

“I Don’t Want to Obey”
(Luke 19:12-27)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. There are many reasons most won’t believe and trust Jesus.
 - a. This morning’s is perhaps one of the most common:
 - (i) “I just don’t want to obey.
 - (ii) I want to do what I want;
 - (iii) I want to do my own thing.
 - (iv) I only have one life
 - (v) I want to have fun.
 - (a) The kind of fun
 - (b) I want to have.
 - (c) If I have to obey Jesus
 - (d) I won’t be able to do things, I want to do,
 - (e) And I’ll have to do things I don’t want to do.”
 - b. Maybe that’s what’s keeping you from becoming a Christian.
2. I want you to notice
 - a. That this was the same attitude
 - (i) Of one of the groups in this parable.
 - (ii) “We do not want this man to reign over us” (v. 14).
 - b. I also want you to notice
 - (i) What happened to them
 - (ii) When the Lord returned:
 - (a) “But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence” (v. 27).
 - (1) Now Jesus was speaking
 - (2) Of those Jews that would reject Him
 - (3) Of His return in judgment against them in 70 AD
 - (4) And of what He would do to them then.
 - (5) But the uniform testimony of Scripture
 - (6) Is that He will do the same to all who disobey Him.
 - (b) Is there some reason why you think
 - (1) He’s going to deal any differently with you
 - (2) If you don’t obey Him?

B. Preview.

1. Now you might say, “Wait a minute!”
 - a. I thought God loves everyone.

- (i) That He has a wonderful plan for my life.
 - (ii) He wouldn't kill me.
 - (iii) He certainly wouldn't throw me into hell
 - (iv) Just because I don't want to obey Him.
- b. Maybe that's what you've heard or thought,
- (i) But you're wrong.
 - (ii) If you don't obey Him
 - (iii) That's exactly what He's going to do.
 - (a) This isn't just future:
 - (1) He's judging the disobedient right now
 - (2) When and where He want to.
 - (3) Paul says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Rom. 1:18).
 - (4) Why do you think there are so many things
 - (5) Going on in the world today
 - (6) That take lives?
 - (b) And on the Day of Judgment,
 - (1) He will throw all those who refuse to obey Him into hell.
 - (2) He will say, "'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' . . . These will go away into eternal punishment" (Matt. 25:41-43, 46).
 - (3) They wouldn't obey Him,
 - (4) And now they will suffer the consequences forever.
 - (5) Remember what we saw in Psalm 2, "Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!" (vv. 11-12).
2. This is what the Lord says He will do to you
- a. Unless you obey –
 - (i) Unless you turn from your sins,
 - (ii) Trust in what Jesus did to save sinners,
 - (iii) And begin to do what He commands.
 - b. He says this to you that you might turn and obey.
 - (i) He says this out of His infinite kindness.
 - (ii) Perhaps it would help if you understood why.

II. Sermon.

A. Why does God require you to obey Him?

1. First of all, because it's right that you should obey.
 - a. He is God, after all.
 - (i) He's not a man.
 - (ii) He's not some earthly king,
 - (iii) Or a tyrant.
 - b. He made the universe.
 - (i) He made this world.
 - (ii) He made you.
 - c. He's taken care of you your whole life.
 - (i) Every good thing you have
 - (ii) Comes from Him.
 - d. Because of who He is
 - (i) And what He's done for you –
 - (ii) You are His creation, after all –
 - (iii) He has the right to command you.
2. Second, because what He tells you to do is right.
 - a. Paul told us earlier
 - (i) What it is He's really commanding you to do: to love.
 - (ii) Paul writes, "Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law. For this, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,' and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law" (Rom. 13:8-10).
 - b. Just about everyone believes you should love others.
 - (i) But they are wrong in how you are to love.
 - (ii) God is love.
 - (a) He's the only One who knows what it is
 - (b) And can tell you what it is.
 - (c) He has in His commandments.
 - (d) If you really want to love –
 - (e) You have to obey them.
 - c. If His commandments are the very definition of love,
 - (i) Then what are you really doing
 - (ii) When you don't obey them?
 - (iii) You're hating Him and others.
 - (a) When you love other things more than God,

- (1) When you don't worship Him,
- (2) When you use His name as a common swear word,
- (3) When you take the day He set apart for Himself –
- (4) His Sabbath –
- (5) And use it for yourself
- (6) You're not loving Him –
- (7) You're offending Him.

