

## Series: Created to Fly

### 4. Commitment

#### Mathew 7.21

In Matthew 7:21 Jesus explains who the true disciples are: **Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.**

It is surprising to hear Jesus say that people who say "Lord, Lord" don't necessarily go to heaven. So who can go? According to the words of Jesus, only those who do the will of God, meaning those who are truly committed to Him. Obedience is connected with commitment, because only committed people obey.

Today we'll talk about what it means to be, or to stay, committed. We live in a culture that doesn't want to commit to anything and that easily gives up its commitments. But how important is this to God? What does He think when you promise to do a certain thing and you don't do it?

If I have a watch, does that mean I am committed to be on time to all my commitments? No! Because someone has a wedding ring on his finger, does that mean that they are committed to their spouses? Well, that's what the ring represents, but we all know that's not always honored.

If you ask my wife if I'm committed to her, Carolina will say "yes". Not because I have a ring, but because of what I do. My actions are what proves to my wife that I'm committed to her. Likewise, God measures our commitment to Him not based on what we say, but based on our actions. Calling God "Lord, Lord" doesn't mean that we are committed to Him. Our commitment is revealed by our choices and actions.

How many of you believe that being a committed person who keeps his promises is very important? I guess everyone. But believing it is not enough! We must act in accordance with what we say to be very important.

Today I would like to encourage you to be sincere and honest with your commitments. I hope you decide to become someone that fulfills their commitments, because that pleases God and adds many benefits to our lives, but it will cost something as well.

#### 1. Love at first sight

When the male eagle is looking for a mate and finds a candidate, he begins to follow her during her flight. But before she accepts him he has to prove himself worthy and capable of being her partner. There are two tests:

**The diving game** - She flies to the top and there begins to circle. It is then that she begins to plummet and she takes off again a few feet off the ground. If the male is able, he will do the same and thus will be found to be able to fly well and passes its first test. Then there's...

**The stick test** - She seeks a trunk of a dead tree and holds it with the claws as she flies back to the heights. Then she lets the trunk go hoping that he catches it before it reaches the ground, thus proving to be a good hunter and also able to grab the eaglets that do not learn to fly when their parents teach them.

Throughout this process she is evaluating the commitment that he is willing to make with her. After she is satisfied, it is then that the couple makes a commitment for as long as they live.

#### 2. Falling in love

The "ceremony" goes his way: The two turn to each other and while falling from the sky, (they say that this is why we have the expression to "fall in love") they lock the talons, cart wheeling towards the ground, only breaking off at the last moment. It's like they are making an alliance and making a vow for life to each other. Please watch this video that shows the process:

<http://www.arkive.org/bald-eagle/haliaeetus-leucocephalus/video-09d.html>

After the "ceremony" together they will build their nest.

We could learn a lot from the conduct of the eagles. Such as to be careful how we choose a partner or to make and maintain a lifelong commitment.

Speaking of our relationship with God, what does it mean to say: "*I am committed to You and I will follow You*"? What does it mean to say YES to the Lord? What does it mean to say that "*I'll lock my claws with God*"?

It means that I won't fly alone. I will turn to God and make a commitment for life to Him. That I will surrender to His will for my life. That I'm going to have with him a level of commitment that goes beyond saying "Lord, Lord" and obey what God expects of me.

We already read that calling God "Lord" isn't enough to go to heaven unless we do His will. In Luke 6.49 Jesus says: **But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.** You won't have a future if you *listen* to God, but not obey Him.

Romans 6: 16b says: **Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.** Whom you obey will be your master. Christ can only be your Lord if you obey him.

**Before touching the subject, let's look at some commitments to which we must pay special attention.**

1. **My commitment to God** - Am I really committed to the Lord?

2. **My commitment to my family** – Am I truly committed to my wife and kids? To be faithful in my marriage is not just about saying that you didn't commit adultery. Someone might say "*I have not committed adultery therefore I am faithful*". But being faithful is more than that. Do you remember your anniversary and her/his birthday? Do you work on staying in love? Do you take care of your spouse?

Can you say "I not only don't commit adultery but I'm also a good husband"? Can you say that you deliver what you promise? Or that you share the family responsibilities?

If I say I love my wife but I don't do anything to prove it, she has reasons to question my commitment. Therefore, to be committed isn't just about wearing a wedding ring in the same way that to be committed to your children is more than to put food on the table! True commitment can be measured by our actions, it can be proven.

3. **My commitment to my friends** - What is that your friends would say about you as a friend? Can they trust you? Are you there for them when they need you? Many times we demand of others what we aren't ourselves. We demand commitment when our friends can't count on us.

