

3. Sacrifice Our Personal Preferences For The Gospel.

Acts 10:34

One of the things we have to come to grips with if we are going to follow Jesus is we have to submit our preferences to Him! Again, this is one of those areas that our culture struggles with.

We all have “things” that we like...or don't like. Could be attitude towards race, or how we view politics, hot button item Could be the way we view money, or any of a thousand different things that we have a settled opinion on...based on preference Peter was that way. He had a cultural bias toward Gentiles. He and most of the Jews view Gentiles as second class humans. They were not God's chosen. They didn't eat with them, socialize with them, worship with them, talk to them...hang out But...while that may have been accepted culturally in the Jewish society of his day...that was ENTIRELY unaccepted Jesus!

- What they did:

Acts 10:34-35 pg 779

With that background: Peter is called to go to the house of a Gentile and share the gospel

When he does his culture, His background, His personal preferences run headlong into the truth of the gospel...

Something must give! *“I now realize that God does not show favorites, but accepts men from every nation...!”*

~Everything in Peter's heart, mind, background has to change:

~If he was going to be a faithful follower of Jesus...then He had to accept people the way Jesus did!

- Why they did it! Had 3 years of watching Jesus Accept people...and put His needs in second place!
 - ~Samaritan Woman: John 4 (Only people they looked down upon more than the gentiles...Samaritans)
 - ~Lepers: Matt 8: Healed a leper...by TOUCHING Him! Not done!
 - ~Woman anointed: Luke 7:39 *“What kind of a woman she is...a sinner!”*
 - ~Tax collectors/sinners Matt 9:11 *“Why does your master eat with tax collectors and sinners?”*

Applic: What personal preferences do YOU need to lay down?

Race? Politics? Socio-Economic?

Your know of course that Jesus wasn't a white, middle class republican right?

He wouldn't have voted the party ticket?

He would be more likely to be found down on Clay Street and out at Meade Village, over on the Block in Baltimore

When you got saved...when you accepted salvation He offered...you laid down ALL of your rights...now serve HIM

He sets the agenda, He decides what is acceptable and what is not, He is the final arbiter of what is right...NOT YOU!

4. Sacrifice Our Time For The Gospel.

Now this is where I am going to stop preaching and start meddling!

Jesus can have our money, he can have our attitudes and preferences, he can have out comfort...but our TIME!

That is the most precious thing we have! The idea that he might actually want MORE than an hour or two a week!

I mean...If I go to worship...and maybe even SS or a bible study...what more could he possibly want from me!

- What they were doing: Acts 13:2 Pg 781

Set apart Paul and Barnabas “for the work to which I have called them!”

~There is a calling on our lives: To serve Him and to serve Others

~That calling demands we make a choice to follow after him.

~Following Jesus...means by definition that we are NOT following other things.

Sacrifice: *Act of giving up one thing...so you can pursue something else of more value!*

~All over the book of Acts: Well known like Paul, Barnabas, Philip, Peter,
Little known or Unknown like Cornelius, Tabitha, Lydia

- Why they were doing it

Joh 9:4 *As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.*

~Jesus knew the Father had a call in his life

~Jesus knew time was limited

~Jesus knew the day was coming when the opportunity to do what God called him to do would pass

Applic: Every single person that is a part of RTBC has a calling in their life

If you consider this your church home...IF you are a part of this body

Then you bring something to the table that NO one else has!

By necessity that will cost you: Time, Talent, Treasure

And you need to count the cost!

Luke 14:25-33 Pg 739

~Crowds: Time to filter them out!

~Follow me? Put me before your family! (THAT is deadly in our culture...Jesus before your CHILDREN!

~Jesus before your own life! (He gets precedence?) ~Jesus before your Everything in your life!

CONCL: One question: What Are Your Sacrificing to follow Jesus today?

- Possessions: Money and Things: That's Easy! Those are the first things that go!
- Comfort: Willing to lay that down? Willing to struggle, fight, be uncomfortable to follow him?
- Personal Preference: Are there some attitudes, Some deeply held beliefs ...that you need to surrender to Jesus
- Time: He has called you to some area of work...Are you doing it? I don't have time...sure you do: Use it for Him
Everyone in this room has the same amount of time 24 hours: Issue is not what you have: How you use it!
SACRIFICIAL LIVING: Jesus ASSUMED it for His followers: Are you living that way?