

**The 12 Reasons for Christmas**  
**Why Jesus Came**  
**To Obey (12/10/2023)**

**Introduction & Review**

- Today is the second week of **Advent** and the second week of **our series**:
- **The 12 Reasons for Christmas (Why Jesus Came).**
- **Last week the theme was Jesus Came to Teach and Train**
- And **under that theme** we saw **not only** the first three reasons for his coming,
- But also, how those reasons should apply to our lives.
- **First, Jesus** came to be our **EXAMPLE**, and therefore we must follow His example.
- We must follow in his steps and as we do, **we will become examples to others.**
- **Second**, Jesus came to **PREACH the gospel** and therefore as his **followers** we too are called to **PREACH** the Gospel.
- To tell people who Jesus is, what he has don for you and what he will do for all who trust in Him.
- **And third**, Jesus came to **MAKE DISCIPLES** and he commanded us to continue his work of MAKING DISCIPLES, equipping people to follow Christ's example.
- **Now today we come to our second theme:**

**Jesus Came to Obey**

- And under this theme we'll **again** explore three reasons for His coming as well as seeing how those reasons apply to us.
- But before we begin, I want to share with you **another of my Christmas memories.**
- Last week I told you about **the Christmas Tree Wall we had in Thailand.**
- But this week I'm going to go **50 or so** years back in time.
- I was around **9 or 10 and** it was a few weeks before Christmas.
- My parents had to **go out** for some reason.
- This meant my brother (**7 or 8**) and I would be **Home Alone.**
- Now before my parents left, they repeated the standard **pre-Christmas command.**
- **Do not look for your Christmas Presents or else.**
- And of course, as soon as they were out the door, *I began to search for my gifts.*
- And eventually, with the help of a step stool, I found some of them on a shelf in my parents' bedroom closet.
- I don't remember what the gifts were except for a couple of **Comic Books (Batman or the Justice League).** Which I was very excited about.
- But suddenly I felt a presence in the room, I turned around and there in the doorway stood my mom and Dad.

- I was caught red handed.
- And my parents were so distraught and disappointed that that disowned me and took me to an orphanage. No, they didn't.
- But they did discipline me,
- When Christmas morning came, **I didn't receive any of the gifts that I had found.**
- **I think they gave them to my cousins.**
- Now my point in telling this story is not just to share a **traumatic Christmas memory**,
- but to remind us of something about **obedience and disobedience.**
- Today we're going to talk about how **Jesus fully and completely obeyed His Father in Heaven.**
- And we're going to apply that to our lives, we too must obey our Father in Heaven.
- But as **my story illustrates**, there is a problem, we often fail to obey.
- As children we disobey our parents, and as adults, we disobey God.
- And if we have good parents, when we disobey there are consequences.
- But those consequences **do not include being disowned, thrown out of the family.**
- And the same this is true with God.
- The Bible tells us...

***6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves... (Hebrews 12:6)***

- But that **loving disciple** does not include rejection.
- So today as we talk about **obedience as exemplified by Jesus.**
- I want us to be **encouraged and inspired by his example.**
- Not discouraged by our own failures.
- And I want to give us **Hope.**
- I want us to see that because **Jesus Came to Obey,**
- That those who trust in him, those who submit to his will and are changed by him, can and will grow in obedience to our loving heavenly father.
- **Amen...**
- So now we come to the **first of three reasons Jesus came to Obey.**
- I've numbered them **4, 5, 6**, because last week we had **1,2,3** and we are going to **12.**
- So, **fourth...**

**4. Jesus came to fulfill the Old Covenant**

- He makes this **clear** in **Matthew Chapter 5** when he says...

***17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17)***

- This verse is from the **Sermon on the Mount**.
- Jesus was just entering into **His earthly ministry**.
- He'd already had a **few run ins** with the **Scribes and Pharisees (the Teachers of the LAW)**
- **Therefore**, some might have thought **Jesus** was in some way **anti-Law**,
- That his **teachings** were meant to **abolish the law and the prophets**.
- So, Jesus plainly states that he did not come to ***abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets***.
- So, what does this mean?
- **First**, we should understand that "**The Law and the Prophets**," refers to what we now call the **Old Testament**.
- The Law is the **first 5 books of the Bible, the Pentateuch, the Torah, written by Moses**.
- And it contains most of **the laws**, commands that God gave to his people, Israel.
- The Prophets **refers to the Historical book, the Poetical books, and the Prophets**.
- And these books, **as well**, are filled with many commands for God's people.
- So, from our perspective Jesus said he came to fulfill the **Old Testament**.
- Now the **Old Testament** contains or has even been called the **Old Covenant**.
- A **covenant** is a formal agreement between two or more people.
- The **Old Covenant** was the **formal agreement** established by **God with Israel**.
- And this **Covenant** is recorded in **the Old Testament**, the Law, and the Prophets.
- So, Jesus came to fulfill that **Old Covenant**.
- The word **fulfill** means to **make full or to complete to accomplish**.
- Now, I want us to see, how Jesus **Fulfill the Old Covenant**?
- And the first thing we should understand is that the central figure in the Old Testament,
- though not mentioned by name, is Jesus Christ.
- Jesus explained this to his disciples after his resurrection.
- Luke tells us that...

