

Convenient Or Christian

(Matthew 10:16)

- Introduction:
1. We live in a world intent on making things convenient for us.
 2. From remote controls, product packaging, fast food, and even popcorn.
 3. However, I'm afraid that our expectation of convenience is forever creeping into our spiritual lives was well.
 - a. Ills. - Drive Through Lord's Supper.
 4. The only problem with the expectation of a convenient Christianity is that Jesus didn't say it would be convenient, but rather warned us that it would be inconvenient and costly.
 - a. (Luke 9:23-24).
 - b. (Matthew 10:16).
 5. When there is a work of the church that needs accomplished; when there is a job that needs to be done; when your support is called for; does your willingness to volunteer for the job depend on whether it is "Christian" or "convenient?"
 6. I want us to examine how the desire for convenience once destroyed God's people.

I. The Division Of Israel.

- A. (1 Kings 11-12).
- B. Jereboam begins as a good man (11:28) and God chose to bless him (11:31-38).
- C. Jereboam begins thinking (1 Kings 12:26-27).
 1. He loved the convenience of being King more than being faithful to God.
 - a. He seemed to forget he wasn't king because the people voted him in, but because God raised him up.
 - b. Rather than trusting God, he sought the advice of friends.
 - c. How many times have people know the right answer, but seek advice, hoping to find someone to tell them what they want to hear?
 2. And the people loved the convenience of their newly restructured worship better than being faithful to God (1 Kings 12:28-33).

II. The Deceived Church

- A. We are living in a time of "spiritual consumerism."
 1. Recent study - 44% have left the church they grew up in. (Pew Forum on Religious & Public Life).
 2. The Jesus of Scripture is not the Jesus of modern religion
 - a. The Jesus of Scripture came to change people's and call them to service - The Jesus of modern religion comes to change people's bank accounts so they can better serve themselves.
 - b. One calls for commitment, the other calls for convenience.
 - c. The Jesus of Scripture calls us to endure hardship as a good soldier (2 Tim. 2:3) - the Jesus of modern religion calls us to convenience.

- d. What would happen if we removed the padded pews, the air conditioning, the heated baptistry, the baptistry, reverted to 2 week meetings, etc.
- 3. It's time we stop thinking selfishly. Christianity is not about convenience.
 - a. It's about sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
 - b. It's about commitment (Luke 9:59-62).
 - c. It's about service (Luke 17:10).
 - d. It requires cost (Luke 14:25-35).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Real Christianity is costly, requires great sacrifice, and is anything but convenient.
 - 2. So what is there about it that would make me want to become one?
 - 3. The answer to that question is eternity!