

PARTNERSHIP WITH JESUS: A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Partnership with Jesus: that's what's on offer when you give your life to Him. In that partnership much will be asked of you, but the Lord always has you covered, and is always a step ahead.

1. Can you tell a story of how you've partnered with Jesus - where you have had a clear sense of working alongside Him?

Read Luke 22:7-13, where this partnership is nicely illustrated. Peter and John are commissioned to get things ready for the Passover meal. This involves - above all - securing a room to meet in Jerusalem, never more crowded than at Passover. Also it entails getting a lamb sacrificed at the temple, and procuring bitter herbs, unleavened bread, and wine.

Jesus briefs them with a tantalizing degree of detail. There's more than one way to understand His actions. Either He has organized a room already through other contacts (without briefing the disciples), and arranged a way to establish contact with the host (guys don't normally carry water in a vessel), or He has "foreseen" the way things will unfold, as He did with the donkey when He entered Jerusalem earlier.

2. Which account of Jesus' actions makes more sense - or appeals more - to you? Why?

Either way, it's clear that Jesus is ahead of the disciples. They think the Passover is up to them to organize (Matthew 26:17, Mark 14:12 - there, the disciples raise the issue with Jesus). But it turns out that Jesus knows already what will happen - may in fact have organized it. Their job is to listen to Jesus, then respond to what they learn - not to rush off and do things their own way. By doing so, the disciples end up with a top notch room, already well-furnished; and they have a pretty cool story to tell, too. Left to their own devices, they'd be scouring the city, bargaining for space.

Consider the tasks and challenges ahead of you.

3. To what extent do you assume "it's all up to you"?
4. What difference does it make to think the Lord is already at work, ahead of you and independent of your actions?
5. When you approach a task, do you take time to listen to the Lord to find out what He's planned or prepared? How do you receive guidance from Him?

The lesson of this passage is incredibly consoling. If you work to your own schedule, or imagine it's all down to you, you end up weary and - often enough - dissatisfied. But if you allow the Lord to lead, so that your actions are a response to His, you get the very best outcomes - and real adventure along the way!

Pray for each other, for the most intractable situations you face, listening to the Lord for His word.