

# The Master's Summons

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**Key verse: *John 14:31. Rise, let us be on our way (NRSV); Arise, let us go from here (NKJV).***

In the last hours of Jesus life, he shared a meal with his disciples (Jn 13). It was an intimate and solemn time of fellowship as Jesus expressed his final words and instructions to them. He aimed to prepare them for what lay ahead: his betrayal, trial, sufferings, and death.

They were confused and troubled, thus Chapter 14 begins, “*let not your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me*”. He then provides great assurance, instruction and promises (read verses: v3,15,20,21,27, 28-29). In Chapters 15 to 17 Jesus continues in similar fashion. But in 14:31, in the middle of the discourse, He issues a summons (see above).

Only a few words (3 in the Greek), seemingly not all that significant. Yet, extremely important at that juncture in time, and pregnant with meaning for us.

**It reveals Jesus unwavering obedience to The Father.**

Think of what lay ahead for Jesus. He was not only carrying his deep concern for His disciples, - and He did what he could to prepare them. But He was about to go through unspeakable suffering, and He knew it.

The Devil and his work were imminent: betrayal by two of his very own, anguish at Gethsemane, the trial, the injustice, the humiliation, torture, abuse, and the horrendous dark weight of the Cross in both physical and spiritual terms. He also faced abandonment. *“My God, My God, why have thou forsaken me”*.

And yet, Jesus did not back away for a minute. There was no side - stepping, no hesitation, no stopping, no retreat. ***“Arise, let us go from here” (NKJV)***.

He remained completely obedient to His Father even if it meant great personal suffering. Why?

*Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me. But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence (John 14:31 KJV).*

We say, Lord, I love you and will obey you. But would we obey Him even if it meant personal discomfort and suffering? What if it meant great personal sacrifice?

What if it meant ridicule, or being unpopular? What if it cost us dearly? What if it meant living not for self but for Him?

The Apostle Paul took no delight in suffering. No. But he understood love. He knew Jesus paid the highest price because He LOVED (Jn 15:13). He loved the Father, and it was His joy to obey.

And so, Paul writes:

*...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, (Phil 3:10 NKJV).*

People balk at obedience (my Army days). But ‘loving’ obedience to God is for our good. Why?

**Firstly**, we are all obeying somebody or something. There is no neutral ground. IN CHRIST, we are delivered from bowing to false gods (idols). Now we bend our knee to the only Lord and God, King Jesus.

**Secondly**, it simplifies life. I don’t have to be anything great or be like others, nor be liked by others. I just have to obey Jesus. Simple! I am to apply this to every area of my life (I.e., family, finance, ministry, mission).

**Jesus is only Lord if He is Lord of all.**

So, in those few words there is a summons from our Master, Jesus, to follow him into an obedient life, of loving, selfless - sacrifice, motivated by sincere love for God.

*“Let **US** go from here”.*

**It reveals Jesus’ desire for action.**

Enough talk. Let’s get to it.

Have you heard of the fishing convention? - much talk about fishing, but no fishing!

The disciples were enjoying all the benefits of being with the Master. But they were not to keep it to themselves.

There is a great work to do. **“Get up! Let us leave this place.” (ISV).**

What place are you in right now?

Have you answered the Master’s Summons? To go!

**It reveals Jesus’ desire for us to join Him.**

*“Let **US** go from here”.*

This speaks of our union and communion – our fellowship – with Jesus.

How sweet is that fellowship and companionship? Life flows from that.

Read Revelation 3:20.

*Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them (Mark 16:20a).*