

**LORD of my heart, not just Savior of my Soul
2/23/2020**

Words matter.

Get the wrong word, you miss the meaning.

Any husband or wife knows the truth of this.

- 1. Name the right spice, (Hand me the _____ .)
or who knows what's for supper...true?**
- 2. Get the right prescription, or stay sick.**
- 3. Take out or operate on the right body part,
right, surgeon?**

Well, words matter to Jesus,

every bit as much as they matter to US.

And having the reality reflect the words

is even MORE important.

I think WE think "Lord" is part of Jesus' name,

like "Mr. Jesus" or something.

It's like we have to use the right pronoun

to be "spiritually/politically correct."

But it's not about posturing; it's about integrity.

Jesus says in Luke's version of the Sermon on the Mount-

"Why do you CALL me, 'Lord, Lord,'

and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46)

Either do what you want, but then don't call me Lord,

or CALL me Lord, and let me actually BE Lord in your life.

So we refer back to our theme for 2020,

and "Be Thou, my vision, O Lord of my heart."

What did the old,

possibly blind Celtic songwriter NOT say here?

He did NOT say-

1. “Be thou my wish-giver, O genie of my lamp.”

So much of American religion today
would rewrite the song that way.

- “Believe and receive.”
- Expand your borders or influence.
- God WANTS to prosper you...
implying material prosperity.

It is almost like Jesus exists
to serve our wants and needs,
like a cosmic bellhop or concierge.

There is no mention of sacrifice or persecution,
of “counting the cost” or costly obedience.

So Jesus will turn to those following him in Luke 9:57-

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road,
a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸ Jesus replied,
“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests,
but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”
(And the implied next line from Jesus?)

And if you are going to follow me as your words declare,
You may have no place to lay YOUR head either.

Are you ready for that?

What if I am NOT the genie of your lamp?

**2. The Celtic songwriter also didn’t identify Jesus as
the “Savior of my Soul,”
although that can certainly be true,
if we respond to His invitation by grace,
through faith.**

We like the “Savior” part of Jesus’ function in our lives,
delivering us from the consequences
of sin and death.

We like that WE don’t have to die on a cross
for our sins,
or be eternally separated from God
because of our sinful rebellion against God.

We like having a home in Heaven prepared for us...
(Who wouldn’t?)

But Jesus repeatedly emphasizes
that for Him to be our Savior,
He must ALSO become our Lord.

So what is Lordship?

1. Is it to be a British property owner of a vast estate?

“Yes, my lord, of course, my lord.”

Is that YOUR image of Lordship?

“The Lord of the manor.”

Well, amp it up a bit.

Jesus is not Lord of the manor;

He’s Lord of the Universe.

2. Roman citizens understood Lordship.

Each year,

they would offer incense in a public place

and take a loyalty oath to Caesar

and the Roman empire-

“Caesar is Kurios; Caesar is Lord.”

a. They would pay taxes to Caesar and his empire.

b. They would abide by Caesar’s laws.

c. They would fight for Caesar, if called to do so.

d. Their women would have children

to fight in Caesar’s armies.

And Caesar would protect them, build roads for them.

In a world of chaos and constant warfare,
 the Pax Romana, the Roman peace,
 was a precious thing.

Into THAT context, Jesus shows up
 and says people must pledge primary loyalty not to Caesar,
 or even the Temple in Jerusalem,
 if they happened to be Jewish.

No, their primary loyalty must be to him,
 as their Savior and Lord.

He was going to do for them
 what no Caesar WOULD do, what no Temple COULD do.

He was going to restore their relationship with Almighty God.
 But in addition, he was going to make sure that
that relationship could be maintained.

If sin turned us away from God,
drove us out of the Garden in the 1st place,
 then faithful obedience (not sinless perfection),
lived out in gratitude for his sacrifice,
 would be part of the transaction, for OUR sake.

Lord- not of my head, but of my decision-maker, my heart.
 I don't know about you,
 but I can talk myself into just about anything,
 can justify just about anything.

Do you have a fond affinity
 for the confusing coordinating conjunction- "yes-but?"

1. Yes, but it was on sale.
2. Yes, but I wasn't getting any affection or intimacy at home.
3. Yes, but they deserve it.
4. Yes, but (fill in the blank). There! Wasn't that easy?

It wouldn't take much for that to become a habit, would it?

Ah, but Lord of my HEART, my WANT-to,
versus SHOULD or HAVE-to.

What if I voluntarily, daily,
chose to surrender my will to the Lord of my heart?
Would that change things up a bit,
make things easier?

1. Early on, we are under the loving authority of our parents.
2. Then it is to teachers and employers,
to police and the government.
3. Today, I work under the authority of the elders.
4. In my marriage,
I strive to mutually submit- with Nancy, my wife.

I can fight any and all of these, or I can lean into my role,
voluntarily deferring to those in authority over me,
and doing so out of love, not compulsion.

And it starts with, and can flow out of-
my voluntary submission to the Lordship of Christ,
in my heart.

But the Scripture I started with, we return to-
here at the end.

Only this time we will return to
Matthew's version of the "Sermon on the Mount"-
(You will recognize it when you see it...)

Matt. 7:21-24

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only he who does the will
of my Father who is in heaven."

**22 Many will say to me on that day,
 ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,
 and in your name drive out demons
 and perform many miracles?’
 (GOOD stuff, right? Impressive, young padawan...)**

**23 Then I will tell them plainly,
 ‘I NEVER knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**

**And you know what Jesus says next,
 at least the way Matthew presents it?**

**24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine
 and puts them into practice is like
 a wise man who built his house on the rock...”**

Get the “Lordship” part right-

- who is in charge,
- who gets to call the shots in your life,
- who you give voluntary, willing control to...

**And once you get that part straight,
 don’t just think it, talk it- but live it, put it into practice,
 and you will be a wise person,
 at least according to Jesus.**