

KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE JESUS

January 21, 2018 | Pastor Randy Remington

SERVE JESUS

In today's lesson we start in 1 John, we see in John a man that was radically changed as he walked with Jesus. We realize that we can't disconnect knowing, loving, serving, (and obeying) Jesus, they are all connected you can't separate them.

So we begin our lesson by asking ourselves, what/who is at the center of your heart, life and family? We'll challenge you to take obedience, (that leads to serving) out of the negative context into a realm of freedom life giving possibilities.

As we look at 1 John, he will say some very direct things that will challenge us in this area. It would be like, okay you've been arrested for being a Christian, would there be a lot of evidence against you?

It's important to realize that when Joshua proclaimed; "choose this day who you will serve..." this was not a one-time decision, but an ongoing daily decision.

Unfortunately, we can actually get to the point in our lives where God becomes a means to an end to accomplish our purposes instead of his. Let's read our first passage:

1 John 2:3-6, "We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. 4 Whoever says, 'I know him,' but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did."

Let's put this in context; John has always been identified as the "love Apostle". We know from church tradition that he would address the believers as "dear children" or something similar that was so endearing, gentle and loving. But here in our scripture he gets right after it.

He is saying if you love God, there will be evidence...if not you're a liar! Wow, but understand he's not being legalistic, he's stating a fact, if you love God, you will be obedient.

Randy told a story of his two older sons when he was young and was in a chess club. He realized that the key to this game was the ability to see and plan 4 to 6 moves down the line. He challenged us to see obedience like this. Every decision of obedience in our lives is a fork in the road.

These small little moments and decisions have long range consequences and relevance. It's like a marriage, on our wedding day, we make a decision to join our lives together. In reality a marriage relationship is full of many decisions of laying your life down for your spouse.

One decision puts into motion a series of events, based on choices. On the positive side don't underestimate a small decision of obedience will open up for the Lords work in our life.

Be open, (even for those of us in a mature season of our lives) to hear the Holy Spirit speak into our lives; many times these seem to be such small, insignificant areas.

It's important to understand that sometimes we can be outright rebellious and other times we can be disobedient out of fear or hurt, the trust is gone. Many people don't know Jesus or they have been injured so they walk in fear, not knowing true love, Jesus!

In reality, a miserable believer is one who is the Lord of their own life. He is calling us to a surrendered life, it's a wonderful place to be, life, joy and much more.

When we live in obedience, we don't have to worry about the results or outcome of the assignment he has given us, that's on him, just be obedient. Like John a true encounter with Jesus will result in a radical change in our lives.

1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."

John is not telling us to hate the beautiful things that he has made for us in this world. The word used here, "World" is "Kosmos", among other things, it refers to an attitude of rebellion against God.

Romans 6:16-18, "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness."

From the heart, we embrace Jesus and his teachings. We need to give it all to Jesus and trust him with everything. He is the source of life, let him be your Lord. We don't need to know 5 or 6 moves ahead, he's responsible, he has it covered, just be obedient to him. Here is where the life is, where the true transformation is.

In conclusion, here are some key scriptures concerning his Lordship and obedience:

Romans 5:18-19, "Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

Romans 10:9-10, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

Philippians 2:8-11, "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Today we will discuss serving Jesus, but to serve Jesus we have to be obedient. Before we even consider the scriptures and Pastor Randy's teaching, what comes to your mind when we say "obedience"? Do you have a negative reaction or mindset, especially when it's in relation to God?
2. As you read 1 John 2:3-6, we see that this usually loving, gentle Apostle is being very direct. What does this passage say to you initially and how does it challenge you?
3. Pastor Randy talks about "little moments and decisions" and their long range consequences. Additionally, we saw that obedience isn't a one-time decision, but daily decisions. Please discuss these two areas of truth.
4. Please talk about the role his Lordship plays in this discussion. Also, examine together how the Holy Spirit speaks into our lives, many times in very small or seemingly insignificant areas. It is at these "fork's in the road", positive responses go a long way and may put into motion a series of events, based on these choices.
5. Pastor Randy used the illustration of his sons participating on a chess team. He pointed out that the key to the game is being able to see 4 or 5 moves down the line. God has this ability, please discuss why it is so important we know this and trust him, even when we don't understand his direction or assignment.
6. Lastly, discuss the importance of a surrendered heart and life before our Lord. Also the importance of embracing and being obedient to his teachings.