

The Shift: When Your Responsibility Changes

There's a profound moment in the spiritual journey that many of us miss entirely. It's the moment when everything shifts—when the dynamic of our relationship with God fundamentally changes, and we don't even realize it.

Picture this scene: Judas approaches Jesus in the garden. He says, "Rabbi." Jesus responds with two words that should shake us to our core: "My friend." Then He adds, "Do what you came to do."

What strikes me most about this exchange isn't the betrayal itself—it's what happened afterward. Judas never came back. He never had another conversation. He was too ashamed, too far gone in his own mind, too convinced that redemption was impossible. And he paid the ultimate price for that assumption.

Two Different Invitations

Matthew 11:28 contains one of the most quoted verses in Scripture: "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We love this verse. We cling to it. We quote it when we're hurting.

But here's the revelation: this invitation is specifically for those who already know Him. It's for the saved, not the lost.

Compare this with Luke 19:10, where Jesus declares, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost." Notice the difference? For the lost, Jesus does the seeking. For the saved, the responsibility shifts. He expects us to come to Him.

This is where so many of us get stuck. We sit in our spiritual seats, emotionally disconnected, feeling unseen and unheard, praying desperate prayers: "God, come to me. Show up for me. Meet me where I am."

Meanwhile, He's already done that. He came to you when He saved you. Now He's saying, "I'm right here. Come to Me."

The Danger of Waiting

Too many believers are waiting for God to chase them down when the responsibility has already changed. We know too much to walk in rebellion. We've experienced too much to play games with our spiritual lives. Yet we sit, pout, and wait.

Imagine two people: one lost, one saved. Both are hurting. Both are angry. Both need help. Where do you think Jesus goes first? He goes to the one who doesn't know Him yet—the one who needs to be found. The saved person? They already have the map home. They just need to use it.

The Holy Spirit living inside you will be either the best thing or the worst thing that ever happened to you. If you walk in it, it's the best. If you walk away from it, it becomes the worst experience of your life—because you know too much to claim ignorance.

The Prodigal Father

Remember the story of the prodigal son? We focus so much on the son's journey that we miss the father's position. The father was always watching, always waiting—but he didn't run until he saw his son coming home. He didn't fly to the far country. He stayed right where he was, ready to receive his son the moment he turned toward home.

That's the picture of our heavenly Father with His saved children. He's not chasing you around trying to convince you to come back. He's standing with open arms, waiting for you to take the steps toward Him.

Learning of Him

Jesus said in Matthew 11:29, "Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

The lost don't know how to take His yoke. They don't understand the language. But the saved? We have no excuse. Our responsibility is to learn of Him—to engage, to ask questions, to have conversations, to seek understanding.

How many times do we make assumptions about God instead of simply talking to Him? How many times do we create narratives in our heads about what He's thinking or what He'll do, without ever opening the Book or bending our knees?

Pride will hang you. Shame will hang you. Judas proved that. But what if he had come back? What if he had approached Jesus one more time and said, "Rabbi"? Do you think Jesus would have responded any differently? "My friend."

The Cost of Disobedience

Here's a sobering truth: if you don't do what you know, you'll pay for what you did.

There are moments we can never get back. Baptisms we missed because we were sitting in the car, too angry to go inside. Opportunities to worship with loved ones that we rejected because we were in our feelings. Conversations we refused to have because pride stood in the way.

These aren't just missed moments—they're the consequence of knowing too much and choosing rebellion anyway. They're what happens when we wait for God to come to us instead of going to Him.

Just a Conversation Away

The beautiful and challenging truth is this: healing, breakthrough, restoration, and peace are often just a conversation away. Not a dramatic intervention. Not a miraculous sign. Just a simple conversation with the One who's been waiting for you to come to Him.

John 6:37 promises, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

Did you catch that? He will by no means cast you out. No matter what you've done, no matter how long you've been gone, no matter how badly you've messed up—if you come to Him, He will not turn you away.

The Invitation Still Stands

Revelation 22:17 paints a beautiful picture: "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely."

The invitation is open. The door is unlocked. The Father is watching. But the responsibility to take those steps? That's on you.

You're not 100 miles away from breakthrough. You're not years away from restoration. You're often just steps away—18 steps, 4 steps, 28 steps—from coming to Him and finding everything you've been desperately praying for Him to bring to you.

Stop waiting for God to chase you down. Stop sitting in your feelings, expecting Him to cater to your emotions. Stop making excuses about why you can't come to Him today.

Your responsibility has changed. You know too much to be disobedient.

Come to Him.