Let's Talk About: Obedience

What does it mean to worship God?

Hopefully, after last week's lesson, you are able to answer this question. One aspect of that answer is obedience to Him. Are you obedient to the ways of God?

Time to Get Real

It is time to say something that not many of us want to hear. God expects us to be completely obedient to His ways. Many Christians would tell you that they have complete "freedom" from following the ways of God. That Jesus' death on the cross paid for their sins, so they can do whatever they want. That is not worship.

Part of worship is obedience. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Look at Jesus. Read Luke 22:39-42. How was Jesus obedient?

Now read Hebrews 5:7-10. What does this tell us about Jesus?

Verse 8 explains that Jesus was obedient through His suffering. Consider that Jesus was and is God. Yet He set aside His authority as God to be obedient to the Father. In this way, He freed all of us from our sins, but also willingly gave up His rights and freedom to do as the Father asked.

Why do you think Jesus was obedient?

What does this teach you about obedience?

It's about Humbleness

Jesus made the choice to die on the cross for us. There is no denying that. He set aside His deity, coming to earth as a man to die for us. That was a choice. It is also a choice for us to follow Jesus.

We will return to that thought later, but consider the primary reason why people are not obedient to God. Why do you think that is?

While there may be many reasons why a person is not obedient, it comes down to one simple word – pride. We want to be in charge. We want to dictate how things should go. We want things to be our way. We think we know best. When we are forced to give up that thinking and be obedient to the authority of another, a rebellious spirit rises up in each of us. Are you rebellious against those in authority? Why is that?

Read Philippians 2:1-11, focusing on verse 8. Why was Jesus obedient?

The answer to that question is simple – He was humble. He set aside everything He had to humble Himself for each of us. He got beaten and tortured by the very people He created. Could you be that humble?

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It is true that Jesus humbled Himself for us. He also received a great reward for doing so. What did the Father give Him as a result?

One day, every knee will bow at the Name of Jesus. Every person will declare that "Jesus is Lord." That happened because Jesus humbled Himself, serving the Father obediently. Do you believe that God has a reward for your obedience?

Have you been rewarded by God for being obedient to Him and His commands?

God's Blessing

This is not often proclaimed in church, but God blesses those who follow Him obediently and curses us when we act in disobedience. As an example, read Deuteronomy 28:1-20. What does God declare?

This is just one place in the Bible where God declares blessings for those who follow His commandments obediently and curses for those who follow in their own ways. The problem is that many Christians see these promises as something for the past. Something God promised in the Old Testament but they do not relate to us today. That is not true. We are the people of God now and God expects us to act obediently.

Do you think that God blesses those who act obediently?

Has God ever brought calamity when you were disobedient?

I Deserve Better!

A problem with our society is that many believe that God should adapt to their way of thinking. Many find it offensive that a woman should not lead a church. Many believe they should be allowed to have same-sex relationships or multiple marriages at the same time. Many think they should do whatever they want and God should approve. Are there areas in your life where you think like this?

If you do, you are not alone. Many Christians want to adapt the Bible and Christianity to their personal beliefs. They think that they do not need to be obedient to the ways of God. This is wrong.

Earlier, it was explained that Jesus made a choice to be obedient. He knew what was going to happen to Him and obediently followed that. That was a choice. It is also a choice for us to follow Jesus. No one forced you to do so. You had a choice, and you opted to follow God. Therefore, God expects you to act obediently to His commandments. Are you ready to commit to God and do the things He commands you to do?

What are areas in your life where you need to demonstrate obedience?

What barriers stand in the way of you being able to do this?

As a group, pray about the barriers and how you can overcome them.

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