4. **My commitment to the church** - Can you say that your church can count on you? That you are committed to your brothers and sisters in Christ? Commitment to the Church isn't just taking your seat almost every Sunday, but commitment is to recognize that this is a place not just to be blessed but where I seek to bless others, that the church can count on you for the benefit the body.

Some months ago a brother called me and said in tears: "*Pastor, I and my family have appreciated all that you've done for us. I want you to know that you can count on us for whatever is necessary*". I was greatly encouraged to hear that but a few weeks later they disappeared from the Church. Was it true that they were committed to us? What they said and what they did was a contradiction.

5. **My commitment to integrity** - Am I who I say to be or do I have two faces? Am I genuine? Am I honest? To be committed to integrity will cost us something!

**6. My commitment to the community** - This speaks of my life as a citizen. Am I a good citizen? Am I a good neighbor? How do I treat others, Christians or not? Do I seek to exert a positive influence in my community, neighborhood, or am I a conflictive and selfish person?

**7. My commitment to eternity** - Do I live only for today? I'm ready for eternity? If I live my life aware that at any moment I can depart to be with the Lord, not only changes my perspective but also the way I live and treat others.

**How do I know (evaluate) my level of commitment?** It is possible to think that you are 100% committed to something and not be so. There are many people who to be committed to this and that but their actions say otherwise. There is a long distance between what we say and what we do. [I can evaluate my level of commitment by...](#)

### **1. By looking back**

My past tells me the truth about my level of commitment. Have I done what I said I would do? Have I been true to my commitments? If I look back my past history will tell me whether or not I am a committed person? [I can evaluate my level of commitment by...](#)

### **2. By asking others**

If you ask your wife, your children, the pastor, your employer, what will they will say? Sometimes you only know the truth if you ask, because in your mind you think one thing, while others see something entirely different. Asking is not easy but if you really want to know the truth and if you need to change, you have to do it. [I can evaluate my level of commitment by...](#)

### **3. Examining how I spend my time**

"! Pastor I don't have enough time!" With few exceptions, you have as much time as anybody else. Every day you make decisions on how you'll use your time and you'll be doing that all of your life. In most cases, the problem is not that we don't have enough time but it is how we use the time that we have.

Jesus had many demands but He still had time to go alone and pray to the Father. Jesus didn't allow people or circumstances to determine what he did. While He did the Father's will, we let too many things rob us of the time that belongs to God, to our spouse, our children. The way you invest our time reveals what really is important to you.

If I say that the Church is very important but I don't come, what I really think is that the church is not so important. If I say that my family is very important but I don't make time for them, what I'm saying through my actions is that my family isn't important.

It is contradictory when we have time to watch football games, go to parties, to watch soap operas, or to be on the internet and we can't find time to do the things that we say to be very important, it is a contradiction. I'm not saying that these things are necessarily bad, but often they rob the time that should be for your spouse, children, church and God.

We will be blessed if we are faithful with our time. As a wife feels robbed by her husband if he doesn't make time to be with her, also we rob God of the time He deserves and that He gives us every day. [I can evaluate my level of commitment by...](#)

### **4. Examining how I spend my money**

If I could know where you spend your money, I would know what really is important to you. We invest our money in what we are committed to. For example if we measure the importance of the Church in proportion to what you give, how important is it? My church is worth \$1 per week, \$10, \$50 or perhaps, for some, it is worthless because nothing is invested in it - my money, my time, my service.

The problem is that when we spend our money on things we need and we get them, we are satisfied, but the problem is that today we look for things that we do not really need, and as such, we never feel satisfied, it is never enough. We must evaluate how we use our finances. How do we spend the money that God allows us to earn?

**To be committed has its benefits.**

- a. We don't have to lie
- b. We don't have to hide
- c. We don't have worry
- d. We don't have to live with guilt

Why? Because I'm a person that keeps his word, that does what he promises.

1. God is speaking to those who know that they do not have a commitment with Him. Make it today. This doesn't mean you're going to live a perfect life but that you are going to fly with God and the Lord will help you. If you want to make that commitment to Him, tell Him so. Invite him into your life, ask forgiveness for your sins and He will cleanse your soul and renew your faith. Turn to Him and hold on for life to the Lord.

2. I want to pray for those who love God but who recognize that your priorities aren't right. Today, promise to make commitments that last. Make a firm commitment to your family, to your marriage, to the Church, to live in integrity, to be a good steward of what God gives you. Commit yourself to work on your attitude that it has not been pleasing to God and others. That with God's help, you will deal with your anger and bitterness. That you're going to seek to be more patient.

Lord we trust in You and leave these things in your hands. In your precious name, Amen.