

Celebrate God with Your Obedience, Part 5 | the best example

I. Jesus understood the importance of submission and authority.

- John 13:12-17; Genesi 3:16
- Everything has a hierarchy. Even God Himself chooses to function within a hierarchy. Presumably, the Trinity doesn't *need* to function the way it does. On the other hand, since that's the way God decided for it to work, it very much needs to function that way.
- The point is God was never going to disagree with Himself. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit had perfect unity, and yet — despite that fact — there was no socialistic, communal, plurality of leadership. And it's this reality that our sin natures try to undo at every turn.
- Therefore, we need to realize that we are subordinate to God, and we also need to learn that God created us to be subordinate to our earthly authorities.

II. Jesus couldn't act of His own power, and He didn't exercise His own authority.

- John 5:19, 8:28; I Corinthians 4:7; Isaiah 14:12-14
- Jesus knew that He could do nothing of Himself. All of His marching orders came directly from His Father. That's such an important understanding for our obedience because it acknowledges the reality that *we don't really have any authority*.
- If we and everyone else simply acknowledged that we don't have any authority over our own lives, then we would never try to exert it.
- As we learn that we were created to submit to God, we need to realize that we have absolutely no authority to contradict Him.
- Just like you need to submit to God, you need to submit to your earthly authority.

III. Jesus only exercised the authority His Father gave Him.

- John 10:17-18
- Jesus said and did many things. He taught truth that contradicted the spiritual leaders of the day. He threw people out of the temple. And He also exercised authority over demons and sin and death. But He was the first to admit that all that authority had been granted to Him by the Father.
- We need to lead with a solid understanding that our authority has been granted to us from a higher Power, and we're required to submit to the way that Authority wants us to use our power.
- Jesus did it. We can do it too.

IV. Jesus only wanted to do what pleased His Father.

- John 8:29
- We have to understand that if we truly believe God's Word, we will *want* to obey. Obviously, we talked about this in great detail a few episodes ago when we discussed the motivation for obedience. And so the next logical question is, what pleases the Father?

V. Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing.

- John 5:19, 8:28
- Jesus only said what He was taught to say by the Father.
- One of our biggest problems is that we don't see the Father do anything because we're not in the Word consistently enough to really know how He thinks and speaks and acts and expects.
- This is why we need to be studying the Scriptures. If we truly hope to mature in our obedience, we have to be looking to God.

VI. Jesus submitted even when His Father's will seemed hard.

- Matthew 26:39; James 1:6-8
- Christ's ability to do this is identical to our own. We can always obey if our authority is trustworthy.
- Of course, you may have trustworthy authority, and yet still disobey them. This is due to the fact that you don't truly believe your authority (be it man or God) is genuinely trustworthy in that situation.
- For example, even though God is perfectly trustworthy, we doubt Him. When we doubt, we're not going to obey. We're not going to be stable.
- We can overcome this hurdle when we truly come to know God. It's clear on every page of the Scripture, and it's visible in every fiber of our lives. The key is to judge God's trustworthiness by His character, deeds, and words, not by our personal definition of what's right and fair and comfortable.

VII. Jesus was confident in the fact that His Father wouldn't leave Him.

- John 8:29; I Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 13:5
- Jesus knew that God the Father was with Him and would not leave Him. He would be there expecting obedience; He would be there giving Christ the authority to do what was asked of Him. And for us, God will be there to empower us to obey.
- So, when it comes to learning to obey as Christ obeys, we need to recognize that God is actively working to make His children spiritually successful.

VIII. Jesus' motivation for obedience was His Father's love.

- John 8:29, 10:17
- For God's children, obedience is only possible when we're living in the love of God.
- We obey God because we love Him, but we love Him because He first loved us. As we rest and flourish in the love of God, we will live in the light as He is in the light. But when we turn our back on that love, we writhe in the darkness of our sinfulness.
- This is not to say that our disobedience separates us from the Love of God, but we are rejecting the love of God in our lives — the very power to obey Him and worship Him as He deserves — when we stop trusting Him. And that is a terribly sad reality.

IX. Jesus' obedience rarely led to comfort and convenience, prosperity, or personal pleasure.

- Matthew 16:21-23
- Obeying God doesn't mean that life will always be roses. In fact, the Bible is quicker to predict our trials and testings than it is our safety and rest.

X. Jesus' obedience led to blessing from His Father.

- Philippians 2:5-11
- Obviously, this is the important counterpoint to the last lesson. Though the world may hate us for our loyalty to God, God promises to bless us spiritually when we submit to Him.
- Remember that doing the right thing in the right way just to receive a blessing is not true obedience. Therefore, we need to know that we will receive God's blessing only when we do the right things in the right ways for the right reasons and in the right power.
- When we do that, obedience will always bring a blessing. God promises peace, joy, contentment, thankfulness, the power to always do right, and so much more.