



Unlikely Heroes are Obedient to King Jesus

August 23, 2020

1. Introduction

- a. Just a few days ago, Pastor Jerry celebrated 36 years at Western Hills Church! (1984)
- b. When moving forward, it is important to look back
- c. Vision video then restate the vision
- d. I've been thinking especially about the second part of Jesus's commission this week **(Matt 28:19-20)**
- e. Did you know Jesus gave over 500 imperatives recorded in the gospels? How daunting.
- f. The life of Philip provides the example we need **(Philip the Evangelist)**
 - i. Ordinary man, not one of the 12 disciples of Jesus
 - ii. Hellenistic Jew (Greek – marginalized people group)
 - iii. Young family man (Acts 21)
- g. **Philip was an unlikely hero of the faith because he was obedient to King Jesus**
 - i. **Philip loved the words of Jesus because he loved the person of Jesus**

2. Origin Story: Philip the Deacon or Philip the Evangelist (Stephen)

- a. Chosen to by members of the church to be one of the first seven deacons
 - i. Men of good repute, full of the Spirit and wisdom
- b. Philip was a Jew and a Christian. Obedience must have marked his life to be chosen.
- c. Philip's life of obedience paved the way for greater opportunities for his life to make an impact for the Kingdom of God on the earth.
- d. Philip loved the words of Jesus because he loved the Person of Jesus.

We must not separate the words of Jesus from the Person of Jesus!

John 14:15

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

John 15:10-14

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

1 John 2:3-5

And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.

1 John 5:2-3

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

PHILIP did not separate the person of Jesus from the commands of Jesus. As a disciple of Jesus, it is clear in the way Philip lived his life that he understood that to love Jesus was to love the words of Jesus. This is what it truly means to ABIDE in CHRIST. Not just us in His Words, but His Words in US.

I suppose this is why there has been such a great falling away of young people in the church in America. They learned the words of Jesus, but they separated the words from the person. They lost (or never found) love for the PERSON of Jesus, so they feel Christianity is just a bunch of rules.

Philip's story continues in Acts chapter 8. Philip gets an entire chapter!

3. The dispersion of the church and the move to Samaria (build inductively).
 - a. Saul ravages the church, and the church scatters under persecution.
 - b. Once again, Philip's life was marked by obedience. Philip knew Jesus's mission:
 - i. **Matthew 28:19-20**
 - ii. **Acts 1:8**
 - c. Instead of retreating to a coastline and keeping his family safe, Philip took a calculated risk that was based on his love for the words of Jesus – he moved his family to Samaria.
 - i. Jews have no dealings with Samaritans
 - ii. I would imagine he had Jewish family members and friends cautioning him
 - iii. The location of his move was a no brainer to Philip because he loved the words of Jesus. Philip loved the words of Jesus because he loved the Person of Jesus.
 - d. Philip is recorded as the first one to proclaim Christ in Samaria! (Acts 8)
 - e. Suffering brought an opportunity for Philip to increasing his faith and learn obedience in a deeper way. Philip took it, because he loved Jesus and that is exactly what Jesus did:

Hebrews 5:8-9

8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

HOW COULD JESUS BE SINLESS BUT STILL LEARN OBEDIENCE AND BE MADE PERFECT?

HOW ARE WE MADE PERFECT? BY BEING LIKE JESUS! Philip was perfected as his obedience was tested in his suffering (the persecution of the church and the move to a potentially hostile place).

Philip was obedient to the words of Jesus because he loved the person of Jesus.

4. God's specific instructions – go to the desert.
 - a. A different kind of word from God – a rama.
 - i. Philip was ready because obedience was already part of his life.
 - b. Angel says, "Go to the desert." Philip rose and went. SIMPLE
 - c. ETHIOPIAN, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, a man in charge of ALL her treasure. Returning from Jerusalem where he was worshiping.
 - d. The Spirit says, "Go join the chariot." Philip ran to the chariot.
 - e. Reading prophet Isaiah. Do you understand? How can I without a guide?

Acts 8:32-33

32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

- f. About whom, I ask, does the prophet say this? Himself or another?

Acts 8:35

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

- g. Came to some water. What prevents me from being baptized?
- h. Some manuscripts add: If you believe with all your heart, you may. I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- i. He was baptized. Philip went on proclaiming the gospel in other places.

Obedience to the words of Jesus is the sign that we truly love Jesus.

1 John 5:2-3

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

His Commands Are Not Burdensome WHEN we LOVE the PERSON of JESUS!

- Love one another as I have loved you
- Husbands, love your wives as Jesus loved the church
- Wives, respect your husbands and submit to them in the Lord
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right
- Give without reluctance, for God loves a cheerful giver
- Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ
- Do not lie to one another
- Do not let the sun go down on your anger
- Be angry but do not sin

- Be slow to speak, quick to listen, and slow to anger
- Live in harmony together.
- Don't be proud, but associate with people of low position.
- Practice hospitality and share with the Lord's people who are in need
- Be faithful in prayer
- Do not divorce except on the ground of sexual immorality
- Let your yes be yes and your no be no – stand by your word
- Do not retaliate but respond with gentleness and grace to those who mistreat you
- Love your enemies
- Give to the needy
- Do not be anxious
- Fast
- Pray
- Serve
- Give
- Love
- Then teach others to OBSERVE all I have commanded you! Make disciples.

Matthew 16:24

24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

To be obedient, you must love the person.

The opposite of loving the person of Jesus is loving yourself.

There is no middle ground. You are either walking in love for self or walking in love for God and others.

1 John 4:19-20

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

SHARE THE GOSPEL

- If you have not embraced the love of Jesus by embracing His gospel, this is your moment
- If you have, then you have all you need in Christ to love others – you must just come back to faith in who you really are in Christ