

Sunday, November 16, 2014

**Obedience**  
**Pastor Charles Mendenhall**

**Isaiah 1:19-20 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> ***If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:***

<sup>20</sup> ***But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.***

**Philippians 2:5-8 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>5</sup> ***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:***

<sup>6</sup> ***Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:***

<sup>7</sup> ***But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:***

<sup>8</sup> ***And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

That scripture tells us that when Jesus came to the earth he didn't come as deity. He laid that aside in Heaven and came to earth as a man born of the virgin Mary. Luke chapter two tell that Jesus grew in wisdom. How can deity grow in wisdom? He also grew in favor with God and man. How can deity grow in any more favor with God?

**Hebrews 5:8 (KJV)**

<sup>8</sup> ***Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;***

Jesus learned obedience by what he went through and as a man learned it.

Obedience is not necessarily something we are born with, but our parents are to instill, implement and teach us.

If we never learn obedience our lives will be in for a very rough road we travel. It is something we learn and sometimes it is done through the mistakes we make. If we don't learn obedience we continue to follow our selfish ways and that is our flesh.

Disobedience is instant gratification, but after it's over there is a lot of misery.

Obedience isn't instant gratification but it is delayed gratification.

Disobedience always gratifies the flesh.

Hellen Keller was blind and deaf. Her parents hired a teacher/mentor for her because they were unsuccessful. Her teacher finally said that Helen needed to be taken out of the home so that she could be taught because she was in such disobedience. Later in life when Helen would travel and give her testimony she said it was the birthday of her soul. She said she couldn't learn until she first learned obedience.

This is so true spiritually for you and I to learn the ways of God and His goodness we learn obedience.

In 1 Samuel 15 Saul is given a second opportunity by God to prove that he will be obedient to instructions or do what he is told. 1 Samuel 13 is the account of his first failure. He had had a great victory and the people gathered around him. He was waiting for Samuel to arrive and when he didn't arrive at the appointed time the people started to scatter. Then Saul presumed himself to offer sacrifice and just when he had finished instead of waiting, Samuel showed up and told him, "Saul you have done foolishly." Saul told him that he had to do something or the people would have deserted him.

We all know that circumstances can put us in a place where it doesn't seem right to do a thing, and get the attitude that we will do it another way instead of following instructions. If we are concerned about doing our own thing, it will eventually fail and you have the potential of taking a lot of people down with you. If you are pointing people to you, you

are wrong. It is Jesus in you that you point people towards. Saul fell into that trap and in Samuel 15 the Lord gives him another assignment to see if he would be obedient.

In Samuel 15 Saul has been given instruction to go to the Amalekites, they hadn't treated the children of Israel well on their journey through the land. They were to take Agag the king and destroy him and all the sheep and oxen and all the people. They had been very successful in taking them, but they saved the best, and kept Agag alive. Samuel comes to Saul and in verse 11 asks if Saul had truly followed his commandments and followed what he was told to do. Saul said he had and he partially had. Partial obedience is not obedience.

#### **1 Samuel 15:11-15 (KJV)**

***<sup>11</sup> It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.***

***<sup>12</sup> And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.***

***<sup>13</sup> And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord.***

***<sup>14</sup> And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?***

***<sup>15</sup> And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.***

#### **1 Samuel 15:22-23 (KJV)**

***<sup>22</sup> And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.***

***<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.***

By Saul developing a life and pattern of disobedience and doing it his way he was rejected from being king. Through a process he kept going down and kingship stripped from him and David moves in to kingship. Samuel told Saul that he wanted someone that was after his own heart.

Moving into the New Testament, we are kings and priests through Jesus Christ. Ruling and reigning in sonship and kingship that is going to require obedience on our part. Not perfection or not making a mistake, but it will require obedience on our part to rule and reign in life. That's God's plan.

Circumstances will come to get us to compromise. Jesus in John 17:4, The Message states: "I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do." We have all been given an assignment to fulfill here on the earth and we all have the desire to stand before The Father

A gentleman in the bible who allowed circumstances to change what God told him to do. He let them get him off course and it cost him his life.

