

Every man's search (Part 17: Faith Declarations)

Matthew 23: 34-40

What has God asked you to give to be in harmony with Him?

37 Surrender Self

In order to do the greatest Commandment, one must relinquish something of self because the two things in these directions have nothing to do with promoting anything for self.

Remember these words:

1. Thou shalt have no gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images to bow down to them.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it Holy.
5. Honor thy Father and thy Mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet.

What do we see is the running theme of these statements? No self!

Now I am back to the same question, what is it that you have been asked to relinquish in order to prove your loyalty to Jesus?

In the Old Testament:

- Adam and Eve – The Fruit of the tree of Knowledge
- Cain – Humility
- Abraham – The right to live where he wanted / The right to know where he was going / The right to his child
- Moses – The next 40 years
- Rahab the harlot – Her own country
- Joseph – His childhood dreams / His sexual purity
- Saul – Humility and obedience
- David – His faithfulness to leave His Neighbors alone
- The Widow of Zarephath – The first cake of bread 1st Kings 17

In the New Testament:

- Mary and Joseph – The right to a normal marriage and life
- Zacharias and Elizabeth – The right to name their only son
- Peter and Andrew, James and John – Left the family business
- Pharisees – Were called on to look beyond what they have previously understood and see what Jesus was declaring with great power
- Paul – His identity, his career, his life
- Here in Matthew 22: 34 – Themselves... Love (AGAPE) God and (AGAPE) neighbors more than self... but there is always something
- John Baptist – Matthew 3: 8 and Acts 26: 20 “do works meet for repentance”. Meet – 514 – suitable / worthy / due reward / worthy of praise

Again I ask you, What have you given to God that is called “works meet for repentance”?