



MATTHEW 7:21-27

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Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. 24 **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:** 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

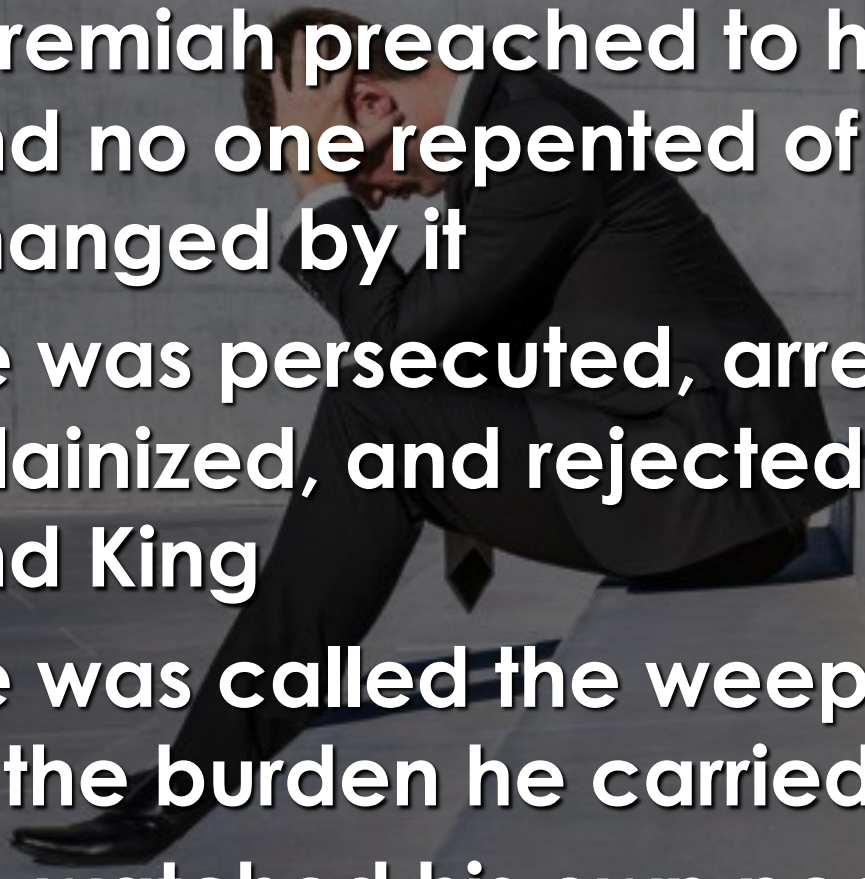
How do we define success?

- The attainment of wealth, position, honors or the like
- The favorable or prosperous termination of attempts or endeavors; the accomplishment of one's goals

Jonah

- He tried to run away from his calling but eventually obeyed it.
- Preached to foreigners, the Assyrians who were enemies of Israel and saw the entire capital city repent and turn to God from their sin including their King.
- When he saw the response of the Assyrians to his preaching which was repenting of their sins he became angry at God for not destroying them.

Jeremiah

- Jeremiah preached to his own countrymen and no one repented of their sin or was changed by it
 - He was persecuted, arrested, beaten, villainized, and rejected by his own people and King
 - He was called the weeping prophet because of the burden he carried for his people
 - He watched his own people go into captivity by the Babylonians because of their lack of repentance.
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- A man in a dark suit and tie is sitting on a white ledge or wall. He is looking down and to the side with a distressed expression, his right hand pressed against his forehead. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall.

A woman with dark, curly hair is shown from the chest up, wearing a red top. She has her hand near her chin in a thoughtful pose, looking upwards and to the left. The background is a solid dark grey.

Which one of these two prophets were a success?

The answer is both of them were because in the kingdom of God success isn't determined by your results but by your obedience to the word of God. True success is doing the will of God and allowing God to handle the outcome or the results of you fulfilling his will.

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Saul's Success Or Failure?

1 Samuel 15:1 - Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. 2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. 3 **Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**

1 Samuel 15:7 - And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. 8 **And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive,** and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 **But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.**

Saul's Success or Failure?

1 Samuel 15:12 - And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, **and, behold, he set him up a place**, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. 13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: **I have performed the commandment of the LORD.**

Saul was happy to see Samuel because he thought he was successful in performing what God had commanded. You can be successful in accomplishing your own goals but be a failure in God's eyes because you didn't do what he told you to do.

1 Samuel 15:12 (NLT) - Early the next morning Samuel went to find Saul. Someone told him, "Saul went to the town of Carmel **to set up a monument to himself**; then he went on to Gilgal."

Saul's Success or Failure?

1 Samuel 15:19 - Wherefore then **didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD**, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?
20 **And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD**, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

Saul continues to defend his disobedience, not wanting to admit that he was wrong. Like Saul, many of us want to be successful so badly that we change the objectives and lower the standards of God's purposes so that we look good. We want the badge of success so badly that we are willing to justify our disobedient decisions to ourselves so we can continue fulfilling our own desires.

Saul's Success or Failure?

Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

1 Samuel 15:21 - But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.
22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**

Too Scared To Try

One of the main reasons we don't fulfill God's will is because of our fear of other people's reactions or our desire to please them more than God.

Psalms 56:11 - In God have I put my trust: **I will not be afraid** what man can do unto me.