***27 ...beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)***

- So in one sense Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant because it was all about him.
- It was all pointing to him; it was symbolic of or foreshadowing him.
- And I want us to see three specific ways this is true.
- Three specific ways that Jesus fulfilled the **Old Covenant**.
- This is going to get somewhat **deep and theological**, so focus.
- Because as we will see this is important for us today.

- The first way Jesus fulfilled the **Old Covenant** was that by **obedience to it.**
- He kept all the **OT OC commandments** the Law of Moses – He lived a sinless life.
- We see this **prophesized** by the Angel Gabriel.
- In **response to Mary's** question about how she, a virgin, would give birth to a Son.
- Gabriel tells her...

***35 ... “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. (Luke 1:35)***

- **The Child**, Jesus would be **holy, blameless, morally pure, free from sin.**
- Unlike all other people since Adam and Eve, Jesus was not born a sinner.
- He did not have what theologians call original sin. **He was born Holy...**
- **And as the Apostle John, after Jesus' death and resurrection** would later write...

***5 You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. (1 John 3:5)***

- Jesus was born without sin, and he lived a sinless life.
- **So first**, He fulfilled the Old Covenant, by living in complete, total, perfect obedience to the Law.
- He, like no one before or after him, did everything the law demanded.
- Then **second**, Jesus fulfilled the **Old Covenant** by fulfilling its **Prophecy.**
- **Theologians** tell us that **conservatively** Jesus fulfilled over **300 Old Testament prophecies.**
- But since we have limited time let me just give you **one example** which specifically relates to Christmas.
- **Over 700** years before the birth of Christ, **Isaiah prophesied...**

***14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)***

- **Isaiah prophesied** that a virgin would give birth to **Immanuel, God with us.**
- And on that **first Christmas morn**, Jesus became **the fulfillment of that Prophecy.**
- As he would many others throughout his life.
- **So**, second, Jesus fulfilled the **Old Covenant, by fulling its Prophecy.**
- And **third**, Jesus fulfilled the Old Covenant by His **Death on the Cross.**
- Under the **old covenant**, the children of Israel were given, **by God**, Laws that they were to obey.
- **God is holy**, and those who would have relationship with him must be a holy as well.
- But of course, **like all people**, they Israel could not live holy lives.
- Therefore, God made provision for their sin.
- A Major Part of the **Old Covenant included the priesthood** and the **sacrificial system.**

- Because of **their sin**, Israel through their **priests** had to make **blood sacrifices**.
- These sacrifices were done in **obedience to God**, showing their trust in Him.
- But these animal sacrifices had **no power to take away sin**.
- They did, however, show the seriousness of sin and they foreshadowed, symbolized the ultimate blood sacrifice that Jesus Christ would become.
- The Author of Hebrews makes this clear...
- In **Chapter 10** we read...

***<sup>4</sup> For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.***

***<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,***

***“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;***

***<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.***

***<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”*** – the Old Testament

- Then the Author of Hebrews makes this comment...

***<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:4-10)***

- This is deep powerful stuff; we could spend a lot of time here.
- But I want us to see two things...
- First, that **the blood of bulls and goats (animal sacrifice)** could never take away sin.
- And second that there has only ever been **one sacrifice** that could take away sin.
- That was **the sacrifice of sinless Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary**.
- And through that sacrifice, Jesus completely and totally and finally fulfilled the **Old Covenant Sacrificial system**.
- **The animal sacrifices** made under the law were necessary to demonstrate trust in and obedience to God.
- But they were only **a shadow**.
- Christ is the **real thing, the fulfilment of all the sacrifices** that went before him.
- Let me be clear, if Christ had not died, the animal sacrifices would have been meaningless.
- But because of Christ’s death, he filled them with meaning, he fulfilled the old covenant sacrificial system, by becoming, as John the Baptist declared...

