

**TITLE: EXAMPLES OF COMMITMENT**

**TEXT: LUKE 14:25-33**

**INTRO:** It has been said that anything worth doing is worth doing well. **Psalm 37:5** says, “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” The word “commit” is translated “trust” in **Psalm 22:8**—“He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him.”

**I. COMMITMENT EXPECTED:**

- A. **Gen 2:17** (Adam & Eve)—“of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil, thou shalt not eat...thou shalt surely die.”
- B. **Gen 6** (Noah) – all instructions for the ark were given, and God expected him to build it *exactly* as specified.
- C. Certainly Moses was given hundreds of instructions, laws, etc. that God expected to be carried out. **Num 20:12**—Striking the rock instead of speaking to it may seem like such a simple thing to humans, but to God it was unbelief, and failure to sanctify Him in the eyes of the Israelites. (How must this have made God feel? Even Moses now disobeyed Him, and in front of everyone!)
- D. **\*Deut 17:18-19** (Kings) – “he shall write him a copy of this law in a book...that he may learn to fear the Lord his God.”
- E. **1 Sam 15:3** (Saul)—“utterly destroy” the Amalekites. Saul was expected to commit himself to this mission (**\*v.22-23**—“to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...thou hast rejected the word...”).
- F. **Num 4:15** – the ark was to be carried only by the Kohathites (Levites), and even they were not to touch it. David and Uzzah violated this in **2 Sam 6:5-7**.
- G. **Luke 9:23**—“If any will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”
- H. **Luke 9:62**—“No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”
- I. **Luke 14:25-33** – Count the cost! “Whosoever...forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” (v.33).
- J. **Col 3:17**—“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do **all** in the name of the Lord Jesus”
- K. **1 Cor 10:31**—“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do **all** to the glory of God.”
- L. **1 Thess 5:17, 21-22**—“Pray without ceasing. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good; Abstain from every form of evil.”

**II. COMMITMENT EXEMPLIFIED:** Great statements of faith and commitment (either from or about these people)

- A. **Abraham** – “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment” (**Gen 18:19**).
- B. **Joseph** – “how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (**Gen 39:9**)
- C. **Moses** – “as the Lord commanded Moses” (**Ex 40:16**; 40 times in Exod–Deut, & Joshua). Moses and the people did exactly as God had commanded through Moses. This shows that Moses not only communicated what God told him to, but that he also communicated the seriousness of following God’s instructions precisely. Moses was a great example of being committed to God.
- D. **Joshua** – “but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (**Jos 24:14-15**). **Deut 6:7** says to teach your children diligently. This was a responsibility of parents. Joshua as the head of the house, commits himself and his house.
- E. **Ruth** – “Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people and thy God my God” (**Ruth 1:16**). Here is a great example of the commitment of a Moabite. She was committed to what was right, even to the point of leaving her home for very low prospects!
- F. **Job** – “My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined. Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food” (**Job 23:11-12**). (Cf. **Mt 5:6**)
- G. **Daniel** – “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank” (**Dan 1:8**). Daniel was in Babylonian captivity & was fortunate Nebuchadnezzar chose him as an interpreter. It would’ve been considered very unwise to refuse Nebuchadnezzar’s food and drink! But Daniel was committed to God!
- H. **Ezra** – “Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, & to do it, & to teach in Israel statutes & judgments” (**Ez 7:10**). Certainly commitment was needed from God’s leaders at this critical time in Israel’s history (returning from captivity).
- I. **Peter** – “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (**John 6:67-68**). The world can always provide many options regarding Peter’s question (advice for this life). But the fact is still the same – only Jesus has word of eternal life.
- J. **Paul** – “What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” (**Acts 21:13**). **2 Tim 4:7** – “I’ve fought a good fight, I’ve finished my course, I’ve kept the faith”
- K. **Timothy** – “For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state...as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel” (**Phil 2:19-22**).
- L. **Jesus** – “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt” (**Mt 26:39**). No greater commitment could you find. It’s this commitment that brought us salvation.
- M. **People of Israel** – “...speak thou unto us all that the Lord our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it” (**Deut 5:27-29**). What a great statement of faith, commitment, and obedience by God’s people! Unfortunately, just as God predicted, they didn’t follow through on their promise.
- N. The church today – will we say the same thing? Will we commit to hearing God’s word and doing it? And then, will we follow through on this commitment, unlike the disobedient Israelites? A husband who is faithful to his wife 95% of the time is not faithful!

**CONCLUSION:** We’ve seen that God commands and expects His people to be committed to Him through their obedience. And we’ve seen several examples of those who were committed to Him in this way. If as a Christian you’ve been disobedient in any way, He will forgive you if you repent. He is a great God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness (Psa 103:8; plus numerous others). The church needs committed Christians if we’re going to succeed and make any type of impact on the world. So remember the example of these people of God who were committed to Him. Pick your example and think about it regularly, letting it encourage you in this area.