

Obedying the Commands of Jesus #6: Worship in Spirit and Truth

8/8

"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:23,24

I. What is worship? To worship God in spirit and in truth, then, is to declare that God is worthy of our reverence. We do this both, through our emotional core and in light of reality. We worship God based on the truth of who He is, the truth of who we are, the truth of what God does, and the truth of what is going on in our world. At times our worship is expressed through corporate singing, teaching, and giving. It is also expressed in our daily lives through prayer, Scripture reading, acts of kindness, gratitude, pure thoughts, and the like. "To come honestly to God to admit our insufficiency and utter dependence on Him. When we truly empty ourselves in our pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency, confessing our sins with acts of repentance, we are then able to worship God in truth and with all of our spirit as born again believers." Tom Blackaby

II. If we were better at overcoming temptation, we'd be better at overcoming sin and thereby giving better worship to God. How do we do this?

Admit the temptation that you are struggling with. Jesus did. "Father, if you are willing, **take this cup from me...**" Luke 22:42

Confess it to the Lord. Be completely honest with him. "**Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me, yet not my will...**

Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. 2 Cor 10:5 ... **yet not my will but yours be done.** **A**rrest the thought like Jesus did and **e**valuate it:

1. "Stones to become loaves of bread" – "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." **Lust of the flesh**
2. "Throw yourself down" – "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." **Pride of Life**
3. "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." – "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." **Lust of eyes**

1. **You've got to know yourself, to grow yourself.** Spend time this week allowing the Word of God to read you. Let it convict you.

2. **Revealing is the beginning of healing.** Spend time this week with a close friend and tell them your struggles. Then give it to God.

3. **If we don't let our past die, our past won't let us live.** Don't keep repeating the thought, delete it! How?

Every time you're tempted say this: "**I will worship the Lord my God, and Him only shall I serve.**" Take every thought captive and only keep those that agree with the word of God. In doing so, you will worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

	Temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:4-6)	Temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13)	Temptation of the Church Today
<i>Lust of the flesh</i> The desire to fulfill pleasures, physical desires.	The fruit looked delicious and would be good to eat.	Turn the stones into bread.	Take what is easier or more pleasurable rather than God's best.
<i>Lust of the eyes</i> The constant craving for more.	The fruit was a pleasure to look at.	Gain all the kingdoms of the world, as far as the eye can see.	Respond impulsively, without restraint or self-control.
<i>The pride of life</i> The desire for power or possessions.	The fruit was desirable for gaining wisdom; Eve wanted to "be like God."	Throw yourself down and the angels will come and rescue you for God will not allow you to be hurt.	Build a power base rather than seek to serve others.

<http://www.lialc.org/new-testament-in-a-year1/1-john-21527>

Although you can't go back and make a brand new start my friend, but you can start from new and make a brand new end!

Questions for Consideration:

1. What does it mean to worship God in the Spirit?
2. How did you come to know Christ? What made you decide to follow Him?
3. What comes to your mind when you think of God? Read Psalm 103
4. What did Jesus do in the wilderness each time he was tempted?
5. Think of other scripture you can use to resist the Satan's attack on you.
6. What is sin? What do we do if we fall into temptation? I John 1:9
7. Why is it hard to admit that you're wrong? Can it become easier? How?
8. Think of some creative ways of worshipping God in spirit and truth.
9. What changes will you make this week as a result of this passage?
10. What steps are you going to take to see these changes happen?

Are you obeying this? The time between God giving the command, and you obeying the command, can either belong to Satan or to God. The longer you procrastinate, the more it belongs to Satan. In the words of the great modern day theologian, NIKE—Just do it!

The Vine and the Branches John 15:1-12

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴**Remain in me**, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Q: How do we remain in the vine?

⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you **remain in me** and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Q: What kind of “fruit” is God pleased with?

⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you **keep my commands**, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you**. ¹³Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

Q: How has the Father loved Jesus? Why is this important?

Main Idea: *“To abide in Christ’s love is to not only live in the total awareness and appreciation of what God has done, is doing, and will do, but also to order your agenda and life according to His heart and His will. We need to let Christ’s love guide, control, and compel us to act and plan according to His desire” “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.” 2 Cor 5:14*

“Unless you are conscience of the things that would compromise your affections toward your Lord, you will not be prepared to subdue them and reject them when they tempt you away from God.”

“When our Lord says: Abide in me he is talking about the will, about the choices, the decisions we make. We must decide to do things which expose ourselves to him and keep ourselves in contact with him. This is what it means to abide in him.” (Boice)

Q: How do we A.B.I.D.E. in Christ the way He wants us to?

Adoration: love God/others; pray/fast; time to listen to and talk w/ God
Bible -- schedule a regular time/ place for studying God’s word; meditate
Interpersonal—join church, small group, Sunday school, min opportunity!
Disciples--“Go into all the world and make disciples...” Be one/make one!
Evangelism --“Go into all the world- preach the Gospel to every creature!”
Service—Use your spirit gifts, natural abilities, and acquired skills for Him
Sanctification—“If you love me, you will keep my commands” (Jn 14:15)

Questions for consideration:

- 1) What is the way we are to remain in the “vine”?
- 2) What kind of fruit is God pleased as we abide?
- 3) How has God use you? What fruit have you experienced?
- 4) What areas in the seven above come easiest to you? Why?
- 5) What areas in the seven above are the most difficult? Why?
- 6) What steps are you going to take to get to the next level?
- 7) In what way has the Father loved Jesus? Read John 17.
- 8) Why is this important that we know how the Father loved Jesus?
- 9) *“Unless you are conscience of the things that would compromise your affections toward your Lord, you will not be prepared to subdue them and reject them when they tempt you away from God.”* What are the things that “compromise your affections toward the Lord?”