



STRENGTH TRAINING

Growing daily in the things that really
matter!

The Inner Man is Obedient!

Luke 6:43-49

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on February 15, 2020



Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Inner Man is Obedient!

Luke 6:43-49

Opening Comments

- Today we continue our series: **STRENGTH TRAINING: Growing daily in the things that really matter!**
- Turn in your Bible to **Luke 6**
- These Men's Breakfast messages are a continuation of the theme of the Men's Retreat in May of last year
- We looked at the reality that there are two parts of us – an inner man and an outward man
- We also know the outward man as the flesh – the natural man
- That part of us has a problem **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**
These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.
- This series is about being a man who has a goal of doing things in his life that really matter
- Recently, the world was shocked by the sudden death of Kobe Bryant, his daughter, and seven others in a helicopter crash
- He was an exceptional athlete and he will not soon be forgotten by basketball fans – was famous – was rich
- Every life matters – the lives of all nine people on that helicopter mattered
- But was Kobe Bryant focused on doing things that really matter?
- Will his wife and family think his NBA championships are what mattered – or the number of points he scored – or his fame – or his money
- Ultimately, it is not our place to judge Kobe Bryant's life – good or bad
- But his life reminds us that our time to do something that really matters may be shorter than we might think **James 4:13-14**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

- Let's pray and then we will get into it
- **Pray**

Teaching

- In the first message I shared four things we need to be so that we can do things that really matter
- First – be humble – pray – ask God to strengthen your inner man and help you to resist the outward man
- Second – be spiritual – everything in life has a spiritual component that is more important the physical manifestation
- Third – be trusting – Let God be God and learn to trust Him to act on your behalf – it is not all about you and it is not all on you
- Fourth – Be obedient – Know what God wants you to do and do it – right now!
- The title of this morning's message is **The Inner Man is Obedient!**
- We have been looking at these in order because I believe each one of them builds upon the previous ones
- If we want to do things that really matter – we need to let the Holy Spirit strengthen our inner man
- While it is God who does the strengthening – He expects us to exercise our will to facilitate that strengthening
- Let's start with a definition

Obedient: complying or willing to comply with orders or requests; submissive to another's will.

- As an illustration, let's use something we are all familiar with – stop signs
- Before we get into it, I am not here to judge or convict anyone on whether or not they are obedient to the posted stop signs – just an illustration
- We have more important issues than stop signs to talk about this morning
- According to the laws of California, you are required to come to a complete stop at a Stop Sign – to cease all forward motion
- You have probably heard of a 'California rolling stop' – at a stop sign, you slow down and then take off

- Contrary to common belief – those are not legal
- What's the harm, you might ask?
- At what speed do you slow down to? <5mph – 10mph – 20 mph – or just tap your brakes as you blow through the intersection
- Is it subjective – can you determine how to obey that law based on your determination of what is safe?
- No, it is objective – you can be pulled over and cited if you do not cease all forward motion at a stop sign
- You might say, I have been doing it as long as I have been driving – never gotten a ticket – they don't care!
- Just because you have not been punished yet, doesn't mean the law has been changed

- Should things like that matter to Christians? **1 Peter 2:13-17**

Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all *people*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

- Notice, it doesn't say to honor the king if he is godly – honor him!
- In our text for this morning, Jesus addresses the matter of obedience
- But first, Jesus reminds us that our doings come out of our being

- **Luke 6:43-45**

- What you are doing is a result of what you are being
- The inner man is the part of you that will determine whether or not you do things that really matter
- If the inner man is humble, spiritual, and trusting – things that really matter become possible
- The last thing to be is obedient

- **Luke 6:46**

- The phrase 'Lord Jesus Christ' appears 85 times in the New Testament
- 'Jesus' is the name Mary was given by the angel Gabriel for her firstborn son – speaks of His humanity
- 'Christ' – Messiah = Anointed/Savior/Deliverer – His mission

