



VII

7 MARKS of a DISCIPLE

DEVELOPING AN OBEDIENT HEART

JOHN 14:21

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Introduction: Someone has said, “Only he who believes obeys, and only he who obeys truly believes.” Today we are going to discover the third mark of a disciple of Christ: an obedient heart.

I. **Jesus’ Demand For An Obedient Heart** (John 14:21, John 8:51, John 3:36)

John 14:21 “He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 8:51 “Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

John 3:36 “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

John 4:34 “Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.’”

John 6:38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”

II. **Characteristics Of An Obedient Heart**

A. **Immediate Obedience** (Luke 22:42)

Luke 22:42 “[Jesus said] ‘Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.’”



B. Complete Obedience (Philippians 2:8)

Philippians 2:8 “And being found in the appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

C. Joyful Obedience (Hebrews 12:2)

Hebrews 12:2a “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.”

III. Barriers To An Obedient Heart

A. Distance from God (Exodus 32:1)

Exodus 32:1 “When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron, and said to him, ‘Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’”

B. Distrust of God (Genesis 3:4-5)

Genesis 3:4-5 ⁴ “And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely shall not die! ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’”

IV. Developing An Obedient Heart

Hebrews 5:8 “Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.”



A. Decide That Obedience Is a Priority (Psalm 19:7-10)

Psalm 19:7-10 ⁷“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.”

B. Develop a “God Is Here” Mindset (Psalm 16:8)

Psalm 16:8 “I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.”

C. Obey What You Know to be True (Deuteronomy 30:2)

Deuteronomy 30:2 “And you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons.”

Deuteronomy 32:46 “He said to them, ‘Take to your heart all the words with which I am warning you today, which you shall command your sons to observe carefully, even all the words of this law.’”

Psalm 119:5-6 ⁵ “Oh that my ways may be established to keep Thy statutes! ⁶ Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Thy commandments.”

D. Remember the Reward for Obedience (Hebrews 11:6)

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”



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Hebrews 11:13, 16¹³ “All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. ^{16a} But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one.”

Hebrews 12:2 “Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Conclusion