

BEYOND

The Blessing of Obedience – Message 4

Warm-up

Looking back on your life, has there been one constant passion that you keep thinking about or coming back to? Have you talked to God about it or acted on it?

Lesson Summary

Loving obedience to God is the key that opens the door to living a faith-filled life of significance and impact, beyond our greatest prayers and dreams.

Word and Application

Over the last three weeks of the *Beyond* series, we have explored God's vision for us, the principle of putting God first, and how we can believe for the miraculous. Today we discuss the fourth message in the series, entitled, *The Blessing of Obedience*. Through this lesson, we will learn how the power of loving obedience leads to the fulfillment of God-sized visions and dreams.

Knowing God

Often the risks we fear to take are the very things in which we are called to step out in faith. God is commanding us to leave our comfort zone and trust that He knows what is best for us.

- **Read Ephesians 3:20, Ephesians 1:19, Hebrews 13:20-21, and Romans 16:25.**
Sometimes we can know all *about* God, without really *knowing* God. Using these scriptures as examples, why is it important for us to know God's character?
- What is God wanting you to do that is so big you have no choice but to trust in His character?
- Describe what it would look like to do what He is asking of you.

Disobedience

There can be a chasm between *hearing* God and *obeying* God. When we do what we want instead of what we know God wants us to do, it's disobedience. Disobedience is usually expressed in direct disobedience, delayed obedience, or partial obedience. When we fail to obey, that's when we fail to see the power of God in our lives.

- Can you think of a time when God was telling you to reach out to someone and you procrastinated?
- There are three fears that tempt us to disobey God: fear of failure, fear of man, and fear of the future. Which of these fears do you need to overcome today?

Loving Obedience

- **Read John 14:15, John 14:21, and John 14:23.** How can we grow in our love of God?
- Obedience is not a rule book, it is a condition of the heart. Moreover, obedience is the process of surrendering, listening, and then acting. It is loving God.
- Obedience is the key to faith coming alive. God is searching for obedient people for His Kingdom and for His will to be done on earth.
- What are some simple ways God is asking you to trust and obey Him in this season?

Three Steps to Walking in Obedience

1. **Believe God is for you.**

Life is comprised of seasons where we tend to switch our focus, and over time we get off course.

- **Read Numbers 14:9, Psalm 84:11-12, Deuteronomy 33:29, and Romans 8:31.** How do these verses give you hope that God will provide a way? Identify another scripture that gives you hope in God's provision.

2. **Don't believe a negative report.**

The voice of opposition can come against us, even by people we love. As you move towards fully obeying God's call and passion for your life, don't be swayed by negative or discouraging counsel.

- **Read Numbers 13:32-33 and Numbers 14:36-37.**
- Share about an experience that took your eyes off of God's vision for your life.
- How can you get back on track?

3. **Just do it!**

Obedience precedes the miracles. Our obedience releases the provision of God in our lives. We might just have to do it afraid. Hear the voice of God, confirm it in His Word, in prayer, and Godly counsel, but just do it!

- **Read Hosea 6:6, I Samuel 15:22, and Mark 12:33.,**
- Sometimes we can do good things and godly things with the wrong attitude or wrong motive. We can give outward things to God in an attempt to appease Him. What are you giving to God in place of simple obedience?

Life Challenge

Continue reading each day in the *Beyond* devotional and journal what God is asking you to step out of your comfort zone today. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you. Then step out in simple obedience.

Prayer

Lord, please reveal to me today what I need to lay at the foot of the cross and give to You. Search my motive and my heart and show me anything that is displeasing to you. Show me how to specifically commit to my church and go *Beyond* what would be comfortable and walk into your full blessing from obeying You. Pray for the specific needs of your small group.