

My Way or the Highway?

(Mar 9:38-40 NKJ)

³⁸ Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us."

³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me.

⁴⁰ "For he who is not against us is on our side.

Matthew Henry Commentary:

It was strange that one who cast out devils in the name of Christ, did not join himself to the apostles, and follow Christ with them, but should continue to act in separation from them. I know of nothing that could hinder him from following them, unless because he was loth to leave all to follow them; and if so, that was an ill principle. The thing did not look well, and therefore the disciples forbade him to make use of Christ's name as they did, unless he would follow him as they did. This was like the motion Joshua made concerning Eldad and Medad, that prophesied in the camp, and went not up with the rest to the door of the tabernacle; "My lord Moses, forbid them (Num. xi. 28); restrain them, silence them, for it is a schism." Thus apt are we to imagine that those do not follow Christ at all, who do not follow him with us, and that those do nothing well, who do not just as we do. But the Lord knows them that are his, however they are dispersed; and this instance gives us a needful caution, to take heed lest we be carried, by an excess of zeal for the unity of the church, and for that which we are sure is right and good, to oppose that which yet may tend to the enlargement of the church, and the advancement of its true interests another way.

(Num 11:25-30 NKJ)

²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed *the same* upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.

²⁶ But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they *were* among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

²⁸ So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, *one* of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!"

²⁹ Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD'S people were prophets *and* that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

³⁰ And Moses returned to the camp, *both* he and the elders of Israel.

zealous above in verse 29: STRONGS - 7065 קָנָה qana' {kaw-naw'}

Meaning: 1) to envy, be jealous, be envious, be zealous 1a) (Piel) 1a1) to be jealous of 1a2) to be envious of 1a3) to be zealous for **1a4) to excite to jealous anger** 1b) (Hiphil) to provoke to jealous anger, cause jealousy