

TRUST AND OBEY

The Cost of Following Jesus, Part 1

Mark 10:17-22

August 12, 2012

Sermon Notes

The Paradox of Trust(Faith) and Obedience (Works)

“Only those who obey can believe and only those who believe can obey.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Christ is not valued at all, unless he is valued above all.”
– St. Augustine

“if anyone loves me he will keep my word.”
John 14:23

Questions for Home & Growth Groups

1. Spend some time discussing the paradox of Trust and Obedience to make sure everyone understands it. What does “obedience” (or good works) without Trust look like and why are those works dead? What does “trust” without obedience look like and why is it not real trust? How is it that those who’s faith in Christ is genuine are also those who obey Him as Lord?
2. Which is your tendency, to err on the side of performance (works) to earn God’s favor or to err on the side of grace and not take His Lordship seriously?
3. Which do you think is the bigger problem in the church in America, works based religion, or cheap grace, “easy believism”?
4. Dave said that you keep from going to these extremes when you stop making it a theological discussion and instead make it personal, about simply following Jesus. New Christians don’t usually have this problem. To them it is natural to believe AND obey. What happens to us along the way that gets us off this narrow path? How can we go back to our simple “faith like a child?”
5. In preparation for next week: what do you think are some of the main obstacles to obedience that plague North American Christians? What ways of thinking, what “habits of the heart,” what “American values” compromise our submission to the absolute Lordship of Jesus?
6. To personalize it, imagine if you were in the place of the Rich Young Ruler, what would Jesus’ final challenge be to you? Fill in the blank: “And Jesus, looking upon [insert your name here] loved him/her, and said to him/her, “You lack one thing; go, _____, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Finally, if Jesus said that to you, how would you respond?



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