***<sup>29</sup> ...the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)***

- Notice his **sacrifice** was sufficient to take away the sin not just of Israel but the world.
- In fulfilling the Old Covenant God made with Israel, Jesus opened the door to God for **all people**.
- Paul describes, to the mostly Gentile Church in Colossae, what Jesus' sacrificial death meant for them...

***<sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14)***

- Jesus, by His substitutional, sacrificial death for all people, fulfills the Old Covenant.
- Which means for those who trust in him (Both Jews and Gentiles)
- He cancels our debt, our legal obligation.
- He removes the penalty of death hanging over our heads.
- Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, the lamb of God, fulfilling the Old Covenant Sacrificial System...
- **So let me review.**
- Jesus fulfilled **the Law and the Prophets the Old Covenant** in at least three ways.
- By his complete obedience to the **Old Testament Law**.
- By his **fulfilment of Old Testament Prophecy**
- And by his **Death on the Cross, fulfilling completing the Old Testament Sacrificial System.**
- And what this means for Israel and you and me (all people) are not under **the Old Covenant**.
- Instead, we are under **the New Covenant**
- As the Author of **Hebrews** writes...

***<sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)***

- Because Christ came into this world.
- Because He died in our place, redeeming us, paying our debt.
- We are redeemed (purchased and set free) from our transgressions.
- We are set free from Sin that was committed under (defined by) the first **(OLD)** Covenant.
- A covenant **mediated by Priests and Animal Sacrifice**.
- But under the new covenant Christ is now our Mediator.
- He bridges the gap between man and God.
- He is both our **high priest** and the sacrifice for our sin.
- So that we who are called are under **the NEW COVENANT** can and will receive our promised **eternal inheritance**.

- Now what does it look like to be under this NEW COVENANT.
- Well, in **Hebrews 8 verse 10** we find this description.

***10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Hebrews 8:10)***

- This comes from the **prophet Jeremiah** who is prophesying to the **people of Israel** about a new covenant.
- A new covenant, which we have seen, **Jesus initiated**.
- And this **new covenant applies** to all (both Jew and Gentile) who put their trust in Christ.
- And under this **new covenant** there is a **New Location for the LAW**
- The New Covenant means God will put **His Law in our Minds and Hearts**.
- In contrast to the **OLD COVENANT**, that was written on **EXTERNAL stone tablets**.
- The **NEW COVENANT will be INTERNAL**, written on our hearts.
- For those who trust in him, God does a transforming work in our lives.
- He gives us **His Spirit**,
- And as we submit to the Spirit's work in our hearts and minds, we are transformed.
- **We become new creatures in Christ**.
- We have new **motivations and desires** because God is at work to change us into the image of his Son.
- Notice however, that just because **we're no longer under the Old Covenant**.
- This does not mean we are **not subject to any Law**.
- We are still responsible to obey **the Law of God**.
- That Law, however, is no longer defined by the **OLD TESTAMENT or OLD COVENANT**.
- It is defined by the **NEW TESTAMENT or NEW COVENANT**.
- But I want to be clear about this.
- I'm not saying that we can or should throw out the **OLD TESTAMENT**.
- The **OLD TESTAMENT** is still and will always be **the WORD OF GOD!**
- It should be **read and studied and taught and applied**.
- What I'm saying is that the **Old Testament needs to be understood in light of the NEW TESTAMENT**.
- It needs to be understood based on the fact that it has been **fulfilled by JESUS Christ**.
- **One example** that we already touched on was the **sacrificial system...**
- Let's go a little deeper, **Under the old covenant...**
- Once a year, the high priest was to **sprinkle the blood** of a sacrifice on the cover of the ark of the covenant.
- The Ark was located in the **Holy of Holies** of the temple.
- This cover was called the **"atonement cover"** or the **"mercy seat"**.
- There were **three elements** involve in the offering:
- The **High Priest**, the **blood of the sacrifice**, and the **mercy seat** on which the offering was placed.



