

The Demands Of Our King

It is characteristic of great leaders to make demands on their followers. During his reign, King Frederic William III of Prussia was in trouble. Wars had been costly, and, in trying to build the nation, he was running out of money. He could not disappoint his people, and surrender was not an option. After a lot of thought, he decided to ask the women of Prussia to bring their gold and silver jewelry to be melted down for their country. For each piece received, he exchanged an ornament of iron as a symbol of gratitude. Each ornament would be inscribed: "I gave gold for iron, 1813." The response was overwhelming and, more importantly, the women prized the iron from their king more highly than their former jewelry. The reason, of course, was obvious. Their decorations of iron were proof that they had sacrificed for their king and country.

Jesus Christ is more demanding than any earthly leader. Love of country, home, or property cannot stand in the way (Mark 10:21-25; Luke 14:33). Something as dear as one's close loved ones cannot stand in the way (Luke 14:26). Even one's own self, or one's own life, cannot stand in the way (Mark 8:34-37). Jesus is not some wishy-washy person coming up to us, hoping to win our favor by saying softly, "Please, may I have a word with you?" He comes to us as the Lord and King (Acts 2:36; 1 Timothy 6:14-16). Our King requires obedience (Hebrews 5:9). He will destroy all enemies in the day of His wrath (Psalm 110:5).

If you want to make it to heaven, you have to willingly submit to the demands of the One who is "*KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS*" (Revelation 19:15-16).

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