
Obedience

Matthew 26:36-45

Matthew 26:36-45 (New American Standard Bible)

The Garden of Gethsemane

³⁶Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

³⁷And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.

³⁸Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me."

³⁹And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

⁴⁰And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?"

⁴¹"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

⁴²He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

⁴³Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

⁴⁵Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners."

"Running from the Master"



Winston was a cute year-old Springer Spaniel puppy. His cuddly appearance masked his rebellion. It was his first trip into the mountains and I took him for a hike. As we hiked, he picked up an elk dropping in his mouth. Telling him to drop it, I could see by his response and reaction that he understood what I wanted him to do but he was unwilling to do it. Rather than obeying me, he started to run away. He ran all the way back to camp. Further situations with him proved to be the same. I thought that I was never going to be able to trust him as a hunting dog, for 1w refused to "softhold" in retrieving game, and he displayed numerous uncooperative tendencies. Future actions verified that he would not be obedient, even when he was forced to. Discipline had to be so severe that he would growl before it would have any effect. Necessarily, we had to remove him from the household five years later when a new baby came into the home and he could not be trusted with that child.

Do you ever find yourself resisting what you know God wants you to do? Can you be trusted with what God treasures?

Is there something that God has forbidden that you are holding on to?

Reflection

Isaiah 53:4,5 tells us how brutal the assignment was that Christ accepted and fulfilled. "He suffered and endured great pain for us, but we thought his suffering was punishment from God. He was wounded and crushed because of our sins; by taking our punishment he made us completely well."

The prophet goes on to say in the 10th verse, "The LORD decided his servant would suffer as a sacrifice to take away the sin and guilt of others. Now the servant will live/to see his own descendants. He did everything the LORD had planned."

Accountability and Action

Are you being obedient to all the Lord is asking you to do today?

It is easy to respond in obedience to pleasant, simple or enjoyable tasks. How are you at responding in obedience to difficult directives? Commit this area to the Lord.

Can you be obedient in your own strength? Remember to ask the Lord for strength in obedience.