- And Jesus became all three of these for us.
- He is the **High Priest** who makes an offering for our sin.
- He is the **sacrifice** who shed his blood for our sin.
- He is the place of **mercy where we find forgiveness** for our sin.
- Jesus fulfilled every part, every picture in the Old Testament system of sacrifices,
- This system that God put in place **NOT FOR SALVATION BUT** to look forward to the sacrifices of His Son.
- ***As the author of Hebrews again writes...***

***<sup>1</sup> For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. (Hebrews 10:1)***

- It's important that we understand that the law was **never** a source of salvation in the OLD TESTAMENT.
- Jews, before Christ were saved in the same way we are saved today.
- Based on the fact that God chose them
- And they placed their trust in **His promises, specifically in his promise of a Messiah.**
- We see this way back in **Genesis** with the first "Jew", **Abraham**.
- God promised **Childless Abraham** that his offspring would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens.
- And that through his offspring all the peoples of the earth would be blessed (pointing to Jesus).
- And in **Genesis 15:6** we read...

***<sup>6</sup> And he (Abraham) believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)***

- Abraham, the first Jew, was saved by grace through faith just like you or me.
- And the same thing was true for all Israel.
- They were not saved based on their attempt to obey the law.
- ***The law was merely a shadow of the good things to come.***
- ***And these good things came in Christ.***
- ***Because of Christ the New Covenant means that God can say...***

***I will be their God and they will be my people!***

- The **NEW COVENANT** is **Relational**.
- We enter a relationship with God made possible by the **Redemptive work of Jesus Christ**.
- Made possible by **the GRACE of God**.
- The **New Covenant** is a covenant of **GRACE not LAW**
- A covenant where **God is our God, and we are his people**.
- As Paul wrote to the church in **Corinth...**

***<sup>19</sup> ... You are not your own, <sup>20</sup> for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)***



- Our entry into the **New Covenant** was purchased **by the blood of Jesus Christ**.
- The New Covenant means we are saved by grace through faith in the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- And our salvation means we enter into relationship with God.
- A relationship in which WE BELONG TO HIM and therefore our purpose becomes to **GLORIFY HIM**.
- And how do we do that?
- That takes us to our next two points.
- When we, through Christ's sacrificial death for us, enter the new covenant.
- We become children of God, but we also become true **SERVANTS of God**.
- We are meant to live for Him, for his Glory.
- And fortunately, Jesus provides the example again....
- That's **his 5<sup>th</sup> reason** for coming, as part of his obedience to God.

## 5. Jesus came to Serve

- In Matthew's gospel, speaking of himself, Jesus says...

***<sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28)***

- In a few weeks we'll focus specifically on the second part of this verse.
- Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many.
- But today I want to focus on the first half.
- ***The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.*** That's quite a statement.
- It was given in response to the **Son's of Zebedee**, two of Jesus' disciples,
- **Brothers James and John** when they along with their **MOMMY** came to Jesus and asked that they might sit in special places of honor on Jesus right and left in His Kingdom.
- Isn't that typical of men.
- We're always looking out for number one.
- We're always seeking our own glory.
- And as might be expected the other Disciples were not happy.
- **Matthew** writes...

***<sup>24</sup> And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers.***

- When the other **10 disciples** heard about what James and John were asking Jesus, they were indignant.

***<sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, (Matthew 20:24-27)***

- Jesus says that there are two ways that authority can be exercised.
- You can lord your power and authority over your subjects.
- We **have and continue to see** this in our world with its “**great**” dictators and tyrants and even presidents.
- But Jesus says, The Kingdom of God is different. **Why?**
- Because the King is Himself a servant.
- And greatness will come to those who **follow His example**.
- Those who willingly give themselves to serving others.
- ***To the church in Rome Paul writes...***

***11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. (Romans 12:11)***

- We are to serve GOD with Passion and spiritual fervor.
- The word **fervent** here means **to be HOT to Boil Over**.
- We can't serve **halfheartedly**.
- We can't serve out of **mere duty**.
- True service must come from the Heart.
- Service that is **UNDER THE NEW COVENANT** comes from the heart.
- **And how do we serve God?**
- When we think of service, we think of what we can do or give someone else.
- **But what can we give God that He doesn't already have?**
- What can we do for God that He cannot do much better himself?
- **There is only one answer.**
- Ourselves - **Our lives and our obedience**.
- The only thing we have, to give God is ourselves.
- And the only thing we can do for God is **His Will**.
- We need to give ourselves completely to His service.
- No reservations, no holding back.
- **And in so doing, we live a life that brings him Glory.**
- Now serving God (who needs nothing) **most often** takes the form of serving one another.
- To the **Galatians**, Paul writes...

***13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (Galatians 5:13)***

- We are called to serve **one another**...
- Paul says **we are free**... We have a **choice to make**.
- Will we indulge the **sinful nature**?
- Will we only look out for **number one**? Will we claim our rights above all else.
- Or will we **choose to serve God** and **one another**.
- Not serving out of **duty or fear but in love for His glory**.

