

What Jesus Wants! Part 1: "A Force to be Reckoned With!"

"Will you just do it for Me?" Ever heard it? How many times have you heard it? *Sometimes it's a pouty-faced manipulative statement!* "If you loved me... you would..." *Sometimes it's a desperate probe for personal value!* "Can you do this because I'm asking?" *Other times it can be a soberly sincere placement!* "Will you do it for me? What will you do for me? Will you hold back from me?"

Will we...? We spend a lot of time asking God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit... "Will you do this for me?" "What will you do for me?" "What are you holding back from me?" **And we need to be asking...** "What do you want me to do for You?" "What do you want from me?" "What do you want for me?"

The Bible clearly states what Jesus wants for, and from, us if we will ask!

Last Monday... I heard that phrase, as clear as a bell, sitting at the light at Cannan and Business 288... Our staff had been invited to an AISD/FBI meeting regarding... Human trafficking in our City/County... Big business... and active here... Open investigations of three separate criminal rings operating here. FBI had walked into AISD to engage the help of our school system! AISD invited us to hear the case...

The Case: 12-17 largest group of i-porn users... 90% of boys, 70% of girls/at least once... 35% of boys habitual... 70% boys 20% girls viewed more than thirty minutes per session... 9:10 scenes the woman is yelled at, hit, beaten or otherwise harmed... 33% of 10 yr. olds accessing violent, dehumanizing, degrading porn... Each, in time, looking for partners to carry out fantasies... Traffickers dream!

Traffickers choice/stable: Kids with low self-esteem. History of abuse (verbal/sexual)/neglect. Foster care. Fatherless children. Runaways (arguments with parents). Below poverty line. LGBT youth. Substance dependence/abuse. Repeat juvenile offenders. Users of pornography. Recently dumped in relationship. KIDS W/NO SUPPORT STRUCTURE!

By the time I left I was angry... "those are all 'church' issues!" Asking: **What do You want from me...? "Give Me a force to be reckoned with!"**

A force to be reckoned with? We are the Church of Jesus Christ! We have the armor and weapons of warfare! Truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation and the Word! **Eph 6.11-17** They are not carnal but mighty thru God! **2Cor10.4** Because we are not wrestling with mere flesh and blood! **Eph 6.12 We have the Church! R12.5 1Cor12.12-27** Not alone! Part of a whole! Strength #'s! Others to help/encourage us! **We have the Holy Spirit...** Which makes us powerful and gift-laden people! **1Cor 12. And we have the picture perfect model to follow!** Multiple verses! Anything but a wallflower! Never a secret service agent! Always a magnet for searchers/repeller for the insincere! "A sword..." **Mt 10.34**

A force to be reckoned with! "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force!" **Mt 11.12**

"Beginning with John the Baptist's appearance, and continuing now with Me, the realm of heaven advances by forcible entry and the ones whose minds are made up (like Ours) take their objectives by strategic force..."

By what force? Military? Civil protest? Or the force of God's kingdom, *operating!*

A force to be reckoned with! “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said to them... *let it be known to all* that it’s by the name of Jesus, whom God raised from the dead, that wholeness comes... for there is salvation in no one else!” *And when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were ordinary men, they marveled and took note that they had been with Jesus... and seeing the wholeness of the ones standing with them*, they could say nothing against it! **Acts 4.8-14**

A force to be reckoned with! “These are they that have turned the world upside down are come here also...” **Acts 17.6** Anastatoo: to trouble, disturb, unsettle the land, empire, and world around us! Anistemi (root): To stand up against! Challenging cultural forces/rule... But you have to ask how? Force? Riot? Violence? **By bringing the “LIGHT” of the Gospel! By living in the light of the gospel! By destroying the works of the devil!**

A force to be reckoned with! We are facing new foes... Traffickers who are willing to enslave... Buyers who are willing to make slaves...

We are going to have to be present!

We are going to have to be on alert!

We are going to have to be strategic!

But most of all, we are going to have to be real! BEST PREVENTATIVE!

For that we need diligence, *speed*, to apply ourselves to the life given us in Christ! “Employ speed to make your calling and election sure...” **2Peter 1.10**

This is the beginning of that journey of realized faith!

“Will you do it for Me?”

Will we individually bring it together to give Jesus what He wants? Or will we keep asking for more of what we want? (Consumer converts)

Will we “bodily” become the force that He leads, that stands, that wins? Or will we keep coming together to see what He can do for us?

Will we ask: Where have I been? Where am I now? Where am I going? (strategic) Or will we just tag along with Him?