

# WHO'S ON THE LORD SIDE?

## Exodus 32:25, 26 KJV

<sup>25</sup> And when Moses saw that the people *were* naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto *their* shame among their enemies:) <sup>26</sup> Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, **WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE? let him COME UNTO ME.** And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

While Moses was on the mountain receiving the commandments of God, the people began to grow restless and asked Aaron to make them an idol unto God. Aaron agreed and they worshipped the image (calf) of gold calling it Jehovah.

When Moses returned and saw what the people had done, he commanded that the idol be destroyed and ground into powder. After this he makes this statement, "Who's on the Lord's side? let him come unto me." This statement by Moses is actually an invitation for the people to DEDICATE themselves to God.

## Exodus 32:29a KJV

<sup>29</sup> For Moses had said, **CONSECRATE** yourselves to day to the Lord...

## Exodus 32:29a NASB

<sup>29</sup> Then Moses said, "**DEDICATE** yourselves today to the Lord..."

From this we learn one very important principle...

## DEDICATION REQUIRES SEPARATION

Anyone desiring to dedicate themselves will, at some point, be required to *separate* themselves. This is because dedication involves consecration, and consecration involves separation (i.e. setting oneself apart for the service of God).

Therefore, if we are going to fulfill God's call to dedicate ourselves, then we must "come out" or *separate from* the ungodly. When we read the Old Testament we learn that whenever God's people dwelt in a foreign land, they always served foreign gods!

## Ezekiel 37:21, 23 KJV

<sup>21</sup> And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel **FROM AMONG THE HEATHEN**, whither they be gone, and will gather them on ever side, and bring them into their own land: <sup>23</sup> Neither shall they **DEFILE THEMSELVES ANY MORE WITH THEIR IDOLS**, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will **CLEANSE** them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

This is proof that God's people are defiled, not just by their own sin, but they are defiled by the sins of those around them! Moreover, God's method of *cleansing* His people from their sin oftentimes involved separating them from the wicked and bringing them into their OWN land.

### **Ezekiel 36:28, 29 KJV**

<sup>28</sup> And **YE SHALL DWELL IN THE LAND THAT I GAVE TO YOUR FATHERS;** and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>29</sup> I will also **SAVE YOU FROM ALL YOUR UNCLEANNESSES:** and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

Therefore, anyone who is joined to the world, we will be defiled by the world!

### **1 Corinthians 10:19–21 KJV**

<sup>19</sup> What say I then? that **THE IDOL IS ANYTHING**, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? <sup>20</sup> But / say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to **DEVILS**, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. <sup>21</sup> Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be **PARTAKERS** of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

Paul is making the point that we are not to fear idols. Instead, we are to avoid idols because when we fellowship with idols (idolaters) we also become partakers of their sins (spirits). (It seems that we are either being separated *unto God*, or we are being separated *from God*. Also, we are either *dedicating* ourselves, or we are *defiling* ourselves!)

Dedication not only requires *separation*, but it also requires *sacrifice*!

## **DEDICATION REQUIRES SACRIFICE**

### **Exodus 32:27–29a KJV**

<sup>27</sup> And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, *and* go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and **SLAY EVERY MAN HIS BROTHER**, and every man his **COMPANION**, and every man his **NEIGHBOR**. <sup>28</sup> And **THE CHILDREN OF LEVI DID ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF MOSES:** and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. <sup>29</sup> For Moses had said, **CONSECRATE** yourselves to day to the Lord...

Notice that their consecration or dedication to God cost them something! They were willing to sever any earthly tie, from their family to their neighbor. Nothing was to be counted more 'sacred' than God. This is a reminder that it's impossible to dedicate oneself to God without it costing you something.

For example, when an athlete decides to dedicate themselves to a sport, they understand that they will (at some point) be forced to “remove” something from their diet! No matter the nature of our dedication, at some point every act of dedication will involve some type of sacrifice. If you’re not sacrificing, you’re not dedicating!

### **Exodus 32:29 KJV**

<sup>29</sup> For Moses had said, **CONSECRATE** yourselves to day to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that **HE MAY BESTOW UPON YOU A BLESSING** this day.

Notice that a BLESSING is bestowed upon those who consecrate or dedicate themselves to God! What is this *blessing*? It’s the privilege of being God’s *special* people.

### **Exodus 19:5, 6 KJV**

<sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if ye will **OBEY MY VOICE** indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a **PECULIAR** treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: <sup>6</sup> And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of **PRIESTS**, and an holy **NATION**. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Notice that the promise to be God’s “peculiar” or *special* people was originally given to the whole NATION. However, the Levites were the only tribe that *received* this blessing. Why? They were the only tribe who was willing (at the time of Moses) to make the necessary sacrifices and be holy (separated) unto God. This is a reminder that there’s a blessing that comes with ‘giving up all’ in order to be *dedicated* to God.

### **Philippians 3:7, 8 KJV**

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have **SUFFERED THE LOSS OF ALL THINGS**, and do count them *but* dung, that I may **WIN CHRIST**,

Only those who are willing to “suffer the loss of all things” will WIN or gain Christ!

Now, if “giving up ALL” brings a *blessing*, then “keeping SOMETHING back” must bring a *curse*!

### Acts 5:1–5 KJV

<sup>1</sup> But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,  
<sup>2</sup> And **KEPT BACK PART OF THE PRICE**, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet. <sup>3</sup> But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? <sup>4</sup> Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.  
<sup>5</sup> And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and **GAVE UP THE GHOST**: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

We see a similar thing spoken during the time of Joshua. Israel was ‘cursed’ when a man (Achan) failed to consecrate ALL to God.

### Joshua 7:12, 20-21 KJV

<sup>12</sup> Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, *but* turned *their* backs before their enemies, because they were **ACCURSED**: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. <sup>20</sup> And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: <sup>21</sup> When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish **GARMENT**, and two hundred shekels of **SILVER**, and a wedge of **GOLD** of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they *are* **HID IN THE EARTH** in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Notice how Achan “hid” what should have been dedicated or consecrated to God. This sounds very similar to the parable of the talents. In this parable, one of the servants took his talent and “hid” it in the earth. Thus, anyone who fails to *fully* discharge their duty is guilty of failing to dedicate themselves to God. In other words, if you are “hiding” what you should be giving, then you’re failing to *dedicate* yourself to God!