

I WILL ... BUT

I am sure you would say “*I Will ... But*” is an odd title. One might well wonder what we might have in mind. Well, take the time to look at a passage in your Bible. “And another also said, **I will** follow thee, Lord; **but** first suffer me to bid farewell to them that are at my house” (Lk. 9:61). Have you ever stopped to really look at what that man was saying?

He is saying, “I ought to follow”

You do not find that this man is saying, “I do not need to follow.” He does not think the Lord had no right to ask him to follow. All of that is granted. He does not discount the idea that he must follow. He admits that he should follow, and the Lord has the perfect right to ask him to do so. So he admits that he ought to follow.

He is saying, “I can follow Him with profit”

There is no doubt in his mind that the Lord has something to offer that he does not have. He also admits that the Lord has something to offer that he really needs. He would not propose to follow at all unless he thinks he would benefit by doing so.

He is saying, “Let me follow on my terms”

That is the fallacy in his reasoning. Yes, he says “I ought to follow,” “I would profit by following.” But here is a man like a lot of other men. He wants to do it on his terms. Isn’t this what that rich young man of Mark 10:17-22 wanted to do? When he was told to go sell all that he had and come and follow the Lord, he could not let go. Yes, he wanted life but not if it meant giving up his material wealth. That, to his mind, was too much to ask. Now, stop and ask yourself if that is the last person that would say, “I will ... but.” You wouldn’t think so. One would be baptized; he knows he ought to be baptized ...

but. In his mind it means renouncing his mother, father, or some members of the family. That seems to be too much of a price to pay. That means a person would like to follow the Lord but not on His terms. He was saying let me be your follower but without doing what I must do in order to become your follower. You and I know the Lord would not accept this man’s demands. It is follow the Lord without “buts or ifs.” That is what we know we ought to do, and that is what the Lord wants us to do for our good.

Winfred Clark *from Eastside Edifier*

1 KINGS 12:25-33

Jereboam was a great and influential man over the nation of Israel. With his great influence he led Israel to sin by: 1) changing the place of worship, 2) changing the object of worship, 3) changing the time of worship, 4) changing the priesthood.

Jeroboam was afraid the people would turn to Rehoboam if they continued to go to Jerusalem to worship. So Jeroboam’s plan was to make two places of worship, one in Dan and the other in Bethel, thus changing the place of worship.

Next he made two golden calves to place in Dan and Bethel, thus he changed the object of worship from God to the golden calves.

Next Jeroboam changed the time of worship from the fifteenth day of the seventh month, to the fifteenth day of the eighth month.

The last change Jeroboam made was a change in the priesthood. The sons of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi were consecrated by God to serve as priests. Jeroboam knew the true priests would insist that the only place of true

worship would be in Jerusalem, so he did away with the Levitical priesthood. Jeroboam made priests from among all the people that were not of the tribe of Levi.

All of these unauthorized changes left Israel without teachers and spiritual leaders of truth. As a result, the people became more idolatrous, violent, and reprobate. Israel’s dark ages began and the efforts of the prophets to stem the tide of idolatry was primarily in vain.

It is sad indeed when people cannot be warned and eventually reach the point that they cannot be brought back.

Tommy Stacks *from Eastside Edifier*

HAVE YOU DECIDED?

People do not just accidentally attend worship without missing for 20 years. They must have planned to always attend. Soon after I obeyed the gospel in 1909, I read of an old brother who had not missed attending in 41 years. That caused me to resolve that I would never miss worship as long as I lived, if possible to attend. The Lord has blessed me with good health, and I have only missed 4 or 5 Sundays in over 50 years.

Once I made that decision, the question has not come up as to whether I would attend except those few times I was unable. In fact, I did not decide last Lord’s Day to go to services, nor the Sunday before. That was decided over fifty years ago. It is a sin for any member to miss worship unless he is unable, Hebrews 10:25.

Gus Nichols (*deceased*)

BIRTHDAY

Taylor Nemechek, 03-08.

ILL

Sunday: Chris Edwards; Brooke and Taylor Nemechek.

Wednesday: Brooke Nemechek

Allen Scott is in Room 320 of Royal Terrance Rehabilitation Center in Olathe. Glennis Foust continues to improve. Helen Franklin is in the hospital in Louisiana. Dee Adams will have outpatient surgery on her shoulder on March 6th.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown is in Las Vegas on business. Trent Thrasher is in Owensville, MO this weekend.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, March 2, following our AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company!

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, March 9, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with brother Dudley Morton of Peculiar, MO will be held April 6-10, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 45; Sunday PM, 35; Wednesday PM, 31.

Those To Serve

March 2, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Thrasher

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Steve Brown
SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
OPENING PRAYER Jeff Nemechek
PRESIDE..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... Trent Thrasher
ASSIST..... Dave Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 5th

SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
INVITATION Ted Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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