- (b) When you reject authority,
 - (1) Hurt others,
 - (2) Engage with others in sexual sin,
 - (3) When you take things that belong to others,
 - (4) Or lie about others,
 - (5) Or become jealous of what they have.
 - (6) You're not loving your neighbor,
 - (7) You're hating them.

- (iv) Is it any wonder
 - (a) The Lord deals so severely with those
 - (b) Who hate Him and others in this way?

- (v) You may have thought
 - (a) That a God of infinite love
 - (b) Can't do this,
 - (c) Can't punish you in this way.
 - (d) But you're wrong.
 - (1) He loves what is good and right so much
 - (2) He must punish those who sin/hate.
 - (3) If you refuse to love Him
 - (4) But hate Him instead.
 - (5) The One who is pure love
 - (6) Can only punish you.

3. If you won't obey the Lord

This is what He must do to you.

- a. Maybe you didn't see it
 - (i) As clearly as you do now –
 - (ii) Your idea of fun
 - (iii) Is God's idea of hate.
 - (iv) Your fun offends Him,
 - (v) Hurts your neighbor
 - (vi) And will bring God's judgment down on you.
 - (vii) But that's the way it is.

- b. But there is the good news:
 - (i) Even though God is offended

- (a) By all your rebellion and hatred,
- (b) He is more than willing
- (c) To be reconciled to you
- (d) Through the Gospel.

(ii) God's love is so great

- (a) That He sent His only begotten Son into the world
- (b) To love Him and others perfectly
- (c) And to die on the cross
- (d) So that those who would trust in Him
- (e) Would not be judged and condemned
- (f) But forgiven,
- (g) And brought safely to heaven
- (h) When they die.

(iii) If you will only turn from your sins,

- (a) Trust in Jesus alone to save you,
- (b) And show that you have
- (c) By humbly submitting to Him,
- (d) He will save you.
 - (1) He will forgive you of all your hate/sins,
 - (2) Give you His Son's loving obedience,
 - (3) And then begin to help you live a life of love –
 - (4) A life of obedience.

(iv) The Lord's mercy has no limits.

- (a) Won't you turn to Him,
- (b) Trust in Him,
- (c) And submit to Him now?

B. For those of you who believe you have already trusted Jesus –

1. There's something else in this passage I want you to see.

2. Notice there is another group mentioned here –

a. His slaves –

- (i) His people,
- (ii) Those who professed to know Him.

b. Notice what happened to them:

- (i) Of the ten servants He entrusted with the ten minas,
 - (a) One made ten more, and was rewarded;
 - (b) One made five more, and was recorded;
 - (c) And one made nothing more.

(ii) He took the mina from the one

- (a) Who made nothing,
- (b) And gave it to one of the others

- (c) Which left him with nothing.
- (iii) What happened to this man?
 - (a) His end was like that of the Lord's enemies.
 - (b) This is certainly what happened
 - (c) In the parable of the talents: "Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 25:28-30).
- c. Does Jesus mean to say here
 - (i) That someone who trusted Him was lost? No.
 - (ii) But He does mean to say
 - (a) That there are some in the church
 - (b) Who are in the same condition as His enemies –
 - (c) Who aren't saved, and show they aren't
 - (d) By the fact that they're not obeying Him either.
 - (iii) Every true believer will obey: John writes, "Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous" (v. 7).
- d. And so those of you who believe you have trusted Him:
 - (i) Look at your life as well!
 - (a) Are you obeying Him?
 - (b) Are you working for His glory,
 - (c) Are you setting your life aside
 - (d) To live for Him?
 - (ii) Make sure that you are.
 - (a) Make sure that you are trusting Him,
 - (b) Turning from your sins,
 - (c) And seeking to do His will,
 - (d) So that the same judgment doesn't fall on you.
 - (e) May the Lord grant His mercy
 - (f) To each one of us here this morning. Amen.

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