

# tuesday – June 23

Matthew 16:24-25, John 14:15, Luke 6:46, Philippians 2:8

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## //obedience//

Uh-oh – the “black eye” of the life of a Christian. Obedience.

Why does obeying God get a bad rap? Maybe because our selfish nature wants to be in control. We don't like being told what to do. We desire to be free...after all, hasn't Christ made us free?

The more we think about Obedience the more we realize the need to obey some things in life. The more we think about Obedience the more we realize that the greatest freedom is found in obedience.

Much like faith, we see some practical ways we OBEY daily.

We also see the desire to “break those rules” and just do what we want to.

- Speed limits are there to protect us, right? But we really only pay attention if we see a cop.
- Ordering off the kids' menu is only for kids...but we parents always try and get around that.
- No talking in class.....yeah right.
- No phones in school....next point Chris.
- No getting a water cup in American Pie and then sneaking in some orange drink.

The list could go on and on and on and on. We are always looking for a way to “not obey.” Why? Because we like doing what we want to do.

In our lives with Christ in Focus and as our Focus we must have FAITH.

BUT...we must also obey. WHY?

### My question would be WHY WOULDN'T WE?

Think about....if Christ is the answer for my problem....why wouldn't I listen to him completely?

But many times we see him as our need for salvation and then we're like....“we're good.” It's like we use Christ to get in the door to the kingdom and then we go back to life as normal. As in, old normal.

I'm really struggling with validating WHY we should obey.

I guess I tend to just think we would desire to OBEY the one who is and knows the way.

**So, did Jesus actually say we need to OBEY? Yes.** Let's look at some verses.

READ THESE VERSES REAL QUICK:

- Matthew 16:24-25

We hear Jesus lay out the way life “ought” to go. This is a huge claim by Jesus where he simply says....if you want to please God, you better follow me.

WHY? Cause he not only KNOWS the way but he IS the way. This is the very foundation of living with Christ AS YOUR FOCUS. The best way to save your life is to LOSE IT IN CHRIST.

**True freedom is found in obedience. This is so opposite to human nature.**

- John 14:15

The Gospel of John is a book that displays Christ as the one we ought to follow namely because we see Him as being one with God. So, in this verse we see it about as plain as you could see it. If you love me (you're a believer) you will keep my commandments. In other words, if you claim to follow me you will apply all that I've taught and said and did. That will be your FOCUS. Obey.

- Luke 6:46

Here we see Jesus sort of get practical. He has shown himself to be "different" though He is a man. But through the miracles and claims it appears this Jesus is indeed God in the flesh. People begin believing this but aren't completely buying in or believing. Jesus's response is one I love but also tremble at as I look at my own life. Jesus says, ***"Why would you call me Lord but not actually do what I'm asking?"*** It's like this...let's say I know how you can get to the place you're trying to go. I tell you how to get there, but you immediately go the opposite direction. How smart is that? Not smart at all right? That's Jesus' point here. Why say one thing and do another?

- Philippians 2:8 -

This one isn't Jesus saying something but Paul showing Christ leading by example. Just how far is Christ asking us to go? To the point of death. Wow. just lost about half of the readers right there. This is serious though right? Jesus never asked his followers to do what he himself wasn't willing to do. Jesus wasn't all talk, he led by example and now he's asking us to follow.....to OBEY.

If we truly desire to live with Christ in Focus and live with Christ as our Focus, we must OBEY HIM. Claims are easy. I can claim to be a magician, a nascar driver or a parrot. Random right?

Claims are validated by actions. We validate or prove our claims to be true as we live our life in submission to Christ. By actually doing what he says.....obeying Him.

WHAT NOW?

This is really simple. We must look at our inward and outward lives. We have many claims about who we are. Do your claims match who you really are?

This is easy with the tangible things.... the real things in life. Like..." hey, I'm a parrot." Yeah, you're not a parrot, you just talk like one. I would need to see a feather or two, right?

But being a follower of Christ is a bit easier to "fool" people. So it really comes down to us looking at our lives. Do I act, talk, do, move, live as a Christ?

Am I salt or just salty?

Am I light or just trying to be lit. (I know, super cheesy but maybe you get the point.

Take some time to do some self-evaluation. What needs to change?

What does my life point people to? Who am I promoting in my life? Obeying in my life?

**Share it: Share one thing with one person that hope to change in light of today.**