

Are the Demands of the Gospel Unreasonable?

The gospel is unreasonable to those who are not willing to do God's will. Is God unreasonable? Is it unreasonable to obey the gospel? Is Lk 14:26–33 unreasonable? What about Acts 5:32?

The kingdom reign of Messiah is unreasonable to the natural man and unattainable to the carnal man. To the faithful it is very hard (Acts 14:22), but not unreasonable, for it is attainable for the spiritual man. For those who see the worth of Messiah, it is reasonable to obey the gospel (Mk 10:17,21,28–30; 3:31–35; Mt 10:37). It is impossible to be baptized into the Body by obeying an unreasonable Savior who gave unreasonable commandments. This doesn't make sense to one who does not see salvation as a pearl of great price or a treasure, which is unattainable without doing what one must do to attain it, as well as going on after baptism to attain to the kingdom (Phil 3:10-13).

How can one live in the Community without obeying Lk 9:60?

Whoever does not forsake all he has will be hindered from responding to Rev 22:17. For the word *freely* there means *without cause* — without any other cause too great, which would hinder his drinking of the water of life. Rev 21:6-8 speaks of the free gift and of the cowards, who remain as unbelievers after the offer of the water of life (Jn 4:14; 7:37-39). The word *coward* in Rev 21:8 is #1169, meaning *full of dread, fearful*.

Christians admit that God is unreasonable if He really meant the demands of the gospel. So what does one have to do? All they say one must do in order to be a believer is to go to church once a week. So why is the gospel so unreasonable?

Why would Rev 21:8 say *full of dread*? Why would the rich young ruler be so dreadfully sad after he heard the requirement of Mk 10:17,21,22? Why is all this required for trust, believing?

The *coward* in Rev 21:8 was filled with dread when he heard the good news of what it would take to drink of the water of life offered to him. Jn 3:36 actually means *to incur the wrath of God*, as Rev 21:8. The second death is the dread of having to forsake *all* to have eternal life (Mk 10:28-30; Mt 10:37; Lk 14:26,33). All is *all*, as Acts 5:1-11 meant. Acts 4:32-37 is the Community. 1 Tim 6:17-19 points to a communal life, where nothing can be held back, all has to go, being completely detached from all things which would disqualify one from the kingdom reign of Messiah (Jn 8:31,32,51).

The unreasonable demands of the gospel makes the word of God unreasonable and the Father unreasonable to expect anyone to have to do what the gospel says one must do in order to trust the Savior for his salvation. And when you study the gospel's demands, called *hard sayings*, they bear certainly unreasonable demands put on man by an unreasonable God, who says no one can come to Him any other way than by obeying these unreasonable words. But all who see Him and His word this way will walk away sad like the rich young ruler in Mk 10:22. He was not just sad, but *grieved*, which has exactly the same meaning as the word *coward* in Rev 21:8.

Grieved (#3076) means full of dread, heaviness, sorrow, having his mind set on what he would have to give up, which he could not carry with him to follow Messiah as the other disciples did, leaving their employment, family, friends, possessions — all that would hinder the journey.

What was he grieving about? What loss caused the grief? The loss of eternal life because he loved his own life (Jn 12:25-26). Mk 10:21-22 — to follow Him means to be where He is.

Grieved also means to strike the bosom and to beat the breast as an outward sign of an inward grief. This is what the rich young ruler was doing as he walked away from eternal life. Eternal life was not as important to him as his own life that he had to hate in the world (Jn 12:25) in order to follow the Son of God, who was the One who could give him eternal life and told him what he must do in order to have eternal life. The rich

young ruler did not trust Him, even though he believed that what He told him to do would grant him eternal life.

Jn 14:6 — Could the rich young ruler go to the Father any other way except through the One he asked what he must do in order to be able to? I believe that he believed in Him, or he would not have asked Him what he had to do in order to have what he wanted.