

Jesus Learned to Obey. Have Your Children?

By: Dan Jenkins

One of the great joys of Bible study is finding words and phrases which have great truths but which can so easily be overlooked. Read the following verse, and see if you may have overlooked one of the “hidden” truths. “Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (**Heb. 5:8-9**). He learned obedience! Obedience is not something which happens accidentally, it must be learned.

There is no doubt that Jesus came into the world to do the will of God (**Heb. 10:7**). Because our High Priest was tempted in every way in which we are, He had to learn that which we learn—He had to learn to obey.

When He taught His disciples how to pray, He included the petition, “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” He explained to His followers why He behaved the way He did by saying, “I always do those things which please Him” (**John 8:29**). Facing the horrendous agony of Gethsemane and Golgotha, He prayed, “Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done” (**Luke 22:42**). His great commission showed the importance of His followers learning to obey. “Make disciples...teaching them to observe all things” (**Matt. 28:19-20**).

One mistake I see so many young parents make is failing to teach them obedience. That obedience is important is seen in the

prominence given to it in the Ten Commandments. “Honor your father and your mother as the Lord has commanded you...that it may be well with you” (**Deut. 5:16**). This command is placed above those about murder and adultery. Yet, far too many young parents do not see this. Honoring and obeying parents will not happen naturally, it must be learned.

The modern philosophy about dealing with children is distraction. When a child is told to do something, and he shows displeasure, parents are being taught to distract them or bribe them in some fashion. What happens at that time is the children may be distracted and conflict is avoided, but that child did not learn obedience.

This lesson about obedience is learned best when the child is very young. In the first year of a child’s life, he can learn the meaning of the word “No.” He must learn this, for the world does not revolve around the child; he will not always get his way. That lesson must be learned early and repeatedly emphasized as the child grows. He will learn parents’ rules (and God’s) must be obeyed. Wait until he is a teen to teach this, and he will likely be unmanageable.

Jesus learned obedience. Parents, set guidelines and use the conflict to teach them what Jesus had to learn!

Satan—Not a Figment of Someone’s Imagination

By: Selected

Millions of viewers sat down to watch the spectacle of ABC’s Nightline Face-Off Debate on Friday, March 20, 2010. This media source is apparently trying to research and provide an answer to the question, **“Does Satan Exist?”** Well, we don’t need a television program to determine if Satan is real or not; let’s turn to the only reliable record on this matter—God’s Word!

Ask Adam and Eve, “Does Satan exist?” In Genesis 3, the first man and first woman succumbed to the tempter’s charms, when “the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness” (**2 Cor. 11:3**). *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask David, “Does Satan exist?” God’s displeasure and punishment resulted when “Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel” (**1 Chron. 21:1, 7**). *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask Job, “Does Satan exist?” In an attempt to trick Job into cursing God to His face (2:5), Satan brought some of the greatest calamities any man could ever endure upon this man of patience. *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask Zechariah, “Does Satan exist?” In one of the visions God showed to Zechariah was Joshua the high priest, clothed with filthy garments (symbolizing the sins of the nation), “standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him” (**Zech. 3:1-3**). *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask Jesus Himself, “Does Satan exist?” Our Lord prepared for forty days and forty nights for Satan’s deceptions. In Matthew 4, “the tempter came to Him” (4:3), but when Jesus shut him down,

“the devil left Him” (4:11). *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask Judas, “Does Satan exist?” “Satan entered Judas” (**Luke 22:3**) and “put into [his] heart...to betray [Jesus]” (**John 13:2**). *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask Paul, “Does Satan exist?” Paul declares that his thorn in the flesh was “a messenger of Satan to buffet me” (**2 Cor. 12:7**). *Yes, Satan is real!*

Ask the apostles, “Does Satan exist?” Read their inspired words—**Matt. 13:39; 25:41; John 8:44; 12:31; 14:30; Acts 5:3; 2 Cor. 2:11; 4:4; 11:14; Eph. 2:2; 4:27; 6:11; 1 Thess. 2:18; 2 Thess. 2:9; Heb. 2:14; Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 John 3:8; 5:19; Rev. 2:10; 12:9; 20:2**. *Yes, Satan is real!*

Satan is not a myth or a legend! He is your enemy!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: Ladies Day meeting at 4pm today in the fellowship hall.

TONIGHT: Youth devotional after evening service. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sat. Jan. 27, 2024: Midtown will host our Ladies Day. Ladies, please mark your calendars and bring a friend.

Feb. 16-18, 2024: Midtown will host the 2024 Winter Youth Retreat at Peach Valley camp. There is a flyer in the hallway bulletin board.

Area Events:

Arise at Southwest church of Christ 2/29/24-3/3/2024

4/27/24: Ladies Day at Weber Road.

More Area events are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Billie Slaughter who is at PAM in isolation right now.

Willie Fossati and his family in the passing of Willie’s grandfather Xavier Fossati.

Dan Gorfido who had a stroke.

Joyce Faires son, Paul, who recently had surgery.

Estella Rojas, Debra Prince’s mother, is at DeTar room 487.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Barbie Dolan, Sandra Marie, Veronica Serenil, and Clark Withers.

Service Roster

Week of January 14, 2024

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Blake Jacobs
Song Leader Doug Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Bryant Siegel
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Mack Terry
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons
Assist..... Jake Jacobs

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobes
Closing Prayer..... Bryce Dolan

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Brandon Starling
Song Leader.....Doug Jobes
DevotionalJames Cammock

Other

Prepare Communion.....Bass

Congregational News

Birthdays

Rick Bass.....Jan. 15

Food Helpers for the month of Jan. - Team A

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time
forth and forevermore.”
Psalm 113:2

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of January 7, 2024

A.M. Bible Class.....68
A.M. Worship.....101
P.M. Worship.....65
Wednesday Bible Class.....70

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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