

Attitudes Hindering Our Obedience (2)

In **Hebrews 12:1** we read about the way we should walk. We are surrounded by many witnesses. There are many eyes watching us in this world. Many are watching the way we act, the way we talk, and who we say we are. On top of all of this the Lord is watching always and even to the point of knowing our thoughts and our heart and where we are.

It seems like when one professes to be Christians there is even more scrutiny upon us. When we say we are a Christian we are proclaiming Christ in us and others have an even more watchful eye on us. They are monitoring what we say and do even more closely and seeing if we practice what we preach. If we claim to be a follower of God are we? Do we follow in the perfect example Christ has laid out for us (**1 Peter 2:21**)? We are to put away the old ways of life (**Ephesians 4:17-24**) ways that are corrupting and decaying our spiritual life with God and instead be transformed into a new man. Our attitude must not be creating a hindrance in obedience because our example our light could cause others to stumble. Let's consider some of these for a few moments.

Boredom

We can become easily bored with things. But, really, worship is that something that is boring? Have you ever thought of questions like: "Is the preaching boring to you" "Do you want to be someplace else" "Is there something more exciting you could be doing right now?" I imagine many could come up with several things to do that would be considered "fun" than coming to worship God. Do you? It could be fun to hang out with friends, catch the game, or even going shopping or watch the new movie that came out but, is this to be in replacement of our Lord? If you think that there are many more "fun" things you could do maybe one needs to take a step back and rethink what should be exciting in the first place!

The Lord reminds us of things to put aside (**Luke 21:34-36**). Why? Because we can become easily ensnared with these things and cause us to stumble and fall away from God. It will create an attitude hindering obedience.

With this being said we need to again consider Paul preaching in Athens (**Acts 17:25**). The Lord has provided in all these things. God has provided Life, Financial means to provide for our families, friends we have made, but most importantly and the most exciting of all His Son. Why? So we may hope for Him, seek Him, and find Him because he is not far from us (**Acts 17:27**). Does this make you excited? It should and hearing the great proclamation of this should not be boring to us nor to worship God be considered boring. All other things should come after this. Does it?

Hard Heartedness

Do you show mercy and forgiveness when someone asks you of it? Do you have a sympathetic and empathetic understanding of things? Do you show pity to those in need of it? If you answer no to these things it may be sign of hard heartedness which creates an attitude hindering obedience.

God showed this mercy toward us in hope that we might show the same toward others. In our sin God has shown us mercy in hopes we might seek Him! He has sent His Son leaving us this perfect example to walk in His footsteps (**1 Peter 2:21**).

Consider the powerful message in the parable of the unforgiving servant in **Matthew 18:21-35**). We have a servant who owed a debt that amounted to a point where the likelihood of him paying back was slim to none. Yet in owing this amount to his master he asked for patience so he could try and repay. His master showed kindness to him in forgiving the debt. However, in all this the servant went to his servant and grabbed him and demanded payment. It was a amount much less than the debt he was forgiven. This servant asks the same but

was denied. The heart was hardened and there are consequences for such behavior. Jesus reminds us that we need not to be hard hearted if we do we will not be forgiven!

Discouragement

It can be easy to be entangled with the thought of discouragement. It can come upon us so quickly and easily creating an attitude hindering obedience. Sometimes we may get to the point saying "what's the point?" This is dangerous brethren and we should never come to this point. Hope delayed causes great discouragement (**Proverbs 13:12**)

Yet I want to remind you of a great example that Simon shows in **Luke 5:5**. Fishing can be very discouraging especially when it is your means to provide for your family. Fishing comes and goes and you have good days and bad days. Simon and those with him were having an extremely unprofitable trip. Yet the Lord said try again. Simon shows the attitude that we need in handling discouragement. That is trust in the Lord. He goes follows His Lord's command and what happened? They catch a large catch of fish to the point the net was breaking. When handling this attitude we need to trust in the Lord always. We can overcome this great obstacle (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

Let us make sure that we put aside these attitudes that can hinder our obedience. Let's be excited about what the Lord has done. Let's not have a hard heart knowing that God has forgiven us and we need to show this same mercy for all. Let's trust in the Lord and not be discouraged in our work for Him. Let's create attitude toward obedience!

Daniel Sanders