

WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

Introduction

- 1) **Exodus 32:19-28** – swift punishment upon Israel for the sin of the golden calf
- 2) In the midst of this terrible scene is a passionate and simple “invitation” by Moses
- 3) Moses stood in the entrance of the camp and shouted in Hebrew: **“Who is for Yahweh? To me!”**
 - a) Translated in NKJV: “Whoever is on the Lord’s side, let him come to me!”
- 4) This was a key moment for Israel that fateful day – no coercion is involved, no threat is expressed – just a simple, direct invitation to declare one’s true allegiance
- 5) What more can we learn and apply from this great and fervent invitation?

I) The Lord has a “Side”

- A) Our Lord God has a definitive “side” where His truth is and those with Him stand
 - 1) This necessarily implies that there is another “side” – evil and unfaithfulness
 - 2) Life is a series of choices between these two opposing sides (cf. Deut. 30:15-20; Matt. 6:24)
 - 3) Man has the freedom (and responsibility) to choose his path (Prov. 4:26; 5:21; Matt. 7:13-14)
 - 4) “Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God’s side, for God is always right” – *Abraham Lincoln*
- B) The Lord’s side is ordered on the Lord’s terms
 - 1) If we are to stand on the Lord’s side, we must accept and follow His terms/law
 - 2) Some who claim to be on the Lord’s side are not because they practice lawlessness (Matt. 7:21-23)
- C) Some feel it is better not to “take sides” even when truth is at stake
 - 1) This is nothing more than cowardice, compromise, and men-pleasing
 - 2) There is no honor in refusing to take a firm stand for the truth (1 Kgs. 18:20-21)

II) Acknowledging the Lord’s Supreme Authority

- A) By going their own way (idolatry), Israel left the Lord’s side (Prov. 14:12)
 - 1) They are invited by Moses to repent and reaffirm their loyalty to the Lord
- B) Our lives will be filled with moments when we will be called upon to acknowledge our Lord’s supreme authority by our choices (Col. 3:17; Matt. 10:32-33)
 - 1) May find ourselves among a small number of brave faithful
 - 2) Should already be standing for every moral and doctrinal truth of God

III) Decide which Side without Delay

- A) When sin threatens to destroy our influence and soul, we need to run to the Lord’s side for forgiveness and protection (cf. Ex. 32:25)
- B) Delay is Satan’s tool to distract and disarm us [“plenty of time” “do you really want to change?” “things will eventually work out on their own”] (Acts 24:25)
- C) Hesitation can cause us to lose our determination – then lose our way!

IV) Taking Personal Responsibility

- A) Who am I? What am I doing? Which side am I on? (Eccl. 12:13-14)
- B) Each person must strive to apply personal responsibility to their lives (Josh. 24:15)
 - 1) No one can take a stand for me, or suffer the consequences for me (2 Cor. 5:10)

Conclusion

The apostles had a decision to make (Jn. 6:66-68) – they decided to stand on the Lord’s side. This brought great joy even in difficult times (Acts 5:29, 40-42). **Are you on the Lord’s side?** Let us stand together with God in truth and unity!