

Are You Responding to God's Call?

Let us look at Acts 6:1-7.

“And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

Strife in the Church. Thus we see in this very first verse the early Church was also a mirror image of many churches two thousand years later!

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

The leadership called the spiritual labourers - not a committee - together to select a band of Spirit filled workers.

And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”.

Seven men were nominated. Seven men were consecrated by the Apostles. And the Kingdom was able to grow.

Life is composed of two choices, the hardest part is deciding which choice!

When we accept the Saviour's offer, God chooses the way He wants us to go through life, it is up to us how we go through it.

Consider for a minute our Lord's Crucifixion. Three Crosses on top of a hill, for all to see.

The crosses either side of the middle cross carried criminals paying for their sins, with the central cross carrying the Lord as a payment for all men's sins.

The Scriptures do not say on which side either thief was, but for simplicity, the thief on the right sought the Lord to remember him in eternity. The thief on the left was a tool of Satan, derisive that the Person in the middle could help him.

Those two crosses, the one on the right, and the one on the left are representative of the two choices man is faced with as he goes through life.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God", Romans 8:7-8.

The thief on the right cross allowed his heart to be ruled by belief that he had the Son of God beside him, the thief on the left cross allowed his heart to be ruled by unbelief

So many Christians in the world today only want a benevolent easy-going Christ. They do not want to know a Christ who has demanded that you follow, **NOT LEAD THE WAY!**

There has always been that choice between the Crosses, and the Lord has always been there, waiting for our decision, we are the ones who make the decision to remain an unbeliever or a worshipper.

God called Philip to leave a revival, for one man, a eunuch in a spiritual and physical desert.

Philip had two choices at that time, remain at the revival, or go out into the desert, and meet one man.

He was presented by his peers to serve at the tables, not be an 'officer' of the Church as a leader. Philip had received his salvation from the Lord. God called him to be an evangelist.

As the clouds of turmoil get darker and darker in these present times, the choice God is calling on us to choose from, is, be an evangelist twenty-four seven, or serve at the tables two or three times a day?

Jesus said, "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it", Luke 9:23-24.

Jesus suffered humiliation, pain, rejection by those He had come to give life to.

The Cross we are to bear is not retaliation, but non-retaliation. It is moving for the Lord when He calls, not putting self first. It is the feeling of discouragement as the message of freedom is rejected. Above all, it is a passion to see people receive their salvation as their sins are nailed to an old rugged Cross.

Minute by minute you are being called upon to make a choice. We have asked many people what they would like, tea or coffee? A simple choice, but the majority will reply, "I'll have whatever you are having"!

If it is the call 'Follow Me,,,' and your choice is 'Later', you might have left it too

late to hear the rest of the Lord's sentence, '...and I'll lead you home'.