

REACH OUT AND TOUCH PRISON MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDY - LESSON #9

Name: _____ I.D.# _____ Date _____

THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE

BIBLE DEFINITION: To carry out or fulfill the command, order, or instruction of God and His Word.

- 1) Jesus Christ is our supreme example of consistent obedience to God. Read **Philippians 2:5-8**. Write what those verses say about His obedience (verse 8)

a) Do you find it difficult to obey God? In what way(s)? _____

- 2) Read **Genesis 2:7-17**. What was the first test of obedience and to whom was it given?

Read **Genesis 3:1-24**. What was the result _____

- 3) Read **Genesis chapter 39**. When Joseph was put to a test, what did he do?

His response: (verse 9) _____

His action: (verse 12) _____

- 4) **Deuteronomy Chapter 28** teaches us the blessing of obedience and the harm of disobedience. Write one blessing of obedience and one harm of disobedience:

Obedience: _____

Disobedience: _____

- 5) In **Joshua 1:8** God told Joshua there are 3 things that will guarantee success in life.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

- 6) Read the **Book of Jonah** and tell in a few words:
- 1) What did God tell Jonah to do? _____
 - 2) What did Jonah Do? _____
 - 3) What happened to Jonah? _____
 - 4) What did Jonah do next? _____
 - 5) What was the final outcome? _____

- 6) What lessons about obedience and disobedience can you learn from this story?

- 7) Jesus said in John 14:21: "He who has My commandments and keeps (obeys) them, it is he who loves Me. Read **John Chapter 15**. What are some of His commandments?
- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
- 8) The Bible teaches us many Commandments which are summed up in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, which God expects us to obey.
- A) How many are listed in **Exodus Chapter 20**? _____
 - B) What is the First and Second Commandment, which is a summary of all the Commandments? (**Matthew 22:36-40**) _____

Are there any questions or struggles that you have that you would like to share with us to pray for you? Whatever is shared with us will be kept in strict confidence.

COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND RETURN IN THE ENVELOPE ATTACHED OR MAIL TO:
REACH OUT AND TOUCH PRISON MINISTRY, P.O. BOX 120249, ST. ALBANS, NY 11412

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THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE

The Purpose of God's Commands

A brief overview of Israel's history shows that the fundamental problem of God's covenant people was their repeated failure to obey God's commands. God always blessed their obedience, but their habitual disobedience was the cause of their misery and their eventual downfall. Clearly, there is a basic principle here that applies to our own lives as well. In Deuteronomy 10:12-13, we find God's loving requirements for his people:

And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

Obedience flows out of love for God and leads to greater intimacy with him. Think about this for a minute. Have you ever regretted an act of obedience to God? Have you ever regretted an act of disobedience? God doesn't just give us a bunch of commands because he's interested in restricting our freedoms. He gives us his commands for our own good.

Disobedience to God will lead to a life of regret. So, why in the world do we disobey? We often have this silly notion that somehow we'll wake up a very religious and spiritual person. Habitual disobedience will make us more foolish and set in our ways and rebellious. And there is a scary "point of no return" that we can reach. Could it be that a person gets to the point where he's hardened his heart so much that God starts hardening it for him? Certainly that happened to the Egyptian Pharaoh in Exodus.

The more we know about God, the more we can trust him. The more we trust him, the more we love him. The more we love him, the more we will obey him. The more we obey him, the more we will learn about the trustworthiness of God. It becomes a cycle, an upward spiral, as opposed to the downward spiral of compromise and disobedience. We are either spiraling up or down, drawing nearer or moving away from God.

So you must ask yourself, "To what degree are the choices I make based on right thinking (a biblical view), on wrong thinking (a temporal view of the world) or on emotions (the subjective tensions in my life)? Those are the three options. I can make decisions based upon right thinking, wrong thinking or emotions. Only the first option will result in good choices.

The Gethsemane Mindset

No one said this would be easy. There will be times when obedience to God means saying no to our personal desires. Jesus modeled such obedience in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (Matt 26:39) This is the ultimate statement of obedience. This is precisely the opposite of Adam. Adam was in a garden of his own, but he determined "My will, not yours." In so doing, his garden became a desert.

Even when God's will run counter to our culture and counter to our intuition, it is not only the right way to live, it is the best way to live, the only sane way to live. We may run the risk of being considered out of step with society, but in the long run, obedience pays huge dividends. Jesus told his disciples that obedience to him was the clearest demonstration of their love for him:

If you love me, you will obey what I command.... If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. (John 14:15, 23-24)

EXAMPLES PRICES PAID FOR DISOBEDIENCE: (Read These Chapters)

King Saul – 1 Samuel 15 Jonah-The Book of Jonah David -2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12

Obedience To God:	Obedience Should Be:	Examples Obedience:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commanded Deuteronomy 13:4 • Without faith, is impossible Hebrews 11:6 • Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Obeying God's voice</u> Exodus 19:5; Jeremiah 7:23 ○ <u>Obeying God's Law</u> Deuteronomy 11:27; Isaiah 42:24 ○ <u>Obeying Christ</u> Exodus 23:21; 2 Corinthians 10:5 ○ <u>Obeying the Gospel</u> Romans 1:5; 6:17; 10:16,17 ○ <u>Keeping Commandments</u> Ecclesiastes 12:13 ○ <u>Submission to higher Authority</u> Romans 13:1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>From the heart</u> Deuteronomy 11:13; Romans 6:17 ○ <u>With willingness</u> Psalms 18:44; Isaiah 1:19 ○ <u>Unreserved</u> Joshua 22:2,3 ○ <u>Undeviating</u> Deuteronomy 28:14 ○ <u>Constant</u> Philippians 2:12 <p>Promises for Obedience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exodus 23:22 ▪ 1 Samuel 12:14 ▪ Isaiah 1:19 ▪ Jeremiah 7:23 <p>Blessings of Obedience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deuteronomy 11:27; ▪ Deuteronomy 28:1-13; ▪ Joshua 5:6; ▪ Isaiah 1:20 	<p><u>Jesus</u> Matthew 3:15; 26:39,42; Luke 22:42; John 4:32,34; 5:30; 12:49,50; 14:31; 17:4; Hebrews 3:2</p> <p><u>Noah</u> Genesis 6:9,22; 7:5;</p> <p><u>Abraham</u> Genesis 12:1-4; 17:23; Gen. 21:4; 22:12;</p> <p><u>Moses</u> Numbers 27:12-22;</p> <p><u>Joshua</u> Joshua 10:40; 11:15</p> <p><u>Daniel</u> Daniel 6:10</p> <p><u>Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego</u> Daniel 3</p> <p><u>Paul</u> Acts 23:1; 26:4,5;</p> <p><u>The disciples</u> John 17:6</p>

KEEP THE STUDY SHEET AND RETURN ONLY THE LESSON SHEET