SUCCESS

FAILURE

Just Do It

Nike: It is the Greek word for victory. The Nike “Swoosh” logo symbolizes the wing in the far-famed statue of the Greek Goddess of victory, Nike, who largely influenced countless brave warriors.

1 John 5:4 - For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: **and this is the victory (Nike)** that overcometh the world, even our faith.

The phrase “Just Do It” was inspired by the last words of Gary Gilmore who said “Let’s Do It” just before he was executed for murder.

Just doing it means obeying God's will no matter what.

Luke 22:40 - And when he was at the place, he said unto them, Pray that ye enter not into temptation. 41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: **nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16 - Rejoice evermore. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 In everything give thanks: **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**

What's The Motive?

The reasons why we do the will of God can be just as important as doing it.

Matthew 15:7 - You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 8 **'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'**

What's The Motive?

Ephesians 6:5 - Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; 6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart; 7 With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:**



The reasons why we obey God's will is important because our motives often determine our fortitude or persistence in performing it. For example there is a level of faith in God where our obedience to God's word is based upon the outcome, result, reward, or punishment.

I'm In It For The Blessings

John 6:23 - (Howbeit there came other boats from Tiberias nigh unto the place where they did eat bread, after that the Lord had given thanks) 24 When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. 25 And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? 26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.**

Job 1:8 - And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, **Doth Job fear God for nought?** 10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. 11 **But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.**

It's The Right Thing To Do

What do you do when you obey God and the result or the outcome isn't what you wanted? There is another level of faith that is higher where a person doesn't obey God because of the result or the outcome but because it's the right thing to do.

Psalms 33:4 - **For the word of the LORD is right**; and all his works are done in truth.

Daniel 3:16 - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18 **But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods**, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Trusting God When We Don't know

Faith has the ability to predetermine the outcome from the beginning based upon what God's word has said. However, if you are in a situation where God has given you a command but he hasn't told you the outcome or the will of God is unknown then you have to operate at a higher level of faith which is trusting God to handle the outcome for your good

Romans 8:26 - 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: **for we know not what we should pray for as we ought:** but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints **according to the will of God.**

Unstoppable Obedience

When we get to the place where God delivering or blessing has no effect on our belief in him or obedience to his word we are truly unstoppable

Philippians 2:5 - **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:** 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

It's Time To Just Do It

Philippians 3:7 - **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,** 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, **and the fellowship of his sufferings,** being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

James 1:21 - Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.** 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

It's Going to Cost You

When we obey the word of God we will pay dearly. It may cost us our friends, family, jobs, and reputation. The cost of having a just do it attitude is great but the reward is greater.

Matthew 10:37 - He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he **that taketh not his cross,** and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: **and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.**

The Cost

John 15:18 - If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: **but because ye are not of the world**, but I have chosen you out of the world, **therefore the world hateth you.** 20

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

2 Timothy 3:12 - Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**

Acts 5:40 (NLT) - The others accepted his advice. They called in the apostles and had them flogged. Then they ordered them never again to speak in the name of Jesus, and they let them go. 41 **The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.** 42 And every day, in the Temple and from house to house, they continued to teach and preach this message: "Jesus is the Messiah."

The Danger Of Not Doing It

A young girl with dark hair and bangs, wearing a red hoodie, is hugging her knees and looking down with a sad expression. The background is a solid grey color.

Hardened Heart

It is a heart or will which is resistant, unyielding, and nonconforming to the word and the spirit of God. It is desensitized to God's presence, his voice, and his will.

How A Heart Becomes Hardened

A 3D illustration of a bright red heart being crushed by a large, grey, textured stone. The heart is deformed and flattened under the weight of the stone, which is positioned diagonally across the frame. The background is a dark, solid color.

1. Offenses
2. Familiarity
3. A lack of sacrifice
4. Disobedience
5. Unrepentant Sin

Hard Heart Effects

1. You will become frustrated and confused in your walk with God because you cannot perceive or understand his ways in your life
2. You will feel disconnected from God like he isn't with you
3. Everything pertaining to God will become meaningless, pointless, fruitless.
4. You will become hostile towards God and those around you.
5. You will feel like a hypocrite as you claim certain beliefs without applying them.

Cold As Ice

Matthew 24:10 - And then shall many be **offended**, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 12 **And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

Proverbs 28:14 - Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that **hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.**

Proverbs 29:1 - He, that being often reproveth **hardeneth his neck**, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Hardened Heart = Dead Faith

Mark 6:48 - And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. 49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: 50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. 51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. 52 **For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.**

Mark 8:14 - Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf. 15 And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? **have ye your heart yet hardened?** 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?

James 2:20-26 (NLT)

How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? 21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." He was even called the friend of God. 24 So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. 25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26 **Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.**

Ezekiel 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will **take the stony heart out** of their flesh, and will **give them an heart of flesh:**

Hard Heart Questionnaire

- Does prayer seem like a meaningless exercise?
- Do you read the word and get nothing out of it?
- Do you feel disconnected from God like he's not there?
- Do you claim to believe things that you don't do?
- When was the last time you heard from God?









Luke 21:6

The time is coming
when all these things
will be so completely
demolished that not
one stone will be left
on top of another."

Title

Scripture

Picture

Signs Of The Times

1. Wars
2. Natural Disasters
3. Strange Diseases
4. Apostasy
5. Persecution
6. Extreme Moral Decay