Daily Devotion #109

It’s Easy to Quit

*Matthew 13:20-21 (NKJV) “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”*

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Quitters never win, and winners never quit”? There are some people in the world who have an amazing ability to stick to it. They have a drive that seems to be unstoppable. And when they are put against challenges, they thrive and seem to conquer almost anything that comes at them.

But not everyone has that tenacity, that intestinal fortitude to keep going when things are challenging. Many people, if not most, quit when things or life get tough. And that is especially true when their lives are on the line.

There are many people who even start well; whatever the challenge is they are ready to give it a try. But because their heart is not in it, they soon quit or go back to the life they once had. Which usually means, it was easier.

But the Lord makes clear in His Word that He wants people who have the kind of never-ending stick-to-itiveness that keeps them moving forward with Him. Like the parable Jesus taught about those who hear the Word of God. Some hear and don’t do anything with it. Others hear and follow wholeheartedly. But the middle group is the most concerning. Those are the ones who hear, and say they follow God, but when the difficulties of life challenge them, they walk away. They are more concerned about themselves and how they are being affected than following the Lord and His call for their lives.

Demas was such a man. He was a true follower of God, at least from the beginning who was used as a co-worker of Paul, until life became too challenging and difficult, so he deserted Paul.“*Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica*;” (2 Timothy 4:9) The word deserted means to utterly abandon. Meaning, Demas was pulled and allured by the world and its pleasures to the point where he turned his back on Paul and the work of ministry and ultimately on Christ.

Why did he do that? What would cause Demas to be willing to let go of the calling God had placed on him? Two answers come to mind. One, Demas was not a true believer. John says, “*They left us because they were never part of us.*” while referring to people who started out with Christ but didn’t continue in the Faith. (1 John 2:19). Two, Demas was someone who had one foot in the world and the other in the ways of Christ. He was a double-minded man. James says double-minded people cannot or do not spiritually make up their minds to be fully engaged in the Lord and His work. Therefore, they are unstable and not useful in the work of God. (James 1:8)

Ask yourself this question, “Am I a true follower of Christ”? The answer to that question will clearly determine the way you live your life because it will define you – who you are at the core of your soul. The key word in the phrase is “true”. To be true to Christ is to be fully His. To be a servant or doulos in the Greek. A doulos was a bond servant. Someone who was a slave because their master had purchased them. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ.

Beloved, do you see yourself as someone who will go with Christ no matter where He leads you? Or are you more like Demas? Someone who is still linked to this present world and just can’t let go of what you want in this life or who you want to be? Those people become quitters spiritually. And as the phrase says, “Quitters never win”.