

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Why Do Some Fail To Obey The Gospel?” Pt. 1

By Brian Meade



The Bible teaches us just how important it is to obey the gospel in various places and in various ways.

The gospel is God's power to save us (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18). It is has the power, and is the only power that will save us based upon our obedience to Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

The gospel gives us a new beginning into a new life in Christ (Romans 6:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17). This is where Christ gives us an opportunity to start over in a life free from the past sins that brought us guilt and shame. It is a clean slate in regard to our past, and not only that, but access to forgiveness for when we repent and pray to God (Acts 8:20-24; 1 John 1:7-9).

The gospel is God's means of reconciling the fellowship lost by our sins (Romans 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18). God sent His only Son to die on the cross to bring about this reconciliation. After Christ's death, the path back to God that was once impassable is now passable by our obedience.

And the gospel of Christ gives us the hope of going to heaven—the reward for the righteous (John 14:1-6; 2 Peter 1:10-11). Paul would say in Colossians 1:5, *“because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,”* Heaven is the hope of all Christians (1 Peter 1:4).

Seeing how important that it is that we obey the gospel, and all the benefits and blessings that the gospel has for obedience to it— then comes the question, “Why doesn't everyone obey it immediately?”

I believe the Bible itself gives us the answer to that question in the book of Acts, as the disciples preached the gospel to the whole world (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47; Colossians 1:23), still yet, not everyone obeyed Christ.

There were reasons and excuses then, and there are those same ones used today by those who willingly reject Christ's love for them. Let's look at some of the reasons, excuses, and copouts concerning disobedience to the gospel.

I. Some Don't See The Need To Obey The Gospel.

When you talk to some people about the offer of salvation in Christ, they may not see the urgent need to obey the gospel. Why? It may be that they have never been in want of anything. They have a big house to live in, fancy cars to drive around in, and lots of money in the bank. They may seemingly have it all! They may even scoff at the idea of needing Jesus to save them.

But what they may have is a self-sufficient attitude about life for them. They have been blinded by physical prosperity, and cannot see the spiritual poverty they are in. They may have all they want in life, and are unconcerned with anything other than what this life has to offer them.

Jesus spoke of such attitudes of life in a parable in Luke 12:16-21,

“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

That’s why we need to emphasize the need we all have to live for eternity— not just the here and now! The man in Jesus’ parable did not consider being rich toward God as desirable or necessary. He had plenty of goods laid up to supply his physical side of life to enjoy— he didn’t need God! Or so he thought.

Sadly, many people today are just like this man whom God calls a fool, and only concerned about our temporary needs. It may be that they will never see the great need they have to get out of a life of sin and put on righteousness that only God can give us (Romans 6:17-18).

It may be for some of these ones who fail to see the need for Christ in their lives now, that they only see it plainly at the Judgment Day (2 Corinthians 5:10). But by then, it will be too late!

II. Some Don’t Think They Know Enough To Obey The Gospel.

When to talk to someone who may even be interested in obeying the gospel, they may feel like they are just not ready to obey it yet. It may be that they feel as if they don’t know enough about the Bible to make the commitment needed to put on Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).

This is a lot more admirable and commendable than our first reason for some failing to do what they need to do in pleasing God. At least they see the need for Christ, but are timid and reluctant to obey because of the element that fear plays in holding them back. The fear of what they don’t know of the Scriptures can be intimidating to some.

But how much does one need to know before obeying the gospel? There are several things that are required to know in making this commitment to Christ.

- (1) We must realize what sin is, and why we need a Savior.
(1 John 3:4-8; James 1:14-15; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 1:5).
- (2) We must understand God’s plan of salvation.
(Faith- Hebrews 11:6; Repentance- Acts 17:30; Confession- Romans 10:9-10; Baptism in water- Acts 2:37-38; Acts 22:16).
- (3) We must understand the commitment we make to Christ.

This point is must also be emphasized to anyone who seeks forgiveness from Christ. The commitment we make in obeying the gospel is for a lifetime (Revelation 2:10). Salvation is not a “one and done” experience where we can walk away from Christ and go back to living life like we did before. It is a commitment based on listening to Jesus for the rest of our life (John 10:27-28; Hebrews 2:1-3). That’s why Jesus gave those who would follow Him the admonition to “count the cost” and be willing to pay it (Luke 14:26-33).

