



**COMMITMENT
TO
EXCELLENCE**

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.
- Gyms 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- Sacrificing Isaac.

Genesis 22

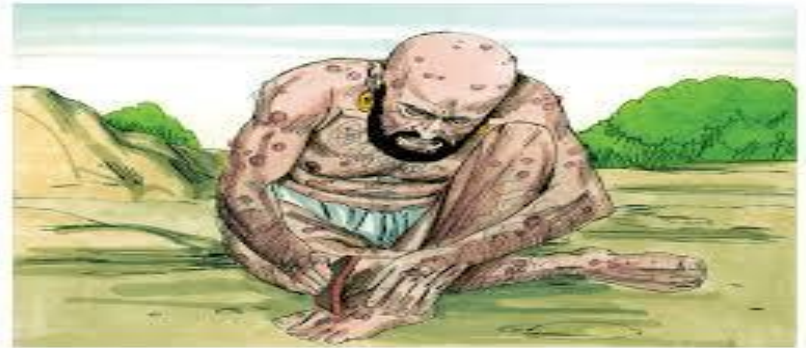
Noah- Building the ark.

Genesis; 5,6,7

Job- Experienced extreme suffering and loss. Book of Job

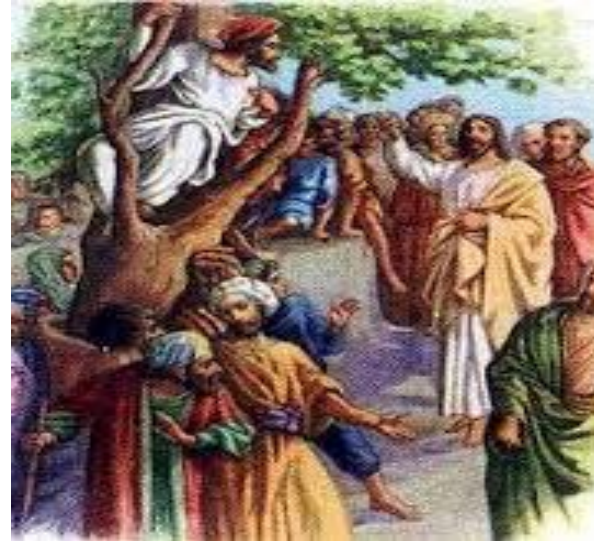
Mary-Agreeing to become the Mother of God.

Luke 1: 26-38



What does it mean?

- **Leaving Your Old Ways**
Peter and Andrew- Left their fishing business to follow Jesus. Mark 1: 16-19
Zacchaeus- Promised to pay back any person who stole from 4 times more than he took. Luke 19:1-10



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.
⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."
- ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized....Acts 9: 4-6,8-9,17-18



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,’^[a] and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b]”
- ²⁰“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”
- ²¹Jesus 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.”
- ²²When 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 us?

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 us?

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

