



Obedying God Whatever the Cost
 Week 3 – John 14:15-31

Sunday 28th February 2010
 10am & 6.30pm services

**God made us to _____ Him, but then
 we _____ God**

Jesus said, *“If you love me you will obey what I command.”*
 (John 14:15)

God wants me to _____ whatever the cost

Therefore:

Living Obediently = Loving God

Jesus did _____ .

Jesus said, *“...that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”* (v 31b)

“It is not our power to love God that enables us to obey,
 but the presence of the very love of God in our heart.”
 (J. Oswald Sanders)

Jesus did _____ .

Jesus said, *“... but the world must learn that I love the Father...”* (v 31a)

Jesus did _____ .

“And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.” (v 16-17a)

We have the power to overcome rebellion in our lives through obedience and God’s love. But God gives us even more help.

The Greek word for the Holy Spirit is *parakletos*.

The parakletos is _____
 _____ and also _____ us and
 _____ us.

If this is true what should I do?

Obey God’s _____ .

Turn from rebellion and be prepared to be obedient.

Love the _____ .

Actively love God.

Be open to the _____ .

Make sure you act upon his “whispers.”

Small Group Preparation

(Following Week 3 of Church-Wide Series)

Getting to Know You

1. Tell about a time as a child when you did something wrong and didn't get caught.

Getting Started

2. What was one thing that impacted you from Sunday's message?
3. When Jesus said, "If you love me you will obey my commands," what is your *real* reaction? Do you think you can do this on your own? Explain.
4. How does it help to know that obedience is linked to love?

Getting into the Bible

5. Read Matthew 19:23-30. Jot down any insights you see regarding how Jesus responds to the young man and how the young man responds to Jesus.
6. This young man was possibly a Pharisee (a rich religious ruler) and these people were well off financially. The young man had experienced a need in his life to perform some kind of righteous act that assured him of having eternal life. (v 16-20). What was Jesus' response to the rich young man? (v 21) Why did he go away "very sad"? (v 22).

7. Read Matthew 19:23-24. Why do you think it is hard for people with a lot of money to remain obedient?
8. Read Matthew 19:27-30. In Jesus' day, riches were seen as a mark of God's favour. Instead of it being hard for a poor person to enter the kingdom of heaven as they would have thought, Jesus says exactly the opposite. What do these verses reveal about the costs involved in being a disciple of Jesus?

Getting it into my Life

9. Read Ephesians 3:17-21. According to these verses, understanding and experiencing God's deep love in our life enables us to work amazing things through his mighty power (more than all we can ask for or imagine). As that love flows in us through the Holy Spirit, we continue to respond with obedience. How can you be more purposeful this week in opening yourself up to God's love?
10. The rich young man had everything, but in the end "nothing." He had no revelation of his deep need for Jesus and therefore no real love for Jesus. He therefore missed out on the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. He was left in "rebellion" and the result was "disconnection and sadness". Learning that living obediently = loving God and that the *how* is by the Holy Spirit, what areas of your life could you more purposefully acknowledge and engage his help in living obediently?

