



The Importance of Obedience

Labour of Love 2016
Bible Studies

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Thank You!

Dorinda and myself, would like thank you all for a great 2016. Your enthusiasm really encourages us. Your heart to know God and know more about Him through the study of His Word is a great motivation.

So, again, thank you for your support, your spirit and most of all, your heart for God.

..... *Paris and Dorinda*

The Importance of Obedience

Scripture Text:
Judges 2: 1-5 & 11-23

Authorship: The author of Judges is unknown. The author has been identified traditionally with Samuel or one of his disciples.

Summary: The book of Judges is an action-packed account of the failure of the children of Israel to maintain the high spiritual standards laid down by Moses and Joshua. The book also is a tragic account of how God was taken for granted by His children year after year, century after century. Judges is a sad contrast to the book of Joshua which accounts the blessings God bestowed on the Israelites for their obedience in conquering the land. In Judges, they were disobedient and idolatrous, leading to their many defeats. Yet God has never failed to open His arms in love to His people whenever they repent from their wicked ways and call upon His name. Throughout the 480-year span of the Book of Judges God would raise up a total of 15 Judges.

The Judges of Israel

The Judges of Israel were leaders especially raised up by God not only for their military skill, but for their administrative abilities and spiritual discernment.

1st Judge: Othniel (Served 40 Years) Judges 3: 9-10

2nd Judge: Ehud (Served 80 Years) Judges 3: 15-30

3rd Judge: Shamgar (Served 1 Year) Judges 3: 31

4th & 5th Judge: Deborah and Barak (Served 40 Years) Judges 4: 4-24 Chapters 5 & 6

6th Judge: Gideon (Served 40 Years) Judges 6: 11- 40 Chapters 7 & 8

7th Judge: Tola (Served 23 Years) Judges 10: 1-2

8th Judge: Jair (Served 22 Years) Judges 10: 3-5

9th Judge: Eli (Served 40 Years) I Samuel 4: 18

10th Judge: Jephthah (Served 6 Years) Judges 12: 7

11th Judge: Samson (Served 20 Years) Judges Chapter 13-16

12th Judge: Ibzan (Served 7 Years) Judges 12: 8-10

13th Judge: Elon (Served 10 Years) Judges 12: 11-12

14th Judge: Abdon (Served 8 Years) Judges 12: 13-15

15th Judge: Samuel (Served over 80 Years)

Practical Application: Disobedience always brings judgment. The Israelites present a perfect example of what we are not to do. Instead of learning from experience that God will always punish rebellion against Him, they continued to disobey and suffer God’s displeasure and discipline. If we continue in disobedience, we invite God’s discipline, not because He enjoys our suffering, but “because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son” (Hebrews 12:6).

The Book of Judges is a testament to God’s faithfulness. Even “if we are faithless, He will remain faithful” (2 Timothy 2:13). Though we may be unfaithful to Him, as the Israelites were, still He is faithful to save us and preserve us (1 Thessalonians 5:24) and to forgive us when we seek forgiveness (1 John 1:9). “He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful” (1 Corinthians 1:8-9)

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“Be Careful What You Ask For”

Scripture Text:

1 Samuel Chapter 8

Key Verse: “Nevertheless the people refused to *obey* the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us” 1 Samuel 8:19

Definitions

Hear: To have the ability to be aware of sound by the ear

Listen: To *obey*; to take advice and follow (take action)

Practical Application

The words *hear* and *listen* have similar meanings, in that both involve the sense of hearing and the use of the ear. But hear is most often used when one simply experiences the sound. For listen the subject is more active and performs the action; one usually must concentrate when listening.

