

The Heart of an Obedient Disciple

A Lord's Flock Worship Service Topic

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Obedience is usually about complying with the rule/s. However, according to the Scripture, obedience is about being grounded on God. He always makes the first move – He calls, provides, and walks alongside us. Hence, a disciple's obedience becomes a response of our heart. God initiates; God accompanies; then our heart moves (to obey God).



1. ***"I will run the way of your commands for You have enlarged my heart"*** (Ps. 119:32).

- 1.1. God's grace is poured repeatedly and is always growing. Thus, while we grow in faith, our heart gets bigger.
- 1.2. Before obedience, there is doing, hearing, and being loved. When we grow in obedience, our heart gets bigger and grows in obedience.
- 1.3. To parents who have difficulty making children obey, maybe their love is not being communicated. The inability to obey reflects the absence of love.
- 1.4. When God calls us, He journeys with us. Hence, let us be a good companion to Him.

2. **The Five Movements of the Obedient Heart:**

- 2.1. Trusting. Let us walk together toward a promise not yet seen.
- 2.2. Listening. "Speak, your servant is listening."
- 2.3. Entrusting. Our journey is made safe by a hidden companion.
- 2.4. Consenting. Our joyful fiat is preceded and carried by grace.
- 2.5. Burning. A mission erupts from an encounter on the road.

3. **The Trusting Heart: Abraham- the covenant partner (Gen 12:1-4; 22:1-19)**

- 3.1. God initiates. God erupted into Abrahams' life. His command (to leave the homeland for an unknown destination) was wrapped inside a gift (to make him a great nation). Likewise, God contacts us suddenly in moments we don't invite Him. He never gives details.
- 3.2. God accompanies. When He calls, there is an accompanying gift. God provided the ram before Abraham lifted his eyes.
- 3.3. The movement of the heart. When God calls us, He will make it possible (Gen. 22:14).

4. **The listening heart: Samuel - the listening servant (1 Sam. 3:1-10)**

4.1. God initiates. God called Samuel four times before Samuel even knew the Lord. Divine initiative precedes religious literacy.

4.2. God accompanies. God's presence is not conditioned by what we do, but by His love for us. The priest Eli discerned the Voice and stepped aside. Today, the elders/seniors need to guide the young people who do not know yet what is good for them.

4.3. The movement of the heart. Samuel had a listening heart. "*Speak, Lord*" is the seedbed of every obedient act. Let us make ourselves available to what God leads us to.

5. **The Trusting Heart: Tobiah – the Accompanied Journey (Tobit 5-6:12)**

5.1. God initiates. The prayers of Tobit and Sarah were heard; the angel Raphael was sent. Heaven moves before the journey begins.

5.2. God accompanies. Raphael, as Azariah, a relative, walked with them. Our every act of obedience happens with a companion.

5.3. The movement of the heart. Confidence and courage come from the companionship that God sends us. He disguises Himself.

6. **Mary - the Heart that Says Fiat (Luke 1:26-38)**

6.1. God initiates. Grace precedes and enables obedience. Grace is not conditioned on our response. God equips us before we obey.

6.2. God accompanies. Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, was given as companion. The Lord is with us before any task is named.

6.3. The movement of the heart. Mary's consent, "fiat- let it be done!" turned her pondering/questioning into joyful self-gift.

7. **Emmaus - the Burning Heart (Lk. 24:13-35)**

1. God initiates. The Risen Jesus joined the disciples on the road of discouragement.

2. God accompanies. He walked at their pace, asked, listened, respected their freedom.

3. The movement of the heart. Even with no command, the disciples turned from "slow to believe" to "burning" with a mission. Our obedience is our heart's spontaneous response.

Conclusion: The Lord speaks first. He walks with us, opens our ears, and stays with us. Let us respond: "Hear I am. Speak Lord. Let it be done to me."

Reflection:

1. On which road is the Lord walking beside you right now?
2. What is the one word He is waiting to hear from your heart?
3. Who are the people who suddenly appeared and have contributed to the life you have taken?

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