

Commitment

Easy for Some Things-Scary for Others

Easy Commitments



Scared of Commitment

- Marriage Rate is on the decline. Only 26% of millennials (ages 18-32) plan on getting married. 48% of Baby Boomers got married.
- Satellite TV and cell phone plans stress no-long term contracts.
- Why is it difficult to commit?
 - Time
 - Effort
 - Lose Freedom
 - Don't want to change your lifestyle.

Committing to God

What does it mean?

Why can it be difficult?

What is in it for us?

What does it mean?

- **Trusting in God's Will**

Abraham- Having a son at an old age.

Noah- Building the ark.

Moses- Leading the Israelites.

David- Defeating Goliath.

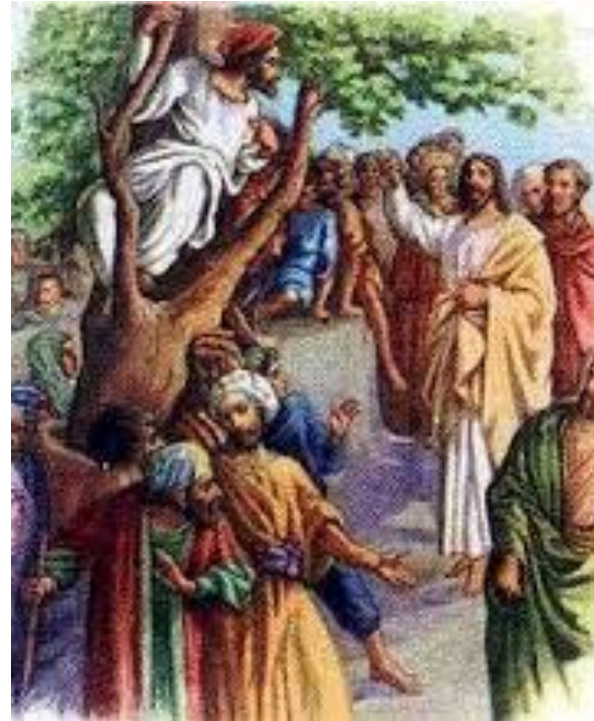


What does it mean?

- **Leaving Your Old Ways**

Peter and James- Left their fishing business and their families.

Zacchaeus- Promised to pay back any person who stole from 4 times more than he took.



Paul's Conversion

- ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”
- ⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.
- “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.
- ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized... Acts 9: 4-5, 18



What does it mean?

- Giving God Your All
- ³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22: 37
- Don't look back on what you are giving up.
 - ⁶² Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Luke 9: 62
- Setting a good example, no matter what the situation.
 - ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5: 16

Why can it be difficult to commit to God?

- We must be willing to give more than we think.



- ¹⁷“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”
- ¹⁸“Which ones?” he inquired.
- Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, ¹⁹honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”
- ²⁰“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”
- ²¹ Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”
- ²² When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Matthew 19: 17-22

Why can it be difficult to commit to God?

- God's expectations go against human nature.
 - 'love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 19:19
 - ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ..."
Matthew 5: 43-44
 - ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." Luke 6: 37

Why can it be difficult to commit to God?

Must be willing to face ridicule and rejection.

- ¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5: 11-12

Must be willing to keep Jesus' commands.

- ¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands.” John 14: 15

What is in it for me?

Peace in your Heart

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Rest from Burdens

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28

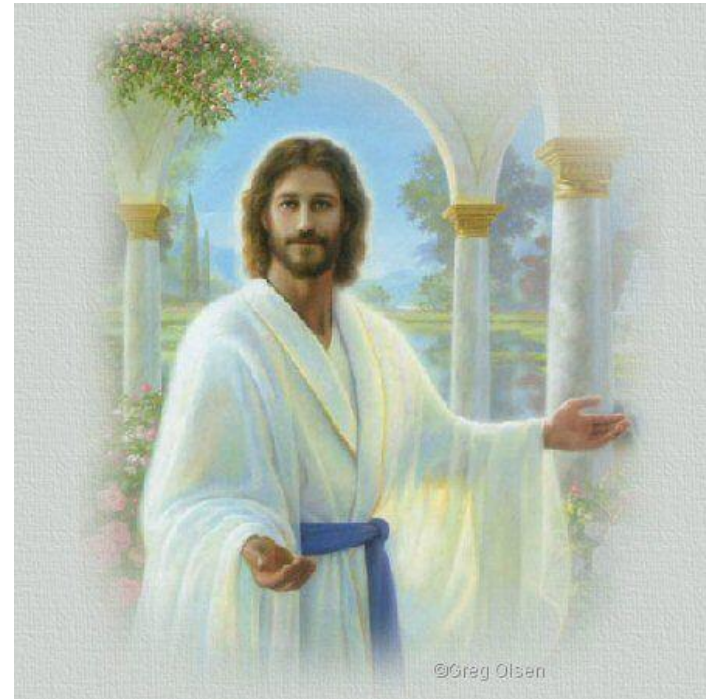
Freedom from Worry

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?” Matthew 6:25

What is in it for me?

Heaven

¹⁴ “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.” Revelation 22: 14



Commitment to God

Tough to do because:

We will face challenges.

God requires us to act against the norms of society.

It requires a change of lifestyle.

The reward is great! We can enjoy peace in our hearts and eternal life in Heaven.