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“Obedience vs Sacrifice”

Scripture Text:

1 Samuel Chapter 15

Key Verse: “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. ” 1 Samuel 15:22

Definitions

Obedience: Agreement with an order, request, or law or submission to another’s authority

Sacrifice: The act of giving up something that you really enjoy doing or that is of great value to you

The First King of Israel

Saul: was the first king of Israel and reigned for 35 years. He had several admirable qualities suitable for a king of Israel during such turbulent times. First, he was tall, attractive man. Second, he was from the tribe of Benjamin (well-to-do family) situated on the border of Ephraim and Judah, and so had credibility with both the northern and southern tribes. Third, he was capable military leader, as his early victories demonstrate. But it was soon apparent that Saul had a rebellious nature and would not share his power and popularity. He failed to wait for Samuel at Gilgal and made several excuses (1 Samuel 13:8-12) Saul then neglected the needs of his own men and swore a foolish oath that almost cost the life of his son Jonathan. Finally, he failed to kill all of the Amalekites and lied to Samuel about the events. Saul was then rejected as a king by God and wasted the remainder of his years in fruitless attempts on David’s life whom replaced him as king of Israel.

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“But For the Fact...”

Scripture Text:

The Book of Jonah

Authorship: All that is known about Jonah is a brief historical statement made about him in 2 Kings 14:25, which indicates that he gave a prophecy that was fulfilled during the reign of Jeroboam II. Jonah’s name means “Dove” and his father’s name (Amittai) means “Truthful.” Jonah came from the tribe Zebulun, one of the tribes in the northern kingdom of Israel, and he was from a village of Gath-hepher, located about two miles northeast of the city of Nazareth.

Summary: The purpose of Jonah’s prophecy’s is to show the sovereignty of God at work in the life of an individual (the prophet Jonah), and his concern for a heathen nation (Assyria). The prophecy was given to Jonah when Assyria was becoming a great world power and imminent threat to Israel. The prophecy also shows God’s working in behalf of the heathen Assyrians, whom He brought to national repentance, and in behalf of the nation Israel, whose security He guaranteed and whose captivity He delayed for an additional 130 years.

Things that happen when I intentionally disobey God:

1. I cause myself to run or hide from God (1:3)
2. I cause God to display His wholly anger (1:4)
3. I cause other people to be placed in danger (1:6)
4. I cause God to go to plan B (1:17)
5. I cause myself to be invited to a pity party (2: 2 & 5-6)
6. I cause myself to become angry when good things happen to others (4:1-3)
7. I cause myself to lose my peace of mind (4:6-8)

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Ground Zero

Scripture Text:
Proverbs 4: 20-27

Definition of Ground Zero

The point on the earth's surface directly above, below, or at which an explosion occurs. The central point in an area of fast change or intense activity. The beginning state or starting point (square one)

Definition of Spiritual Ground Zero

The place in the mind (heart or soul) where your will, intellect, emotions, and desire come together and meet.

Inside Ground Zero

Will: is a part of the mind that has the ability to make choices and decisions regarding anything that is known. However it is influenced and relies on the intellect, emotions, and desire.

Intellect: is as part of the mind that reasons every piece of information and provides it to the will. It thinks day and night; also the place where wisdom and knowledge is stored.

Emotions: is a part of the mind that expresses any feelings of joy, sorrow, fear, hate, love etc.

Desire: is a part of the mind that provides the will any kind of craving, want, longing etc.

Scripture Quotes Heart, Mind, & Soul

Deuteronomy 10:10 "And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently into my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart (mind) and with all your soul"

Jeremiah 17: 9-10 "The heart (mind) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, (mind) I try the reins, even to give every man according to ways, and according to the fruit of doings"

Matthew 12:34 “O generation of vipers, how can ye being evil, speak good things? For out of the heart (mind) the mouth speaketh”

Matthew 15: 18-20 “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart (mind); and they defile the man”

John 14:1 “Let not your heart (mind) be troubled: ye believe in God believe also in me”

Isiah 26:3 “Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind (heart) is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee”

Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”

Matthew 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mind) or what shall a man give exchange for his soul? (Mind)

Matthew 26:38 “Then said he unto them, my soul (mind) is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death”

1 Peter 2:11 “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul (mind)”

3 John 2 “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul (mind) prospereth”

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The Bread from Heaven

Scripture Text:

John Chapter 6: 25-65
Exodus Chapter 16: 4-31

Summary of Exodus Chapter 16 & John Chapter 6

During the forty years between the time the Israelites left Egypt and entered the Promised Land, they faced harsh conditions, including a shortage of food. To alleviate this problem, God miraculously provided the Israelites with “bread from heaven,” called “manna.” The word manna literally means “What is it?”

The Bible nowhere discusses the chemical composition of manna. All we are told is that “it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey” The manna appeared each morning, and the Israelites were given specific instructions on gathering it (See Exodus 16: 16-26) Far more important than manna’s physical qualities is what manna foreshadowed. Manna is a type, or foreshadowing, of Jesus. After Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000, they wanted Him to “give us this bread always” (John 6:34). Jesus tried to get their attention off of physical bread and onto the true “bread of life.”

“Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world... I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst” (John 6:32-35). Sadly, the people could not get their minds off of physical bread long enough to understand the spiritual truth Jesus was declaring (John 6:36-59).

They were more concerned with the condition of their stomachs than the condition of their souls (mind) Just as God provided manna to the Israelites to save them from starvation, He has provided Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls (mind). The literal manna temporarily saved the Israelites from physical death. The spiritual manna saves us from eternal death. “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die” (John 6:49-50).

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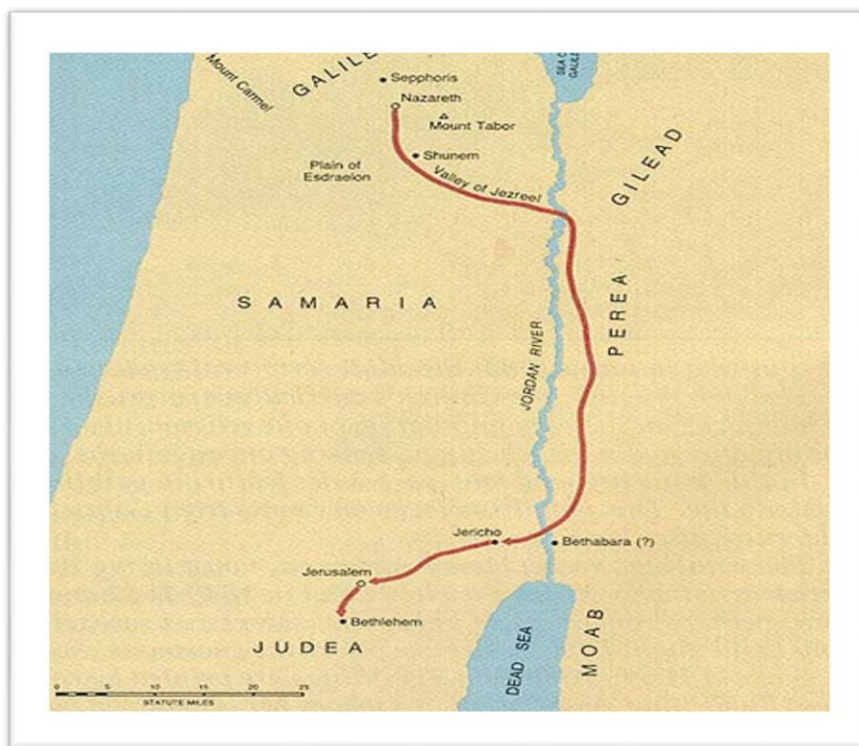
The Living Water

Scripture Text:
John Chapter 4: 4-26

The Samaritan People

The Samaritan people had been despised by the Jews since Old Testament times due to their intermarriage with Gentiles during the Assyrian captivity (2 Kings 17:24-41). They acknowledged only the Pentateuch (First five books of the Bible) Jews also despised the Samaritans because of their belief that Mount Gerizim, not Jerusalem was the place appointed by God for sacrifice, and around 400 B.C. built a temple on Mount Gerizim. When Christ first commissioned the Twelve, He forbade them to go to the Samaritans; Israel needed to repent first (Matthew 10:5-6) Later, however, Christ specifically sent them to the Samaritans (Acts 1:8) Christ treated the Samaritans graciously, as is evident from His dealings with the Samaritan woman at the well, and from His teachings in the parables of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37) and of the 10 lepers, in which the thankful one was a Samaritan (Luke 17:11-19).

The long route taken by strict Jews from Jerusalem to Galilee was toward Jericho, across the Jordan River to the east side, north through Perea (bypassing the hated Samaritans), finally recrossing the Jordan into Galilee.



Definition of God

God is a spiritual being who is invisible and without a body; He is a divine person who reveals himself in perfect intellect, emotion, and will; He is the source and personification of all material and spiritual life; He is self-existent; He is eternal in relationship to time; He is unlimited in relationship to immensity of space; He is immutable in His nature; He is the unity of all existence; and He is consistent in His being –that is, He corresponds in actual fact to His nature and attributes as they are revealed to us.

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It's All About You

Scripture Text: John Chapter 4: 27-42

Intent & Purpose

For every believer to understand and realize that in order for us to effectively reach those individuals that are lost, we have to become that bridge to Jesus for them. By our faith, love, and lifestyle.

Seven Valuable Truths That "It's All About You"

1. Those that are lost will not trust and believe in Jesus until they can see you living a lifestyle that is in agreement with the very words that you are trying to preach to them.
2. We need to be more honest or share more to those that are lost about our past failures, choices, or lifestyle prior to giving our lives to Jesus.
3. As believers we need to learn how to stop emphasizing to the unbelievers their sins to them (or lifestyle) and just talk or treat them the way Jesus has dealt with your own sins before you got saved.
4. Often times we as believers focus so much energy evangelizing (getting people saved) we neglect or do not learn how to feed our own spirit.
5. Our personal testimony about Jesus is one of the most powerful tool in leading others to believe in him.
6. Ultimately, we must leave the salvation of our loved ones up to God. It's God's power and grace that saves people, not our efforts.
7. We need to continually pray that God would reveal himself to them, so their hearts (mind) and eyes be open to the truth of the gospel. As he has open them up for you!

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Let Freedom Ring!

Scripture Text: John Chapter 8: 31-47

Intent & Purpose

For us as believers to understand and realize that true freedom is not the ability to do whatever we want, go wherever we want, or say whatever we want. But that true freedom is freedom from sin.

Seven Truths That I May Be a Servant of Sin

1. I feel as though I don't have any sin issues. (1 John 1:8-10)
2. I constantly have no inner peace. (John 14:27) (Philippians 4:7)
3. I find myself consistently doing things that I said I would not ever do again in life, once I gave my life to Jesus Christ.
4. When people present the truth about me or the situation I'm in, I constantly have an excuse, or I'm able to justify the reason for being in a particular situation.
5. I continuously say to myself and to others that I'm going to "get myself together" or "I'm going to do better."
6. I begin to isolate myself more and more from my family, friends, and loved ones.
7. When I continually say "I have to have it..." "I need it..." or "I can stop whenever I want to..."

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The Fantastic Four

Is the story of four individuals from the Bible that displayed tremendous faith, courage, character, and obedience? In fact they could be considered the “reason for the season” as God’s superheroes.

The Fantastic Four:

Zechariah

Elisabeth

Joseph

Mary

Zechariah (Luke 1:5-25)

Zechariah is actually the first person mentioned in connection with the Christmas story. The book of Luke records that Zechariah and his wife, Elisabeth, were righteous, God-honoring people who had no children and were well past childbearing years. Zechariah, as part of his priestly duties in the temple, was chosen to enter the Holy Place to burn incense before the Lord. While he was ministering in the temple to the Lord, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and told him that he and Elisabeth had been chosen by God to have a son who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. They were to consecrate their son as a servant of God and were to name him John.

Although this was great news, Zechariah did not initially believe the angel. He objected that this could not be possible, since he and his wife were too old. Because of his unbelief, Gabriel told Zechariah that he would be rendered mute until the baby was born. Zechariah was immediately unable to speak, and, when he came out of the temple, he had to communicate with hand gestures. The people gathered outside the temple praying understood that he had seen a vision of some kind. Zechariah went home, and it happened just as the angel had said. Elisabeth became pregnant.

