

## **“Why Call Ye Me, Lord?”—A Question of Obedience**

Luke 6:46-49 (text. v. 46)

There is a statistical paradox in church attendance today. While the number of members in evangelical churches has increased during the past 50 years, there has also been a greater increase in crime during that time. An increase in church membership, without a corresponding decrease in criminal activity doesn't add up. An increase in church membership should be reflected in a decrease in criminal behavior. Why are we seeing the opposite?

Could it be that church membership does not equate to obedience to the Lordship of Christ—That going to church is only a pretext for true discipleship?

The question in our text gives us a clue. The question packs a punch. It's a hard hitting question and very convicting.

### **I. The PERSON of the question.** CHRIST—*“Why call ye ME, LORD?”*

➔ When Jesus Christ returns, He will have a name written on His vesture and thigh—*“King of kings and LORD OF LORDS”* (Rev. 19:16).

A. The title “Lord” also **denotes deity**—He is Lord in the sense that God alone can be Lord (John 20:28; 1 Cor. 12:3).

- The title for God used most often in the Bible is “Lord.”

B. Why call Jesus Lord?

1. Because Jesus is Lord! He is not just “Jesus.” He is not just “Savior.” He is Lord.

➔ People say, “Make Jesus Christ Lord,” as if He were running for office. You cannot make Jesus Lord—**God has already made Jesus Lord** (Acts 2:36—*“...let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both LORD and Christ.”*). We must simply recognize His Lordship and submit to it.

- *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and that every tongue*

*should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father.”*

1. *“Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and DO NOT the things WHICH I SAY?”* The question is unanswerable. Why? Because there is no reason why we should not do what Jesus says. There is no excuse for disobedience.
2. Obedience is the only correct response to Christ’s Lordship. If you call Jesus “Lord” you are obligated to do what He says.

I recently read about a father who was trying to get his six year son to pick up his Legos. However his son was not cooperating, and the father was becoming a little frustrated.

So, the father called his son aside and asked, “Don’t you think it’s important to obey your father?” His son paused and gave his dad a thoughtful look as he considered the question. Finally he answered, “Not really!” Obedience to him was optional.

- How often do our actions tell God the same thing. “Don’t you think it is important to obey the Lord Jesus?” And our life says, “No, not really,” and we go and do as we please.
- C. Lordship means **doing God’s will instead of your own will**. Mt. 7:21—

**III. The PERPLEXITY in the question—Contradiction** between our words and our works—Our practice doesn't match our profession.

- A. To whom did Jesus ask this question? Not the Scribes, Pharisees or chief priests. His question was directed to His disciples (v. 20).
1. Several years ago there was a religious debate over what was called "Lordship Salvation." One group taught, you cannot be saved without Jesus being Lord over your life. The other group taught, salvation is entirely by grace through faith. The issue is: Are we saved by faith alone or are we saved by works alone? Or, are we saved by a combination of faith and works?
  2. My position: We are saved by grace through faith alone, but genuine Bible faith is never alone. Genuine faith will be accompanied by a corresponding change in behavior. If a person says he/she is trusting the Lord Jesus Christ to save them, but there is no evidence of Christ's Lordship, that person has a good reason to question the genuineness of their "faith."

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In 1986, *Glamour Magazine* did a survey of 25,000 of its readers. Most were women between the ages of 18 and 35. In this survey 77% pray and 87% felt like God is always helping them. Yet, nearly one half of the poll disagree with the church's teaching on premarital sex. And a third disagreed with the church on the issue of abortion. That is a **convenient faith**—You let the Lord be Lord over areas you are comfortable with, but ignore His Lordship in areas you are uncomfortable with.

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- B. To call Jesus Lord and fail to do what He says is a contradiction.
1. There can be no "buts" when calling Jesus Lord (see Luke 9:57-62).
  2. Peter's contradiction of term— "*Not so, Lord...*" (Acts 10:9-14) versus "*Yea, Lord*" (John 21:15-16)

**IV. The PRACTICE of the question.** (Luke 6:48-49)

➡ The context illustrates the principle of the text.

**SUMMATION:** In 2002 Monica Sierra was elected the youngest circuit court judge in Florida’s Hillsborough County. She drove a Mercedes and enjoyed a \$145,000 salary and all the perks that came with her position. But in November, 2007 she announced she was taking a three-month unpaid leave to volunteer at a mission agency that provides humanitarian and spiritual aid in several refugee camps in the Middle East.

Upon her return she announced her resignation from her judgeship to to become a full-time missionary. No longer able to count on her six-figure salary, Sierra said she would rely on donations and her own savings. Sierra told *The Tampa Tribune* she had no choice but to obey to the Lord’s direction. She said, “I have to trust that the Lord knows better than I do.”<sup>1</sup>

The Lordship of Christ deserves nothing less.

Why do you call Him “Lord”? If you do, does it show in your obedience to His Word?

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<sup>1</sup> Guthrie, Stan (2010-11-01). *All That Jesus Asks: How His Questions Can Teach and Transform Us* (Kindle Locations 2179-2184). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.