

Revive Sunday Sermon Notes 7/28/24

A big question to ask ourselves - is how often do we talk ourselves out of obeying God?

He may ask us to do something that is stretching, doesn't make sense in the natural, the details or logistics don't align or maybe it doesn't align with your timing, life plan, or even profession and we end up telling ourselves or God out of why we think we can't.

I would like to propose that currently, in the Western church, we have a ton of “surrendered Christians” who have yet to bear the fruit of obedience.

The starting point of a Christian life is surrender, but our depth of intimacy with God comes from our continual obedience to what He says.

Today is an Invitation Day - an invitation to find more of Him in our obedience that comes from our surrender.

Genesis 22:1-18 (NKJV)

- *'Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.'" So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that*

you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. And Abraham called the name of the place, The- Lord -Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord , because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” ’

Abraham and Isaac

- Both had to have radical trust and obedience to get to the place of knowing God has - “Jehovah Jireh - My provider.”

There is a ton happening in this story.

Abraham - a man who is all in with God. Starting in Genesis 12 we see where God calls Abraham to a level of surrender by calling him from what was comfortable

Sometimes God may need to remove from what's common to build in you what's uncommon.

Chapter 22 - Abraham has had to continue to “surrender his plans and timelines to God.” The amount of expectation and faith that they have in God to fulfill his promises - Then Chapter 22 -

- God comes to Abraham - I need you to sacrifice the promise to me...

There is another person in this story, Isaac- who is taking notes of everything happening - **because your obedience has a ripple effect on those around you.**

We have Isaac - the promised one - a very active participant in this journey.

In “church culture,” we often want to be Abraham, but we are often in the position of Isaac, and how we respond matters.

- It says that Abraham tied his son and laid him on the altar -
- **Isaac is in COMPLETE obedience with a word he never heard for himself - but is trusting the depth of the relationship his dad has with God.**

Isaac was the promised “only son” being sacrificed, and the ram was the payment—the precursor to Jesus.

It was through both of their obedience that they came to learn that God was their provider.

What does Jesus say about Obedience -

John 14: 15-17, 21, 23-26 TPT

15) *“Loving me empowers you to obey my commands. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Savior, the Holy Spirit of Truth, who will be to you a friend just like me—and he will never leave you. The world won’t receive him because they can’t see him or know him. But you know him intimately because he remains with you and will live inside you.*

21) *Those who truly love me are those who obey my commands. Whoever passionately loves me will be passionately loved by my Father. And I will passionately love him in return and will reveal myself to him.”*

23) *Jesus replied, “Loving me empowers you to obey my word. And my Father will love you so deeply that we will come to you and make you our dwelling place. But those who don’t love me will not obey my words. The Father did not send me to speak my own revelation, but the words of my Father. I am telling you this while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Spirit of Holiness, the One like me who sets you free, he will teach you all things in my name. And he will inspire you to remember every word that I’ve told you.”*
John 14:15-17, 21, 23-26 TPT

Jesus ends Chapter **14 in John with this vs. - 31**

- *‘I am doing exactly what the Father destined for me to accomplish, so that the world will discover how much I love my Father. Now come with me.’*
John 14:31

Jesus was not an exception -

Hebrews 5:8-9

'But even though he was a wonderful Son, he learned to listen and obey through all his sufferings. And after being proven perfect in this way he has now become the source of eternal salvation to all those who listen to him and obey. '

Obedience is not about religion but relationships. It's through the obedience that I choose - "no matter what - I want more of you." "It's the obedience that leads to uncomfortable places, but in the uncomfortable places, we find his grace and peace. It's where we find a love that extends beyond our own capacity. Sometimes even loving ourselves feels uncomfortable.

Romans 6:16 TPT

"Don't you realize that grace frees you to choose your own master? But choose carefully, for you surrender yourself to become a servant—bound to the one you choose to obey. If you choose to love sin, it will become your master, and it will own you and reward you with death. But if you choose to love and obey God, he will lead you into perfect righteousness."

The goal of the Christian life is to continue to be moved into the same perfection and righteousness that has been given to us through Jesus. From our love and obedience to God, HE WILL LEAD US!

He paid it all, so that we could have all of heaven in us!

I believe there is an invitation this morning to say "yes" to God in new and remarkable ways.

One of the keys to solidifying the surrender is to walk in obedience -

What has God been putting on your heart to do that you have been talking him out of?

When you fully surrender to the Lord, it then gives you the grace to walk in obedience.

Noah built an ark - with no sign of rain

Moses delivered the Israelites with a staff after 500 years of slavery

Gideon whittled his army from 32,000 to 300

David killed a giant as a teenage boy with a stone

Elijah defeated all the prophets of Baal by drenching a sacrifice full of water and then calling fire down

Peter walked on water

Jesus died and rose 3 days later

God may not call you to easy, but when you obey what He calls you to, Revival is on the other side!