

Week Seven 5/26/18

JOSHUA

"A Study in Strength"

Obedience:

Read Joshua 5:1-12

The Israelites obey God in this passage of Scripture...there are many other passages where they did not obey Him. But God says in His Word that: **To Obey is better than sacrifice** (1 Samuel 15:22)

This is what happens when we obey God:

1. Our obedience to God proves our love for Him: **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.** (1 John 5:2-3),
2. Our obedience demonstrates our faithfulness to Him: **And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.** (1 John 2:3-6),
3. Our obedience glorifies Him in the world: **Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as**

evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.(1 Peter 2:12)

4. Our obedience to God opens avenues of blessing for us: **If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.** (John 13:17)

So, what does being obedient to God mean?

For followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, obedience means to do God's will, God's way, for God's glory.

1. God's Will

Where do we find God's will? In His Word!

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Listen, in order to know His will...we have to be in His Word...immersed in His Word.

Meditating on it day and night...and then putting into practice in our lives.

2. God's Way

God's way is also found in God's Word

Satan said to Eve in the Garden: "Did God really say, you must not eat from any tree in the garden?" (Gen. 3:1)

We do the same thing when we look at God's Word and think to ourselves...is that really what God wants me to do? Is that really what He means?

Here is a simply one to begin with "Be doers of the Word and not just hearers only."

And that includes don't be angry. Don't be prideful. Don't covet. Don't be anxious. Don't be jealous. Don't envy...the list goes on and on.

Here is the key to doing it God's way:

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

There are a million decisions we make in our lifetime; the Word of God doesn't tell us how to make any of them. Decisions like what to eat, what to wear, what kind of car we drive, what house to buy or rent, what coffee we drink (WAWA of course) the list goes on. We make these decisions...if we make them with a renewed mind, then we are making them with the mind of Christ, we are making these decisions with a Christ centered mind. So, even though the Bible doesn't give us specifics on many of the decisions we make...when our minds are transformed to think and act like Jesus...to be more Christlike...we are making decisions according to the will of God.

Q.

What does that look like in your life?

3. God's Glory

God gets the glory when we live our lives with Christlikeness.

Our lives bring Him praise and glory

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

If the key to obedience to God is a renewed mind how do, we renew our minds?

One commentator defines this process like this:

"The gospel is a call for the unbeliever to repent of his sin and embrace Christ by faith. The Greek word translated "repentance" carries the notion of a change of mind. Our thinking must be changed (transformed) from old, ungodly ways of thinking into new, godly ways of thinking. What we know in our minds to be true forms a conviction in our hearts of that truth, and that conviction in our hearts translates into action. Therefore, we must first renew our minds. The only way to replace the error of the world's way of thinking is to replace it with God's truth, and the only infallible source of God's truth is His revealed Word."

The only way for us to be more Christlike...to think, act, and speak like our Lord Christ Jesus...is to immerse ourselves in His Word.

This is what the word 'Disciple' means...to be more like your teacher. The way they knew who your teacher was in ancient times was by the way you acted, and the way you spoke. People could look at your actions and hear the words you spoke and say, "They are taught by their teacher Gamaliel." Or "they are taught by their teacher Jesus."

Q.

Who is your teacher, the world...or Jesus?

Why does it make a difference?

Notes:

