

## Obey. Obey. Obey

### SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 28:18-20 says *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- We have repeatedly been told that it is essential for us to obey God's commands in order for us to grow in our relationship with Him and to be able to receive His blessings.
- Blessings do not necessarily mean material blessings but rather God's favor, His presence, His faithfulness in our life is evidence of His blessing in our life. Let us not focus on the blessing, rather let us focus on the Giver, let us focus on pleasing God.
- Many content themselves with just the good, when in fact God has the best planned for us. But how will we enjoy the best when we content ourselves in complacency not wanting to move out of our comfort zones, not wanting to brave the unknown.
- God demands not only our mind, but He also demands for our hearts and our souls. . . our total being. It is when we are able to live out our faith and not rely on mere understanding that we can see God's best for our lives.
- One of God's commands to us is Discipleship. Husbands are urged to intentionally disciple their wives, parents their children, and older siblings their younger siblings.
- It is when we intentionally disciple that we live out our salvation.
- Unfortunately many believe in God's promises and His commands but only a few strive to obey. Our knowledge has to be fueled by our faith. James 2:18-19 says *But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. <sup>19</sup> You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.*
- Believing is not enough, our faith needs to be lived out – manifested in our lives. We have to do something about what we profess to believe.
- There are several examples about discipleship gone wrong. Some of which are the stories of:
  - Hophni & Phineas (1 Samuel)
  - Ahab and Jezebel ( 1 Kings 16 )
  - Ananais & Sapphira ( Acts 5)
  - Abraham likewise fell prey to the temptation to sin when we lied about his relationship to Sarah.
  - And finally, Adam & Eve.
- All of these examples proves to us that if discipleship is not done intentionally then we fall short of God's plans for us. It was because of the lack of discipleship that sin entered the world.
- It is not enough to obey just 99%. Sin is sin. Disobedience is disobedience. It only took one sin for us to be separated from God for eternity.

How can we restore the broken relationship?

- The answer is in Matthew 28:18-20.
  1. Obey the Gospel.
    - A disciple is a follower of Christ. Before we can become followers, we have first to place our faith in Christ. We have first to have a personal relationship with Christ.
    - We have first to obey the Gospel. If you do not obey the Gospel, then there is no need for discipleship since you are not yet a Christian.
    - What is the Gospel? Paul writes in 1 Cor 15:1-5 *Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance<sup>[a]</sup>: that Christ died for our sins according to the*

**Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, <sup>6</sup> and then to the Twelve.**

- Obey the Gospel by sharing it to those who have not yet heard the good news.
- 2. Obey, be baptized
  - Once you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, it is necessary to make that public announcement.
  - Challenge yourself and others to come out and stand up for Jesus.
- 3. Obey all, teach all
  - We must first commit to obey all before we can teach others to obey all. Obedience has to be modeled. That is the most effective teaching tool in discipleship.
  - What exactly do we obey? What exactly do we teach? The model is in Philippians 2:5-8 ***In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature <sup>7</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature <sup>8</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!***
  - Selflessness – Humility – Total Obedience.
  - These are characteristics that we need to emulate in order to become Christ-like. These are the characteristics that we need to model in order to disciple.
  - It is only when we do all these then God has promised to be with us. It is when we do these that our relationship that was broken when Adam did not disciple his wife is restored. The grace of God to reconcile us to Himself, to bring us back to a relationship with Him . . . that is the blessing of obedience.





**OBSERVATION:**

Study the passage. What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Read the bible verses cited above. Which bible verse spoke to you the most?
2. Do we really obey all? Do we model to others, disciple others and lead them to Christlikeness?
3. Reflect on: Matthew 28:19-20.

**APPLICATION:**

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Personal: Do I really obey all? What command do I not obey? Am I now willing to disciple those in my family?
	Family: How do we as a family practice intentional discipleship? How do we obey the Gospel? Have we as a family shared the Gospel? Have we made a stand for Jesus?
	Discipleship: Do we commit to disciple others? Before I can teach, I must first obey. Do I model obedience to those I disciple?
	Church/ Ministry: Our first ministry is discipleship, how committed are we in discipling others? How can you best be a witness of God’s grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.