

While Keith was attending Lay Speaker Training he was required to prepare a short sermon. Keith recalled an evening when he and his wife were waiting for their meal at a drive-thru restaurant. While waiting he kept thinking that today people seem to be focused on the here and now and what they want life to give them. He felt we are basically a self-centered society. Keith then decided that is what his sermon would be about, "You Can't Have It Your Way." But, because he had such a short time to write the sermon, Keith felt it would be appropriate to also call it, "The Drive-Thru Sermon". ~P. Murphy

## THE DRIVE-THRU SERMON:

### WELCOME TO CHRISTIANITY, YOU CAN'T HAVE IT YOUR WAY!©

By Keith Z. Yezdanian

The other day I found myself waiting in line at a drive-thru restaurant with my wife. As I stared at all the choices of food from the single items, combos to the "I'm not going to be able to get out of my car when I'm finished 'Super Size Option'" I realized that our society has been totally tailored around satisfying me. And not only do I expect to have my food my way, but I expect to have everything in life my way.

**Does this sound familiar Christians?** I think I may have ruined someone's lunch plans. OK, I will make an adjustment so you won't starve later today.

We as a society have become accustomed to an almost limitless supply of stuff. We go about our lives with the attitude (I want what I want, when I want it and I will do what I have to do, to get it). We have come to believe that we are our own boss and that no one is in charge of us. I think that you would agree that not only have we become our own boss, but we are now viewing ourselves as the boss of others. We have come to expect others to serve us.

**Still sound familiar Christians?** Maybe you recall hearing it differently, let's read from **Galatians 5:13**, "**For you are called to freedom, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love**".

Do you see it now Christians? We mustn't expect others to serve us, but we must serve others! God has given all of us gifts and these gifts are not for our own selfish fulfillment, but they are given to us so we may go out and serve others (**1Peter 4:10**). Christians we must realize that we can't have it our way and we must be willing to make adjustments.

Christians, what does the word Christian mean? The word Christian means to be "Like - Christ or Christ-Like". You see we can go to church, we can study our Bibles and we can put a fish sticker on our car, but that does not make us Christians! In order for us to become Like-Christ we must allow Christ to live within us. In order for this to happen we must make adjustments in our physical lives and our spiritual lives as well. We must decrease in order for Christ to increase within us. Christ understands that we have to live within the world, but He also tells us not to be of the world.

We can't go around foolishly gossiping about others or going about selfishly indulging ourselves while our neighbors starve. **Christians we must stop merely talking like Christ on Sunday and start walking and talking like Christ EVERYDAY!** In fact we need to stop whatever it is that is hindering the Holy Spirit from fully abiding within us.

Why do we think that we are so much better than everyone else, when God Himself chose to come to us in the flesh as a mere man? You know Him: the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. God didn't send Him to condemn us, but He sent Him to save us (**John 3:17**)! In fact He didn't dress Himself in gold and fine garments; He is our Shepherd and still chooses to be the gate; He chose to live as a humble servant...**WHAT** my Savior a servant? Doesn't He know the world is His? Doesn't He know He could have it His way? Doesn't He know He's the Boss and everyone is supposed to serve Him? Doesn't He know He's the Christ and is better than everyone? NO, Christian that is what we made being "Christ-Like" or Christian look like to the world! Welcome to Christianity you can't have it your way!!!

You see while we are busy complaining about how hard the pews are, how long it took to get that burger and fries from the drive-thru or how in the world someone could clip that many coupons as we wait behind them in the check-out line, our Savior is busy granting a thief to abide with Him in Paradise (**Luke 23:43**), He is healing a new born baby, He is cutting a young mom out of a car, He is hugging a person forgotten by society, He is giving His last piece of bread to a widow, He is busy being a servant!

So I ask you as you go about your lives this week, take some time to stare at life's menu and make a choice to serve someone, whether it is the single mom, the family with a combo of problems or the super-sized life threatening illness someone is dealing with. And remember being a Christian you can't have it your way, but you can have it Christ's way! AMEN

*"The Drive-Thru Sermon!"* was written 8 May 2010

