

# Answers to Sermon Notes

## Life Action Redux/Warm Up #5: "Obedience"

Genesis 22:1-19

5/22/22

1. It may well be that there is nothing more **difficult** in life to learn than obedience, particularly **today**.
  - a. First, it runs directly contrary to our **nature**.
    - i. **We** want to do what **we** want, when **we** want, how **we** want.
  - b. Second, there is a clear danger from obedience to **abusive** authorities.
    - i. The boundaries of rightful authority are often **crossed**.
2. In recent years, the force of these two realities has effectively **squeezed** the concept of obedience out of the working **vocabulary** of many people. Instead, they say:
  - a. Because our natures **do not want** to obey, but rather be free to be and do whatever we want...
  - b. And, because many **have been harmed** by obeying those who were abusing them...
  - c. Obedience is a concept that we would do well to **do away with**.
3. Even so, obedience is, and always has been, at the center of a **right relationship** with God.
  - a. So, this morning we seek not only to better **understand** and embrace obedience.
  - b. We seek to **redeem** it.
4. Let's begin by **defining** biblical obedience in its simplest form.
  - a. Obedience is **doing** as the Lord **instructs** us to do. (Luke 6:46)
    - i. **Common** Instruction (Mark 10:19, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Matthew 28:18-20)
      - a. Ten Commandments, basic moral instruction
      - b. **OBEDIENCE IS NOT LEGALISM!**
    - ii. **Special** Instruction
      - a. A unique **calling**.
        1. OT: Abraham, **Jonah**, **Saul**
        2. NT: Peter, Paul and Mary, Philip, Timothy, Elders, Pastors
5. Simply **knowing** what obedience is, however, is not nearly enough for us.
  - a. Even though we know what it is, many of us fail to grasp **why** it is **important**.
  - b. The moving account of Abraham's obedient sacrifice of Isaac shows us **three powerful reasons** why obedience is so important.
6. First: A call to obedience is a **test** of **faith**. (vs. 1, Hebrews 11:17-19)
  - a. These are the moments God uses to **build** our faith and lead us to the **crown** of **life**. (James 1:2-4, 12)
    - i. Our persevering in the faith is **dynamic**, moving from **test** to **test**.
    - ii. Obedience to God is central to our **journey** to him.
    - iii. An **end** to obedience is an end to **faith**.
      - a. Not, "Do I believe **in** God," but, "Do I **believe** God?"
7. Second: Obedience is a demonstration of **love**. (John 14:15, Matthew 22:35-40)
  - a. Abraham's love for God is **greater** than his love for Isaac. (vs. 2)
  - b. This love is proven most **clearly** as obedience involves **sacrifice**. (John 21:15-19)

- c. Again we see the connection between the **fear** of God and the **worship** and love of God. (vs. 12, Romans 12:1-2)
8. Third: Obedience is a **doorway** to **blessing**.
- a. To the blessing of God's **provision**. (vs. 13-14)
    - i. "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided," **if** you have **obediently** gone to the mount of the Lord and done as he has **directed**.
    - ii. We can always **trust** that the Lord will provide, but this promise is that the Lord will provide as we are **obedient**.
    - iii. God didn't really **want** Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but he wanted to know if he was **willing** to.
      - a. When God asks us to sacrifice something it **may not** mean that he wants to take it away from us, only that he wants to know **where** our **heart** is.
  - b. To the blessing of **others** through the unfolding of God's **plan**. (vs. 15-18)
    - i. God has **chosen** to work his saving plan through the **obedience** of his people.
    - ii. You do not know **how** that will happen; you simply know **THAT** it will happen.
    - iii. This is why it is a test of **faith**.
9. Brothers and Sisters, I know that obedience is **hard**.
- a. It is hard to **embrace** against our old nature.
  - b. It is hard to **guard** from the potential of **abuse** by those in authority.
  - c. It is hard to **stand** for when so many are **abandoning** it left and right.
10. But, obedience lies at the center of a **right relationship** with God.
- a. As a test of our **faith** and our ongoing **perseverance** toward the crown of life.
  - b. As a demonstration of our **love** for the one who gave himself for us.
  - c. As a doorway to the **blessings** of his provision and his unfolding redemptive plan in the **lives** of others.
11. In what, specifically, is God **asking** for your obedience today?