

MAKING MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."

Luke 9:23-24 (NIV)

❖ "Major Adjustments" is More Simply Stated as OBEDIENCE:
"So why do you call me 'Lord,' when you won't obey me?"

Luke 6:46 (NLT)

1. First, obedience is a HEART DECISION as a willingness to do whatever God says.
2. Second, obedience is always shown by our WORDS, ACTIONS and DEEDS.
3. Third, obedience will usually COST you and those around you SOMETHING.

❖ A Man Named Elisha:

The Lord said to Elijah, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet." ... ¹⁹So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. ²⁰Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?" ²¹So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 (NIV)

1. God is always at work to fulfill His purpose.
2. God pursues a love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to join Him in His work.

"... and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet."

1 Kings 19:15b (NIV)

4. God speaks to you to reveal His purpose.

So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him.

1 Kings 19:19 (NIV)

5. God's invitation always leads to a crisis of belief... a decision to say yes or no.

Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. "Let me kiss my father and mother good-bye," he said, "and then I will come with you." "Go back," Elijah replied. "What have I done to you?"

1 Kings 19:20 (NIV)

6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in His work.

So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

1 Kings 19:21 (NIV)

7. You will come to experience God as you obey Him, and He works through you.

❖ Making Major Adjustments in Your Life:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

1. Major adjustments begin with a willingness to ABSOLUTE SURRENDER.

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

2. Major adjustments will lead you to TOTAL DEPENDENCE on God.

"(David said) The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you."

1 Samuel 17:37 (NIV)

3. Major adjustments will teach you to be willing to WAIT on the LORD.

But those who wait on the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)