

Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 6

Obedience Starts with Hearing.

To be obedient we must have ears that are eager to hear what God is saying through His word; we cannot obey what we do not know. Henri Nouwen in his book “Making All Things New” said; “When we learn to listen, our lives become obedient lives. The word *obedient* comes from the Latin word *audire*, which means ‘listening’. ...Jesus’ life was a life of obedience. He was always listening to the Father, always attentive to His voice, always alert for His directions. **Jesus was ‘all ear’.**”

For us to hear God we need to set aside time to be alone with Him daily. Nouwen said, “Without solitude it is virtually impossible to live a spiritual life. Solitude begins with a time and a place for God and Him alone. If we really believe not only that God exists but also that He is actively present in our lives – healing, teaching, and guiding – we need to set aside a time and a space to give Him our undivided attention.”

Read Mark 6: 39-47; John 10: 2-5

During His 3 year of ministry Jesus, regardless of how busy or tired He was, would always go away by Himself to a solitary place to spend time with the Father. These were perhaps times when He shared His concerns with His Father and also hear what was on the Father’s heart. If Jesus needed this precious time to be alone with His Father, can we do without it?

In John 10: 3-4, Jesus said our relationship with Him is like that between the shepherd and his sheep. “...The sheep hear his (the shepherd’s) voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” The sheep follow the shepherd because they recognize his voice. Likewise, for us to be able to follow Jesus, we need to know what He is saying to us through His word. We need to set aside time each day to be alone with Him and to listen to Him.

Questions to ponder

1. What kind of relationship do sheep have with the shepherd (10:2-4)? How can you be more attentive to the Shepherd’s Voice?
2. What did Jesus do after a busy day of teaching and feeding the 5000 (Mk, 6:46-47)? Why did He, the Son of God, need to spend time with the Father?
3. Why is spending time with God important? How can you rearrange your life to spend regular, unhurried time with God to pray and study His word?

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