



RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

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THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST—PART FOUR

Meanwhile Saul, still drawing his breath hard from threatening and murderous desire against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and requested of him letters to the synagogues at Damascus [authorizing him], so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way [of life as determined by faith in Jesus Christ], he might bring them bound [with chains] to Jerusalem.³ Now as he traveled on, he came near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him,⁴ and he fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me [harassing, troubling, and molesting Me]?⁵ And Saul said, Who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting. It is dangerous and it will turn out badly for you to keep kicking against the goad [to offer vain and perilous resistance].⁶ Trembling and astonished he asked, Lord, what do You desire me to do? The Lord said to him, But arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.⁷ The men who were accompanying him were unable to speak [for terror], hearing the voice but seeing no one.⁸ Then Saul got up from the ground, but though his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. (Acts 9:1-8 AMP)

When Paul requested letters from the high priest to go to Damascus, he was not under the lordship of Jesus Christ; rather he was under the lordship of the Law.

To be able to be under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, one must have a real encounter with Jesus Christ and be born again. Note verse 6. Paul asked the Lord, “What do you desire me to do?” And we begin to submit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by asking the same question.

Now there was in Damascus a disciple named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he answered, Here am I, Lord.¹¹ And the Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying [there].¹² And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias enter and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.¹³ But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard many people tell about this man, especially how much evil and what great suffering he has brought on Your saints at Jerusalem;¹⁴ Now he is here and has authority from the high priests to put in chains all who call upon Your name.¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the descendants of Israel;¹⁶ For I will make clear to him how much he will be afflicted and must endure and suffer for My name's sake.¹⁷ So Ananias left and went into the house. And he laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who appeared to you along the way by which you came here, has sent me that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:10-17 AMP)

When we are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we need not fear obeying his commands even though we do not fully understand them. He can give us understanding through his Holy Spirit. This is what happened for Ananias when God commanded him to get up and seek Paul, and not only to seek him but also to pray for him and lay hands on him so that he would receive his sight (remember that Paul had become blind). Ananias knew full well who Paul was and for this reason he didn't want to go, but when he realized that Paul had had a real encounter with Jesus, he decided to go and fulfill the mission that had been entrusted to him. This shows us that when we live under the Lordship of Christ, we are willing and obedient to the Lord's voice.

Paul asked the Lord, “What do you desire me to do?” And we begin to submit ourselves to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by asking the same question.

He is a loving and caring Father. Our life depends on him, and we must always place our trust in him. I want to give you an example of this type of trust between father and son. A group of tourists were visiting the Great Wall of China. One of the tourists was wearing a bracelet given to her by her father, but unfortunately on reaching the top of the wall the bracelet fell from her wrist and she was unable to catch it in the air. When the other tourists saw this they decided to try to rescue the bracelet. The plan was to tie a rope around someone's waist and lower them so they could retrieve the bracelet, but someone light was needed to successfully achieve this. At that moment they noticed a child and asked the child for help, offering him \$50 if he would retrieve the bracelet. The child said that he would do it, but only if his father was the one who held the rope at the top of the wall. We can see that this child had absolute trust in his father, that his father would not let him fall. We can have the same trust when we are under the Lordship of Christ. We can place our complete trust in him as he holds the rope of our life.

The sailor answered,
“Captain, I am not
here to do what I
want, but rather to
obey your orders.”

Being under the Lordship of Christ Jesus means that we need to learn to obey the Lord; in fact when we disobey we invite grave consequences. We can't blame God when we suffer consequences for our disobedience. When you tell your child, “Don't do this” or “Don't do that”, and your child doesn't obey you, you correct or discipline him or her. Are you to blame for having to discipline your child? Not at all. Galatians 6:7 says that whatever a man sows, that will he also harvest. *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* (Galatians 6:7 KJV). Therefore we cannot blame God for the consequences of our mistakes. Achan paid dearly for having taken the “accursed thing” (see Joshua chapter 7 for an account of his disobedience and its consequences). If you or I steal something, even if we are Christians, we will be taken to court and the judge will sentence us and we may well go to prison. Should we blame the judge for sending us to prison? It would be unjust for us to blame the judge for administering justice. In the same way we can't blame a just and holy God who only wants what is good for us.

When we truly live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we find it an honor for us to obey his orders even when at times we do not like the orders he gives us. But we must obey, knowing that God will never command us to do anything that will cause us lasting harm, on the contrary, when we obey his orders we receive a lasting blessing. Let me give you an example. There were two nations at war, and a certain naval captain ordered one of his sailors to fire on a certain house on the beach. The sailor obeyed the order and hit the mark perfectly, completely destroying the house. The captain congratulated the sailor for his perfect marksmanship but the sailor was very sad. When the captain saw this he told the sailor that instead of being sad he should be very satisfied because his marksmanship had been perfect. The sailor replied that the house he had just destroyed was the house in which he was born and had spent his childhood, and that it hurt him to have destroyed it. So the captain asked him, “Why didn't you tell me that when I gave you the order to destroy the house? I would have sent a squad ashore to search the house for the enemy instead of destroying it!” The sailor answered, “Because I am not here to do what I want, but rather to obey your orders.” When the war had finished, the captain had a beautiful and better house built for the sailor on exactly the same piece of land. If a human captain would do something like this, what will a God who is so powerful, just and good, not do for us his children when we obey? It's important that you take a look inside your heart. Perhaps there are things that God wants you to destroy, so that he can put something better in their place inside you.

What do you say to this? Are you willing to be under the Lordship of Jesus Christ? If you are already truly living under his lordship, I congratulate you. Keep listening to the voice of God and keep obeying him. If you are not truly living like this, I invite you today to submit yourself to the lordship of Jesus Christ so that you can experience in a deeper and richer way the great love of God.