- **Now serving others involves humility.**
- One can take a certain sense of **pride in serving God.**
- **YES, I AM THE LORD'S SERVANT.**
  
- In the world the one who **serves is subservient to the one he serves.**
- A servant **serves his master.**
- An employee **serves her employer.**
  
- And if we're going to be **subservient** to anyone it might as well be God.
- But when we're asked to **serve others** that's when the **rubber hits the road.**
- That's when we see **what we are truly made of....**
  
- In 1878, when **William Booth's Salvation Army** was beginning to make its mark,
- men and women from all over the world **began to enlist.**
- One man, who had once dreamed of becoming a **bishop,**
- crossed the **Atlantic from America to England to enlist.**
  
- **Samuel Brengle** left a fine **pastorate** to join Booth's Army.
- But at first **General Booth** accepted his services **reluctantly** and grudgingly.
- Booth said to Brengle, *"You've been your own boss too long."*
- And to instill humility in **Brengle**, Booth set him to work **cleaning the boots of other trainees.**
  
- Discouraged, Brengle said to himself, *"Have I followed my own fancy across the Atlantic in order to clean boots?"*
- And then, as in a vision, he saw Jesus bending over the feet of rough, fishermen.
- "Lord," he whispered, "you washed their feet; I will clean their shoes."
  
- As **Samuel Brengle** Saw **Jesus is the Example.**
- He came to **serve.**
- He took the very nature of a servant.
- He washed feet, He Feed, He taught, He prayed.
- And ultimately, he **served all the way to the cross.**
  
- **In our service to GOD, we need to look for ways to serve as Jesus did.**
- Another word for serve is **minister.**
- We need to **minister to one another.**
  
- To minister simply means to **MEET THE NEEDS of Others.**
- By God's grace and power, we need to **meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual** needs of those God has put in our lives.
  
- We need to look for opportunities to share **HIS love with Others**
- That is true **SERVICE.**
- Putting **LOVE** into **ACTION.**
  - It might mean cleaning toilets without grumbling.
  - It might mean visiting someone who is sick.
  - It might mean taking on a ministry at your church (BRIDGES).
  - It might mean sharing the gospel with someone.

- God has put each of us in different places and he has given us **different gifts**.
- And as **His Body**, for his Glory...
- He has called us to SERVE HIM by serving one another and the WORLD.
- JESUS CHRIST, The Perfect Son of God, Emanuel God with Us, The Alpha and the Omega.
- The King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- HE CAME TO SERVE.
- CAN WE DO ANY LESS.
- And as I mentioned before the way we serve God is by doing HIS will.
- And again, Jesus shows us how...
- Because our final point for today...

## 6. Jesus came to do the Father's Will

- **Jesus said...**

***<sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. (John 6:38)***

- Jesus is **very clear** in this verse and in **other places** that He came to do the will of the one who sent him (**that is God the Father**)
- But why would **Jesus need** to say such a thing?
- Isn't **Jesus God**, Isn't His will the **same as the will of the Father**.
- I would answer that question both **YES AND NO**.
- **NO** Jesus' in (let's call it) His **TEMPORAL** will was not always the same as the Father's.
- We see this clearly in the **Garden of Gethsemane**
- When Jesus Prayed...

***<sup>42</sup> ... "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (Luke 22:42)***

- The cup Jesus was **referring** to was **the Cross**.
- **I believe** He was specifically referring to taking on our Sin,
- and losing, for a time, that **Relationship with the Father**.
- Jesus (at least in part) did not want to experience His Father Forsaking Him.
- So, **No** Jesus' will was not always the same as the Father's.
- But at the same time based on this same passage we can say YES.
- Jesus' (let's call it) His **ULTIMATE** will was always the same as the **Father's**.

***Not my will, but yours be done.***

- Ultimately Jesus wanted what the Father wanted.

- In the **Gospel of John**, Jesus says...

***<sup>30</sup> “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me. (John 5:30)***

- Ultimately Jesus’ will (as a man on earth) was to please **His Father in Heaven**.
- I don’t understand everything there is to know about **JESUS BECOMING MAN**.
- But as we saw last week in **Philippians 2:7**

***<sup>7</sup> [Jesus] emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:7)***

- In some **mysterious way**, Jesus **emptied himself**.
- **I believe** this means he set aside **not his divinity** (he was always God) but **his divine rights and power**.
- But you might rightly ask, well how did he do all those **miracles**, how did he **teach** with such **wisdom and authority**, how did he live a **perfect sinless life** without his **divine power**?
- **Well**, the answer, I believe, is that **Jesus fully submitted to the will of the Father**.
- **And** to accomplish that will Jesus fully relied **not on his divine power** (which he willingly emptied himself of for a time) but on the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**.
- Of the Messiah (Jesus) **Isaiah Prophesized**...