Anytime God gives you a word there is going to be a second word. You must discern where the second word is coming from whether it's from God or someone, or the adversary.

#### **1 Kings 13:1-5 (KJV)**

***<sup>13</sup> And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the Lord unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense.***

<sup>2</sup> *And he cried against the altar in the word of the Lord, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the Lord; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, Josiah by name; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.*

<sup>3</sup> *And he gave a sign the same day, saying, This is the sign which the Lord hath spoken; Behold, the altar shall be rent, and the ashes that are upon it shall be poured out.*

<sup>4</sup> *And it came to pass, when king Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, which had cried against the altar in Bethel, that he put forth his hand from the altar, saying, Lay hold on him. And his hand, which he put forth against him, dried up, so that he could not pull it in again to him.*

<sup>5</sup> *The altar also was rent, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the Lord.*

God confirmed the word spoken.

**1 Kings 13:6-10 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *And the king answered and said unto the man of God, Intreat now the face of the Lord thy God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again. And the man of God besought the Lord, and the king's hand was restored him again, and became as it was before.*

<sup>7</sup> *And the king said unto the man of God, Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward.*

<sup>8</sup> *And the man of God said unto the king, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place:*

<sup>9</sup> *For so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest.*

<sup>10</sup> *So he went another way, and returned not by the way that he came to Bethel.*

He started in total obedience.

**1 Kings 13:11-19 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> *Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the works that the man of God had done that day in Bethel: the words which he had spoken unto the king, them they told also to their father.*

<sup>12</sup> *And their father said unto them, What way went he? For his sons had seen what way the man of God went, which came from Judah.*

<sup>13</sup> *And he said unto his sons, Saddle me the ass. So they saddled him the ass: and he rode thereon,*

<sup>14</sup> *And went after the man of God, and found him sitting under an oak: and he said unto him, Art thou the man of God that camest from Judah? And he said, I am.*

<sup>15</sup> *Then he said unto him, Come home with me, and eat bread.*

<sup>16</sup> *And he said, I may not return with thee, nor go in with thee: neither will I eat bread nor drink water with thee in this place:*

<sup>17</sup> *For it was said to me by the word of the Lord, Thou shalt eat no bread nor drink water there, nor turn again to go by the way that thou camest.*

<sup>18</sup> *He said unto him, I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him.*

<sup>19</sup> *So he went back with him, and did eat bread in his house, and drank water.*

The older prophet lied to the younger and got him into disobedience, but he then delivered a true word of the Lord and it cost the young man his life.

**1 Kings 13:20-24 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> *And it came to pass, as they sat at the table, that the word of the Lord came unto the prophet that brought him back:*

<sup>21</sup> *And he cried unto the man of God that came from Judah, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Forasmuch as thou hast disobeyed the mouth of the Lord, and hast not kept the commandment which the Lord thy God commanded thee,*

<sup>22</sup> *But camest back, and hast eaten bread and drunk water in the place, of the which the Lord did say to thee, Eat no bread, and drink no water; thy carcase shall not come unto the sepulchre of thy fathers.*

<sup>23</sup> *And it came to pass, after he had eaten bread, and after he had drunk, that he saddled for him the ass, to wit, for the prophet whom he had brought back.*

<sup>24</sup> *And when he was gone, a lion met him by the way, and slew him: and his carcase was cast in the way, and the ass stood by it, the lion also stood by the carcase.*

In our journeys we need to learn obedience. The quicker we learn it the quicker Jesus can move us into the realm of what we were sent to do here on the earth.

Giftings do not have to be learned. Abilities don't necessarily have to be learned, but they do most times need to be practiced.

God sees you on the inside as champions, no matter where you are at and how you feel, and He is so committed to work on you and I to bring us to the place that Paul said:

**Philippians 1:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

Let obedience have its way. It brings pleasure to The Father.

Father, I pray that I would come to a greater measure of obedience and we would not compromise and be talked out of what you have told us to do. Father I pray that all of us also would purpose to be obedient in our lives and when you speak to us, we will do what you ask. And Father may we be true to the vision and instruction you have given to us with clarity and accuracy. We pray that your plan and purpose will be done in each of our lives today.