- ‘Lord’ = ruler/king – speaks of His authority
- To call yourself a Christian is to accept all three
- ‘Jesus’ – He came and lived as a Man – sinless **Hebrews 4:14-15**
Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.
- ‘Christ’ – He came to save me from my sins, which He accomplished on the cross delivering me from the penalty and power of sin
- And also ‘Lord’ – He is my Ruler, my King, my highest authority on all matters pertaining to life and godliness
- Jesus’ question in this verse is rhetorical
- If you call yourself a Christian, then obedience is not optional
- And if you treat your obedience to Christ like you do stop signs you might have a problem with obedience
- Let’s look at our definition again
Obedient: complying or willing to comply with orders or requests; submissive to another's will.
- I see three things I would like to extract from that definition
- First, **Compliance** – acting in accordance with a wish or command
- For a Christian that simply means you do what God wants and what His Word says
- Antonyms for compliance are: defiance, disobedience, intractability
- Compliance does not take into consideration my desires or wishes
- For a Christian, my desires and wishes are irrelevant when it comes to obedience
- Jesus’ famous words in the Garden of Gethsemane **Luke 22:42**
Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.
- Jesus was complying with the Father’s wishes when He went to the cross to pay for our sins and make a way for us to be reconciled to God
- Jesus knew what God wanted and what He had said and obeyed
- Let’s use one of God’s commands that we can all relate to **Ephesians 4:32**
And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
- Suppose Pastor Randy said I was fat and it hurt my one little feeling

- How would I comply with this Scripture? Forgive him, right?
- When? Right now! How about if I don't feel like it?
- How about if it is the thousandth time he has done it?
- How about if I know he is going to do it again?
- When do I stop forgiving him? When he stops doing it!
- Compliance to God's commands is not conditional!
- The second part of that definition - willing to comply with orders or requests – **Willingness**
- God is calling us to radical compliance with His will and Word
- That means, spiritually speaking, every time we come to a stop sign, we come to a complete stop – every time!
- Turn to **Mark 9**
- Let's be honest, sometimes it is not easy to do what God wants
- But what if we have to forgive something more than Pastor Randy calling me fat? What if someone has hurt me in a way that has crushed my heart?
- Here in Mark 9, Jesus has just come down from the Mount of Transfiguration and encounters a father with a big problem
- **Mark 9:17-23**
- Jesus is calling this desperate father to radical faith
- **Mark 9:24**
- He is saying I want to do what you are telling me, but I am having a hard time doing it – this poor father was willing but not able
- And so, he becomes an example to us of what we do when we are struggling to obey
- He brought his struggle to Jesus
- He tried to obey
- And then He begged Jesus to help him get the rest of the way there
- Turn back to **Luke 6**
- If you are struggling to obey – you need to do the same thing
- Struggling to forgive – bring it to Jesus, try to forgive, and then beg Jesus to help you forgive
- How many times should you do that? Until you forgive!
- **Compliance – Willingness**

- Third and last thing – **Submission**
- If you call yourself a Christian – if Jesus is your Savior, He is also your Lord – He is ruler of your life – what part? All of it!
- On the cross Jesus earned the right to rule over your life **1**

Corinthians 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- God calls us to radical obedience to His will and Word
- People sometimes act as if obedience is optional or conditional
- And that is why so many people, including Christians are living lives that don't really matter
- Then Jesus tells us why that is important to us to obey
- **Luke 6:47-49**
- If you choose to know God, His will, and His Word and choose to obey, you will build a life that really matters
- If you choose not to get to know God, His will and His Word you are choosing to build a life that doesn't matter
- In fact, to disobey God, either through willful ignorance, or neglect, or outright defiance is to choose to destroy your life
- Oh, I am not talking about going to Hell
- Because of disobedience many believers – Christians – experience a hell of their own creation – simply because they choose not to know and do the will of God
- Guys, we were all created to live lives that really matter, and we do that through obedience to God's will and Word
- That becomes possible as we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, as we remember that everything has a spiritual component, and as we trust God to be God and let Him help us
- Walk in radical obedience to God's will and Word and you will live a life that really matters
- **Let's pray!**