Elisabeth (Luke 1:39-45, 57-66)

Elisabeth in the Bible was the wife of a priest named Zechariah; she was also a cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Elisabeth and Zechariah are called “righteous and blameless” people who walked in all the commandments of the Lord. Elisabeth was barren; she was unable to have children. When Elisabeth is first mentioned in the Bible, she is an old woman, or as Luke puts it, “advanced in years”. This could mean anything from late middle-age to old age. In any case, she was past child-bearing age.

Elisabeth, when finding herself pregnant, kept herself in seclusion for five months. She said, “The Lord has done this for me. . . . In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people”. Six months after Elisabeth conceived, Mary also became pregnant, and she went to visit Elizabeth, because Gabriel had told her of Elisabeth’s pregnancy. It is a sign of God’s love and care that he placed these women in the same family. He could have just as easily made them strangers to one another, but, by making them relatives, He gave them mutual comfort and encouragement. Especially for Mary, the experience of being pregnant must have been frightening and shocking. But God provided Elisabeth as a comforting presence—a trusted and known relation and older woman who was going through a similarly miraculous event.

Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24)

Joseph the husband of Mary, was legally but not the physically the father of Jesus. Though a carpenter in Nazareth he was a legal heir of King David regarding Mary and the birth of Jesus. Although Joseph was already bound or betrothed to Mary, they were not yet actually married. Among the Jews, marriage vows were said at betrothal and required a legal divorce to end them. The Custom of the day usually required an interval of one year of betrothal before the bride could actually take residence in her husband’s house and consummate their union. During this interval Mary was found with child. Her pregnancy naturally would have been assumed to be the result of an illegitimate union of adultery, a circumstance punishable by death. With child of the Holy Ghost is the biblical explanation for the miraculous conception of Christ.

Because Joseph was a just man, he decided to divorce Mary privately, but while he considered what should be done the angel of the Lord spoke to him in a dream. “The angel” is literally “an angel”. Put her away means to divorce her. The Jewish betrothal had to be legally broken. Joseph merciful attitude gives an insight into his true nature as a man. Joseph is mentioned in the Scripture only in the Gospels and only in relation to Jesus Christ’s childhood. The subsequent silence of Scripture suggests that Joseph died before the time of Christ’s public ministry.

Mary (Luke 1:26-38, 46-56)

Mary the mother of Jesus was described by God as “highly favored” (Luke 1:28). The phrase “highly favored” comes from a single Greek word, which essentially means “much grace.” Mary received God’s grace. Grace is “unmerited favor,” meaning something we receive despite the fact that we do not deserve it. Mary needed grace from God just as the rest of us do. Mary herself understood this fact, as she declared in Luke 1:47, “and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”

Mary recognized that she needed the Savior. The Bible never says that Mary was anyone but an ordinary human whom God chose to use in an extraordinary way. Yes, Mary was a righteous woman and favored (graced) by God (Luke 1:27-28). At the same time, Mary was a sinful human being who needed Jesus Christ as her Savior, just like everyone else (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 John 1:8).

Mary did not have an “immaculate conception.” The Bible doesn’t suggest Mary’s birth was anything but a normal human birth. Mary was a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus (Luke 1:34-38), but the idea of the permanent virginity of Mary is unbiblical. Matthew 1:25, speaking of Joseph, declares, “But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.”

The word “until” clearly indicates that Joseph and Mary did have sexual union after Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary had several children together after Jesus was born. Jesus had four half-brothers: James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas (Matthew 13:55). Jesus also had half-sisters, although they are not named or numbered (Matthew 13:55-56). God blessed and graced Mary by giving her several children, which in that culture was the clearest indication of God’s blessing on a woman.

The Bible nowhere indicates that Mary can hear our prayers or that she can mediate for us with God. Jesus is our only advocate and mediator in heaven (1 Timothy 2:5). If offered worship, adoration, or prayers, Mary would say the same as the angels: “Worship God!” Mary herself sets the example for us, directing her worship, adoration, and praise to God alone: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is His name” (Luke 1:46-49).

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