

Lesson 123 Useless Loyalty

This week the Lord has led me to re-examine a word He gave us back in 2006. In this lesson we will be looking at loyalty. It comes from a word we received back in September of 2006 when the Lord said,

09/09/06 CT MEETING: **Useless Loyalty.**

Useless: Adj. Having or being of no use; ineffectual; not able to give service or aid; inept.

Loyalty: N. 1. The quality or state of being loyal

Loyal: Adj. Unswerving in allegiance as a) faithful in one's allegiance in one's lawful sovereign or government b) faithful to a private person to whom fidelity is due c. faithful to a cause, ideal or custom.

2. Showing loyalty. 3. Lawful, Legitimate. Syn. Faithful.

Loyalty

I think the first step to discovering what the Lord is trying to teach us is to understand His lessons relating to loyalty. We will learn this through several verses He has given us. The Bible verses that came to my mind were:

Exodus 20: 3 *"You shall have no other gods before Me."*

Deuteronomy 6:5 *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."*

Judges 2: 11-23 *Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals; and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger. They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel. So He delivered them into the hands of plunderers who despoiled them; and He sold them into the hands of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer stand before their enemies. Wherever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for calamity, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were greatly distressed. Nevertheless, the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the hand of those who plundered them. **Yet they would not listen to their judges, but they played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them. They turned quickly from the way in which their fathers walked, in obeying the commandments of the LORD; they did not do so.** And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them. **And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way.** Then the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not heeded My voice, I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the LORD, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not." Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua.*

After reading the definitions above and then comparing them to the Bible verses we read we can see that the Lord is talking to us about people who are not dedicated, people who are ineffective when it comes to loyalty.

Faithful, Consistent

The verses above taught us about consistency in our faith and practices. Therefore we must ask ourselves “Are we consistent in our faith?” “Are we loyal to the Lord?” What distracts our focus from the Lord? Are we worriers? Do we allow fear to take our attention off of the Lord? Or do we allow the world to distract us?

Worries

Matthew 6: 25-34 *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?”*

“So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Leviticus 26:6; Psalm 56:3-4; Hebrews 13:6

World

Romans 12:2 *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

1 John 2:15; James 4:4

These verses teach us where our first loyalty should be. Therefore we must ask, “Where is my first loyalty?”

Matt 8: 21-22 *Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”*

This disciple did not put the Lord first. But we are to put Him first:

Matthew 10:34-39; Exodus 20:3-5

Lawful, Legitimate

Do we try to make bargains with the Lord – seeking our will over his, which more than likely is unlawful and illegitimate. But the Lord wants us to seek His will, which will ultimately be what’s best for us.

November 27th God Calling

And what did Jesus have to say about loyalty, faith, and belief?

John 20: 24-29, *Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”*

So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

Jesus said to him, “Thomas because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

After reading these verses can we ask the question, “Was Thomas’ loyalty useless prior to the Lord appearing to him?” Jesus’ response was, “Blessed are those who have not seen

yet have believed.” Our loyalty is ineffective when doubts arise; our loyalty is ineffective when we are seeking our will over that of the Lord.

Ineffective

So why did the Lord give us this message “**Useless Loyalty**”? Are we being ineffectual as his workers? Is He identifying an issue in us or in the church? Are we putting self and our desires before the Lord and His will? We decided all these are true. This is because the term “**Useless loyalty**” can speak to us on many levels, both individually and corporately. Therefore obedience is key.

John 14:15; Luke 6:46; Romans 6:15-16; James 1:21-25

But I think, now’s a good time to ask ourselves, “What are the things that people are usually loyal to?” People, employers, countries, pets, religion, self

In the verses above the Lord taught us where our first loyalty should be. Through these verses He taught us that our first loyalty should be to our Father in heaven. This does not mean we shouldn’t be loyal and faithful to our family and friends. It doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be a good and ethical worker for our employer or patriotic and involved with our country and its government. These verses simply taught us that we should have nothing that comes before the Lord and His will.

Misplaced Loyalty

But what does comes to mind when you hear “**useless loyalty**”? Are you thinking of loyalty to no effect or loyalty to the wrong cause? Have we been supporting a person or an idea that is wrong? And then how about “**misplaced loyalty**”; we have probably all heard the term “**misplaced loyalty**”. Is that the same as or a synonym for “**useless loyalty**”? I don’t think so. I think “**misplaced loyalty**” is being faithful or loyal to an undeserving or unmerited person or idea.

Blind Loyalty

We have also heard of “**blind loyalty**,” where a person will obey bad and/or inappropriate orders, without stopping to question that authority or the person’s merit. People displaying “blind loyalty” don’t think for themselves. They just blindly go along. (Adolph Hitler’s effect on German society comes to mind).

Both “misplaced and blind loyalty” remind me of the Lord speaking to us about following after the “traditions of men”, as spoken of in these verses:

Col 2:8-23; Matt 7:21-23; Acts 5:29; 1 Peter 1:18; Matt 15:1-3; Romans 10:1-4; Mark 7:8

But “**useless loyalty**”, I think this must have to do with the absence of change and the lack of consistency in our walk.

Summation

So my conclusion is simply this, “**useless loyalty**” is faith without change and a lack of consistency in our walk. Jesus teaches us to bear fruit and keep the commandments given by the Lord. God makes the judgments. We make decisions. We should examine ourselves and ask Who am I?

Matt 3:8 “*Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,*”

John 15:5-8 “*I am the wine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*”

1 Timothy 6: 11-“*But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ*

Jesus who witnesses the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing."

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

02/07/13 DP - follow Me in all My ways I lead your heart. Spiritual discernment, what say you about this? Guidance, it is Me, follow close, I will have you know what is My will.

02/07/13 DP - Rousing inside you, stirring up what has been placed, bringing to memory what has been learned. Spiritual eyesight increasing, take and focus, see clearly what is revealed, that knowledge share with each other. I will be with you. Continue preparing, much in store for My Bride. Light shining in darkness, what say you about this? Shine bright for all to see, Called out one, Separated by Me according to My purpose. Is there more? I will reveal in My timing. That is all for now. You may go.

Joel 3:7,9,12, I will rouse them from the place where you sold them and pay you back right on your own head. 9. "Proclaim this among the nations: 'Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men approach and attack. 12. "Let the nations be roused and come up to the Valley of Y'hoshafat [ADONAI judges]. For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations." CJB

02/09/13 DP - I will remember My faithful servants who learned to walk in My ways, who sought Me out, not for vain glory but to spend time with Me.

02/12/13 BT MEETING – **My people know My name. They know how to hear Me. Most importantly they listen to Me. Seek My guidance, listen and obey, and all will be well with you. It is My desire to lead one-third through the fire. I will accomplish what I set out to do. One-third shall be Mine, says the Lord. I will call them My people and they shall call Me their God. Blessed are those who are hid in the Day of My Wrath. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth in that day. Pay attention to what I say, listen, act, be refined – become My people (this is serious)!**

May the Lord Bless and Keep You, Cindy

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