVEN

#2) Live as DEAD to SELF, DAILY - Which means
This Battle Doesn't END - until you SHED this Tent of Flesh

#3) FOLLOW JESUS - in His NEW LIFE for you

Paul put it this way in Philippians 3:12–14 (ESV)

12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

13(b) . . . But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul says - I haven't obtained it - I'm not there yet
But ONE THING for sure - I AM ALL IN

forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead - I press on toward the goal - for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Listen Guys - We have got to CRUSH
our Self-Focused, Worldly Perspective

& see life - From GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

So - To Close - Let's look at a SHOCKING Vs
& then a very Encouraging Vs that follows it

Turn over to Matthew Ch 10 - I'm going to read from the NLT

Matthew 10:38 (NLT)

38 If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine.

Jesus uses Shocking Statements like this - Often

Because he KNOWS how STRONG a HOLD
the SELF-LIFE has ON US

This Vs doesn't Need - In-Depth EXPLANATION

This Vs needs - In-Depth MEDITATION

Jesus says - if we REFUSE

to DENY - & Even CRUCIFY - Our SELF- LIFE

We are NOT Worthy of Belonging to Him

BUT - IN the Very Next Vs -

is the Encouragement we Need - after a TUFF Vs like that

Vs 38 is the Great MOTIVATION

Vs 39 is the Great ENCOURAGEMENT

Matthew 10:39 (Nxt Vs) - (NLT)

39 If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Jesus has a PLAN - A Great PLAN

AND - As Lord of All Creation -

He WILL Bring His GREAT PLAN - to PASS

& Here it is -

IF you try to CLING to your SELF-LIFE - You will Lose it

But IF you GIVE UP your SELF-LIFE - - DENY It - - CRUCIFY it

You will Find True, Abundant, Eternal Life -

IN the LORDSHIP of Jesus Christ

RIGHT NOW - If you will LET HIM - God will REVEAL to you
what this MEANS Specifically in YOUR LIFE

If you are Ready to Hear Him - God will REVEAL to you
What Part of the SELF-LIFE you are Clinging to

& He will BEGIN to REVEAL to you
WHAT He is Calling you to DO About it

God WILL Speak to you -

if you will have the Courage to ASK HIM - & LISTEN

So- Right Now - I'm going to Pray

Just to Keep your Mind FOCUSED

You ALLOW God to BRING UP in your Mind

In What AREA He is CALLING YOU - to CRUCIFY the SELF-LIFE
& Follow HIM - As Lord

Let's Pray - You just follow as I pray

Lord Jesus - Right now - I surrender the Lordship of my life to you -

Pls FILL ME with your Holy Spirit - for the POWER
to Crucify my Flesh & HEAR from YOU

I want to TRULY FOLLOW you in my life - AS My Only Lord

Forgetting what Lies behind - I want to PRESS FORWARD
to what Lies AHEAD

Show ME Lord, right now - Put in my mind - the Area of my Life
where You are NOT Lord - Where SELF is still on the Throne

Show me Lord - Where you would have me - DENY My-SELF -
CRUCIFY My SELF-WAYS - & Truly Follow You as Lord

Please Lord - Bring it Up in my Mind - SHOW ME

- - - *Pause* - - -

& right now - I SURRENDER that One Thing - to YOU

I Put that thing - On the Cross - To be CRUCIFIED Compeltely -
& DAILY - I SURRENDER that Area of my life - to your Lordship

- - - *Pause* - - -

I CHOOSE today - to Follow You - in that Specific Area -
Wholly & Completely

Lord - Pls Show me ONE THING - You're Calling me to Do -
in that One Area -

Show me ONE STEP You're calling me to Take
to Surrender that area to your LORDSHIP

& Lord, I CAN'T DO IT W/O the Full Power of the Holy Spirit

So please Baptize me with your POWER

To CRUCIFY my Flesh - & SERVE you as my LORD

It's For your GLORY

It's For your SAKE

It's In your Name I Pray - AMEN