

There's a story about a Baptist preacher, Dr. Graham Scroggie, who ministered in England many years ago. One night he had been speaking to a big audience in a huge tent on the subject of the lordship of Christ. At the end of his sermon the crowd of people left, all except for one college student. She stayed behind, all alone, in her seat. Scroggie went over to her and gently asked if there was any way in which he could help her. "Dr. Scroggie," she blurted out, "your message was so compelling. But I'm scared to make Jesus Christ my Lord. I'm afraid about what he may ask of me!"

Scroggie turned the worn pages of his old Bible to the place where Peter had a vision in Joppa. In Peter's trance he saw a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. On it were all kinds of animals that orthodox Jews considered to be unclean. Then a voice said, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." Three times Peter replied, "No, Lord." Then the elderly preacher explained the context of the Scripture to the young student. "You can say, 'No', and you can say, 'Lord', but you can't really say, 'No, Lord.' I'm going to leave a pen with you while I go outside to pray for you. Here's a piece of paper. I'm writing these two words on it: 'Lord' and 'No'. You can cross out whichever word you like."

Scroggie returned ten minutes later to find the student in floods of tears. He could see that the word 'No' had been crossed out on the piece of paper. He could just make out the words which the student uttered, in a low whisper: "He's Lord. He's Lord. He's Lord."

Not only is this story true...it illustrates an undeniable truth. When we say "No" to the Lord, we are saying in effect, "No, You are not the Master of me." When we say "No" to the Lord, we are saying in effect, "No, You are not the authority in my life and neither are You my king." When we say "No" to the Lord, we are assuming sovereignty over our own selves.

If you Google a definition of "Lord", the first meaning listed is "someone or something having power, authority, or influence; a master or ruler." When Dr. Scroggie told the young student "you can't really say 'No, Lord'", he was helping her understand that "No" abandons the recognition of Christ's lordship. Keith Green once wrote, "That's what lordship is - Christ reigning as supreme authority over our life. Making Jesus Lord of our life is not something passive. It's not a state of being; it's a state of doing. Those whom Jesus recognizes as His own are those who do the will of His Father in heaven."

R.C. Sproul states it this way: "If God is the Creator of the entire universe, then it must follow that He is the Lord of the whole universe. No part of the world is outside of His lordship. That means that no part of my life must be outside of His lordship." So...as Christ followers, we truly can't say, "No, Lord."

We talked this past Sunday about living on the right side of Easter. If Christ is Lord, which the resurrection clearly proves, then our response to Him must always be "Yes! Yes! Yes!!" Even at those moments we struggle to understand or believe or grasp the purposes of God (there will be such moments!), we prayerfully wrestle with our inclination to say "No" until the Holy Spirit brings a booming "YES" from the core of our soul. Grace & peace, love you. PK