

Lesson 103 Obedience

Introduction

This week the Lord led me to focus on one set of words that were received by the youngest person in our group. The Lord then reminded me of this passage from the bible.

Mark 10:13-16 *Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God, as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.*

The words he received were this:

09/04/12 CN – Do all I say. Do with Me. I love you very, very much. Love Me. I'll take you down the right path, not the wrong path. Heaven's your place to be in. That is all for now. God bless you. Keep your torch lit. Be in peace and go in peace. Goodbye.

At first glance these words seem to deliver a fairly simple message, however, these words encompass a significant amount of His message for today.

Do All I Say - Obedience

The Lord begins by speaking of obedience. He said, "Do all I say. Do with Me." This is not a new message. It might be easier for us to understand when He uses these words but it is still a message about "obedience" and "relationship". In the olden days He said:

Deuteronomy 30:14-16 *But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.*

But now He has said it very simply by stating, "Do all I say. Do with Me." The thing I like about this statement is that although it is simple, it says so much. It reminds us to keep Him close. It reminds us of relationship. It reminds us that He only wants the best for us. And it reminds us of His continued presence in our lives.

Again going back to the olden days, when the Lord spoke to Noah, He instructed him to build an ark. Noah minded (obeyed) the Lord and built the ark even though at the time it might have seemed like a pretty unusual request, but it ultimately, worked out well for Noah didn't it? It

worked out well for him because he was obedient unto the Lord. Consequently, when we are obedient unto the Lord, like Noah, it will work out well for us as well.

Do with Me - Relationship

When it comes to a relationship with the Lord, Noah was described this way in the bible:

Genesis 6:9 *This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.*

From this we can see that God was with Noah and Noah was with God. They had a relationship. The Lord was present in his life. Noah kept the Lord close. We like Noah are to have a relationship with the Lord. We like Noah are to keep the Lord close. We know this because....

Romans 2:11 *For there is no partiality with God.*

The Lord loves all His children! He values each one of us. He wants to have a relationship with each one of us. This fact, that He values relationship, was first illustrated in the book of **Genesis** with Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:8 *And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

We know the Lord valued this relationship because the Lord sought after Adam and Eve. And we can tell from this passage that the Lord had walked in the garden before because Adam and Eve recognized it as being Him. It was something He had done before. He was involved with them. He was in a relationship with them. But we have learned of even more relationships that He has had with others as well. For example, do you remember Enoch:

Genesis 5:22-24...*Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*

Hebrews 11:5 *By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him, for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

Enoch, like Adam and Eve, had a relationship with the Lord. We are to have a relationship with the Lord also. He is seeking after you just as He sought after Adam and Eve. This week He said it like this: "**Do with Me.**" With the emphasis on "with Me".

Romans 8:16 *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

As His child, the Lord wants to protect you, just as He protected Noah. He wants to have a relationship with you, His child, just as He had a relationship with Adam, Eve, Noah and Enoch but like Noah we must pay attention to what He is saying. We must be mindful of Him. This week He said it like this, "**Do all I say. Do with Me.**" And then He added, **I love you very, very**

much. Love Me. Once again affirming our relationship status. The Lord loves us very much. He loves us so much in fact that He did this:

1 John 4:10 *In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

This is relationship, this is love:

1 John 4:19 *We love Him because He first loved us.*

The Right Path

Because the Lord loves us, because the Lord wants to protect us, just as He protected Noah, He has promised that He will....

I'll take you down the right path, not the wrong path.

And this is confirmed in many verses from the Lord:

Psalm 32:8 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.*

Psalm 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD.*

Psalm 48:14 *For this is God, Our God forever and ever, He will be our guide even to death.*

Proverbs 3:5,6 *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 16:9 *A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.*

Isaiah 48:17 *Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel, I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you by the way you should go.*

Isaiah 58:11 *The Lord will guide you continually...*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Therefore, the Lord has promised to guide you down the right path. He has promised to instruct and teach you, to direct and yes, to guide. Can you feel the Lord's presence? Can you tell that He is with us, right now? He is present! He is present with us right now and He has promised that He will take you down the right path. And this promise is just one more confirmation of His love, one more confirmation of the relationship we have with the LORD.

Do all I say. Do with Me. I love you very, very much. Love Me. I'll take you down the right path, not the wrong path.

Your Place to Be

Following the words above, the Lord added this, **Heaven's your place to be in.** So as I was thinking about this and how these words tied in with the other words we had received, well, the Lord led me to look up some of what Jesus had said about heaven:

Matthew 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

Matthew 5:3 *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

Matthew 5:10 *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Accordingly, the first thing He taught us is that heaven is a kingdom.