***<sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. (Isaiah 42:1)***

- We see this prophecy fulfilled at **Jesus Baptism**, when the Spirit descended upon him.
- And then following **his Baptism**, in **Luke’s gospel** we read...

***And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness. (Luke 4:1)***

- Jesus did the will of his Father, not by relying on his divine power, **but by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit**.
- And therefore, even though Jesus was divine,
- He can be our example as we too are called to do God’s will. The Will of the Father.
- **In Mark’s gospel**, Jesus says...

***<sup>35</sup> For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.” (Mark 3:35)***

- Jesus says that **we are identified with Him**.
- We are part of His Family.
- Based on whether **we do the will of God or NOT**.
- We must submit to the will of the Father (**OBEY HIS COMMANDS**).

- And like Jesus we to **can accomplish this only by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- Jesus **Submitted to the Father 100% of the Time**
- Jesus **Relied on the Power of the Holy Spirit 100% of the Time.**
- And to the extent we submit to the will of the Father and Rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit
- We can **DO God's WILL.**
- I find it interesting that most of the talk in Christian life is about knowing God's will.
- How do I know God's will for my life.
- Instead of doing God's clearly revealed will found in his word.
- Now the will of God found in his word may not always make sense to us.
- I mean we may not understand why God wants us to do this or that.
- Why must we love our enemies? Why must we deny ourselves and take up our cross.
- **It just doesn't make sense to me...**
- Well that's where faith and submission come into play.
- We need to understand that our understanding is limited **TEMPORAL UNDERSTANDING.**
- BUT Every prayer we say and every action we take must **ultimately** come from a heart that says...***yet not my will, but yours be done.***"
- Ultimately it is a question of who you are going to trust, **yourself or God,**
- **As Proverbs** tells us, we must...

***<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5)***

- We must trust the **infinite eternal creator God** over **our temporal finite limited understanding.**
- Ultimately, we must trust His Word and the Power of the Holy Spirit above our Human Will.
- And we must do this with the same attitude that Jesus Had.
- **Jesus became a servant.**
- A servant to both **his Father and those His Father sent Him to.**
- Jesus did the Fathers will.
- And we must do the same.
- We must recognize while we are no longer under the LAW, the Old Covenant,
- **we are however under the New Covenant.**
- **And in the new covenant we are bought with a price.**
- **We are servants of the living God.**
- And God has sent us into the world to **DO HIS WILL.**

- I would like to leave you with an example of someone who submitted to the will of the Father.
- Someone who understood that **she was a Servant to the LORD**.
- And when called to do something that was **completely beyond her comprehension**, she chose to **Trust the Lord instead of her own understanding...**
- **Her name was Mary, and in Luke 1:26-38 we read...**

<sup>26</sup> *In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,*  
<sup>27</sup> *to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.* <sup>28</sup> *And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"* <sup>29</sup> *But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.* <sup>30</sup> *And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.* <sup>31</sup> *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.* <sup>32</sup> *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,* <sup>33</sup> *and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

<sup>34</sup> *And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"*

<sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

<sup>36</sup> *And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.* <sup>37</sup> *For nothing will be impossible with God."* <sup>38</sup> *And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."*  
*And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)*

- **Mary's obedience** is one that reflects her **complete trust in the Lord**.
- Her **quiet attitude of submission** is astonishing considering what has just been proposed.
- **Remember** she was not yet married to **Joseph**.
- What would he say, what would He do?

- Also, there was a death penalty for **adultery**.
- Mary couldn't be sure that she wouldn't suffer, and perhaps die.
- But she, with little hesitation, accepted and carried out the **Will of God**.

- Mary like each of us is an **instrument** of God's Will on Earth.

- So with Jesus as our **example of obedience**.
- As **RECIPIENTS** through Christ, of a **New Covenant of GRACE** and the Holy Spirit.
- We are now **free to SERVE** God and one another.
- Let us therefore **purse obedience** to **God's WILL** with all our hearts.

- That we too might say.

- ***I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word***

- ***Would you pray with me to that end.***