But still yet, how much or many times do we need to hear the gospel message in order to obey it? When we closely examine the Scriptures, we see in the book of Acts the account of those who obeyed the gospel.

In Acts 2:22-41, we read of those who obeyed the gospel on the Day of Pentecost. Verse 41 teaches us, *“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”* It shows us that we can obey the gospel after just one hearing of the gospel! One sermon by Peter led “about three thousand souls” to be added to the number of disciples, and the Lord’s church (Acts 2:47).

God made the commands of the gospel straightforward and easy to understand that it would not be hard for men and women to obey them even the first time hearing them. Several other examples in Acts bear witness to this fact— Acts 8:12; 8:35-39; 9:17-19; 10:33-48; 16:14-15.

What we need to do with those who would fail to obey the gospel out of a fear of not knowing everything yet— is to encourage them to act on what they do know, and the rest will come by being a daily learner, disciple, or follower of Jesus (John 8:31-32; 2 Peter 3:18).

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, and Lowell Gann.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Nathan Meade
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "What Do You Care About?"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Author: The Books Of James
Starting Page & Question: Rick Billingsley
Page 27, Question #10

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Russell Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Blake Briggs
Scripture Reading: Psalm 11:1-7
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Supper: Paul Johnson
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: "Men Of The Congregation Lead Singing"
Invitation: Fred Johnson
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

December 25, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: Great Bible Characters: Paul
Author: By Bobby L. Graham
Starting Page & Question: Page 7, Question #1
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Song Leader: Paul Busby
Closing Prayer: Brian Meade

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“What Do You Care About?”

Lesson Text: **Luke 10:38-42.**

I. The Two Sisters Contrasted.

– The Two Sisters Represent Two Different Interests/Priorities:

Mary- *“sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to his teaching.” (vs. 39 ESV).*

- The Posture Of Those Who Are Disciples Or Learners. (**Acts 22:3**).
- It Meant That Mary Was Listening Attentively To Jesus’ Instructions.
- She Had The Master Teacher There With Her And Took Full Advantage Of It.

Martha- *“was distracted with much serving.” (vs. 40 NKJB; ESV).*

- This Is Why Martha Wasn’t With Mary— Listening To Jesus.
- Martha Was Not Doing Anything Evil— But Showing Hospitality To Jesus.
- Hospitality Is Even A Duty Of God’s People- **Hebrews 13:2; 1 Peter 4:9.**
- But Even Hospitality Can Be A Distraction To More Important Matters.
- perispao— lit., “to draw around” (peri), “draw away, distract,” is used in the passive voice in the sense of being overoccupied about a thing, to be “cumbered,” Luke 10:40.

(Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 140).

II. Martha’s Complaint Against Her Sister.

– **vs. 40 NKJB.** “But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

- Martha’s Anger/indignation Is Revealed In Her Question To Jesus.
- She Speaks As Someone Greatly Angered By The Lack Of Help By Her Sister.
- Martha Was Ruffled; Her Emotions Got The Better Of Her Judgment.
- She Should Have Commended Her Sister For Her Attentiveness To Jesus’ Words.

III. Jesus’ Answer To Martha.

– **vs. 41-42 (NKJB).** “And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

- **Worried**— signifies “to be anxious about, to have a distracting care,” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 89).
- **Troubled**— *“to trouble, disturb,”* (Thayer).
- Martha Was Overly Anxious To Serve Jesus That She Didn’t Benefit From Being With Him.

IV. Lessons We Can Learn From Mary & Martha.

– **A Lesson On The Priorities Of A Christian Today- Matthew 6:25-33.**

– **We Should Choose What Will Last Over The Temporary Things Of Life.**

- **2 Peter 3:10-12; Matthew 13:44-46.**
- Hobbies, Sports, Recreation, Entertainment, Television, Movies, Education....
- Churches Are Opting To Cancel Bible Studies For Christmas Day & New Year’s Day.

– **Be More Ready To Hear Jesus As A Priority! Be Like Mary!**

- **John 12:48-50.**