Matthew 6:9... *“Our Father in heaven...*

John 14:1-2 *“Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”*

Mark 16:19 *So then, after the Lord had spoken to them. He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*

Hence we can see that He has taught us that it is a place. It is the place where the Father is. It is the place where Jesus is. It is the place, in fact, where rewards and treasures will be:

Matthew 6:1 *“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

Matthew 6:19-21 *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

In **Matthew 25** Jesus talks about heaven as a *“kingdom”* that has been prepared for us since the foundation of the world.

25:31-34 *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’”*

Thus we can gather from the verses above that heaven is the place we should want to go to. But this fact is even more evident from the story of the rich man and the beggar Lazarus.

Luke 16:19-31 *“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to*

them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

The rich man did not have legal entry into heaven. He had ignored the laws and the prophets. I believe Jesus used this story to teach us of the importance of righteousness. I believe He used this story to teach us the importance of being obedient unto Him.

So we have learned a lot about heaven from Jesus haven't we? However, I believe the Lord, when He said this, **Heaven's your place to be in**, I think He was not only talking about our future home but I believe He was also talking of our home here on earth as well. Let me explain, the Lord only wants the best for us. He has given us those very same laws and prophets that were just spoken of. He has given them, I believe, to help us through our journey in the here and now. Verses like:

Leviticus 19:18 *"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.*

Matthew 7:12 *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus said to him, "' You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Galatians 5:14 *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

I believe He gave us these so that we may all have our best life now. After all it says this in:

Galatians 6:7-10 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Can you see how all the words He gave thus far are connected? Let's look at them once again, **Do all I say. Do with Me. I love you very, very much. Love Me. I'll take you down the right path, not the wrong path. Heaven's your place to be in.** The Lord loves us and He wants our love in return. He promises that He will not lead us astray. He will, in fact, led us to Heaven, a heaven (**a place of joy and happiness**) in the here and now and a Heaven for our future (**the abode of God**), we just have to be obedient unto Him. We must be one with Him.

Closing

In closing the Lord added this, **God bless you. Keep your torch lit. Be in peace and go in peace.** Through these words, I believe you could say, that the Lord added blessings and He added encouragement to us. But let's look at what He said more closely:

God bless you - **To bless**, in this sense, means to request the bestowal of divine favor from God. Hence a request, a petition has been placed before God just for you, for your "blessing". It relates His care for you. It relates His love for you because the blessing comes from Him. I think that is pretty awesome!

Keep your torch lit – My first thought when looking at these words was this, keep the fire burning, inside of you for Him. But we will get back to that in moment. Because just about as soon as I thought about that the Lord brought this verse to mind:

Matthew 5:13-16 *“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

When we keep our torch lit we will be all that the Father has taught us to be. We will be a blessing to others. We will love one another. Our faith, our belief in Him will be on display because of the choices we are making. In other words we are living out our belief, our faith, through our obedience. It is summed up rather well in these passages from:

James 2:14-17 *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works is dead.*

Romans 12: 9-11 *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another, not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.*

Therefore, we are to be fervent (having great intensity) in spirit, for the Lord, serving Him. This will help to keep our torch lit i.e. We are to have great zeal for the Lord. In fact in the book of **Revelation** we are warned against being lukewarm.

Revelation 3:14-16 *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”*

We offer a demonstration of this burning spirit for Him by doing the will of God and all that that entails. Consequently, you can see the importance of keeping our fires burning for Him. It is because this fire is evidence of our desire to do the will of God. This is how you **Keep your torch lit**.

Be in peace and go in peace – Peace I believe is what the Lord is offering you for the here and now. It is a peace that as we are told surpasses all understanding. It is the peace that comes from knowing Him. It is the peace that comes from understanding that He wants the best for you. It is that little bit of heaven in the here and now that we spoke of earlier.

Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Lord is offering this assurance that if we do those things we have learned, if we do those things He has given to us, then we, we will indeed receive that little bit of heaven in the here and now. That bit of heaven we will be receiving in the here and now is peace. It is joy and it is happiness. And it is possible through our faith in the one true God. The God in which nothing is impossible for Him (Luke 1:37).

This week the Lord said,

09/04/12 CN – Do all I say. Do with Me. I love you very, very much. Love Me. I'll take you down the right path, not the wrong path. Heaven's your place to be in. That is all for now. God bless you. Keep your torch lit. Be in peace and go in peace. Goodbye.

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You,
Cindy

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