



# RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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## THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST—PART TWO

Life seems to be full of options. At every turn we seem to be presented with options. Which church will we attend? Who will we choose to build friendships with? What job will we choose to do? What will we do at the weekend? How will we spend our time? Who will we spend time with and who will we avoid? Life seems to be full of options.

There is nothing wrong with desiring to do or not do certain things in life. One of the greatest gifts that God gave to mankind was free will. We are free people and God does not force us to follow a certain path.

But if we have made Jesus Lord of our life, we have to realize that He has a will, He has a plan. And as we look at all our “options”, we have to realize that what matters is not what we want to do, but rather what He wants us to do.

Let me give you an example. Let’s look at Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. This was the night He was betrayed. He knew that if He followed His father’s plan He was about to suffer enormously, He was going to suffer in a way that we cannot even imagine. He, the perfect Son of God, was faced with two options. Proceed with His father’s will, or choose a way out. He had those options available to Him!

<sup>36</sup> Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.<sup>37</sup> And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

<sup>38</sup> Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

<sup>39</sup> And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.<sup>40</sup> And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?<sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.<sup>42</sup> He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.<sup>43</sup> And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.<sup>44</sup> And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. (Matthew 26:36-44 KJV)

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What can we see from these verses? Jesus was faced with options. He knew that His father was not forcing Him to go through with the cross. He asked the Father for a way out- and there was nothing wrong with Him asking this, because Jesus did not just take a way out, He asked His father for a way out- which shows He was still submitted to His father. Then He prayed, “not as I will, but as thou wilt”. Jesus had a will. He had a desire to go on living and not face the cross. There was nothing wrong with Him having that desire. It was very normal. If someone told you that tonight you were going to be beaten and whipped and nailed to a cross in the morning, would you say, “Wonderful, just what I wanted?” Of course not. Jesus did not want to face the cross. Like wise it is not wrong for us, as we move through life, to have desires and hopes and dreams and plans. It is not sin to have a will. Jesus had a will. **But** His father was His Lord and so He submitted His will to the will of His father. That’s why He said, “Not my will, but your will be done, Father”.

Our lives are full of options. But if we are going to let Jesus be Lord of our lives, we need to always allow Him to direct us as we consider those options. As we move through life and make our decisions we need to have our hearts very open to His direction, because He may want to tell us, “Don’t go that way, go this way.” Or “Don’t do that, do this instead”.

Here is an example from the life of the apostle Paul:

<sup>6</sup> Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,<sup>7</sup> After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.<sup>8</sup> And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.<sup>9</sup> And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.<sup>10</sup> And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.(Acts 16:6-10 KJV)

Paul wanted to preach in Asia. But the Holy Spirit forbade him. Paul could have ignored the voice of the Spirit and he could have said, “But God commanded me to preach the gospel, and the people in Asia have not heard, so it would be good for me to preach there”. But thankfully he obeyed the voice of his Lord and moved on. Then he tried to go into Bithynia, but again, the Lord prevented him from doing that. God was directing Him. God was able to direct him because Jesus was Lord of Paul’s life. He was willing to hear God’s voice and to obey. Then finally God gave him a vision showing him he had to go into Macedonia. Now he knew what his Lord wanted and he obeyed. And that is how the church in Philippi was started.

Sometimes what God wants us to do will hurt. But He is our Lord and loves us- and the best place to be is in His will. He knows the end from the beginning, and His plans are always ultimately for our good. Jesus went through the cross, and because He did so, we are saved. Jesus now has a Bride- His Church. If He had not gone through the cross, if He had chosen the easier option, He would not have had His bride and we would not be saved.

When faced with decisions, we should not base our choices on what is most comfortable, or even what is most difficult, or what we think would be the good thing to do, or the easiest thing to do. We should ask our Lord in our hearts, “What do YOU want?” And then we must obey.

Our heart should be asking these kinds of questions, Lord, who do You want me to spend time with? Lord, these are my plans for how I will spend my time, but what do You want me to do? Lord, I really don’t like this person, but do you want me to build a relationship with them?

**A**nd why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46 KJV)

What is the Lord telling you to do? As you obey Him, you are letting Him be Lord of your life. Are you willing to hear what He might say to you? If not, you need to pray for that willingness. And then obey!

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

<sup>13</sup> For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.(Philippians 2:12-13 KJV)

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