

Obeying From The Heart

Lesson 8

The Ethiopian Eunuch – One Who Believed Jesus To Be The Son of God With All His Heart

In These Lessons

What does it mean to obey from the heart?
Gospel designed by God to change our hearts

Examples of those who obeyed from the heart

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Meaning of Obeying From The Heart

- Obedience composed of fully believing His Word, feeling as He directs and submitting willingly to all His will
- Feelings and actions must be guided by belief and trust in His Word
- Gospel God's only power to save humanity
- Can choose to reject it by being dishonest, hateful, proud and rebellious in heart

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Introduction

- Like Saul and the 3,000 Jews in Acts 2, the Eunuch was deeply devoted to following the Law of Moses
- But, how can someone who believes they are serving God in the right way be convinced that they need to do something different to be approved by God?
- For this to occur, they must have a humble and honest heart that is always seeking to know and do what the Lord commands

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Introduction

- The eunuch displayed such an attitude wanting above all for his life to be consistent with the truth of God's will, the gospel
- The eunuch recognized that his obedience to the Lord must be guided by his belief in the truth the Lord had revealed, not by emotions or traditions of men

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Introduction

- In studying the obedience from the heart of the eunuch, we see no sinner's prayer mentioned
- We also see no miraculous working of the Holy Spirit upon him
- Unlike the eunuch, many still are devoted to the Lord but have not obeyed the gospel from their hearts as the eunuch did

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The Ethiopian Eunuch – One Who Believed The Gospel With All His Heart

His heart's condition before he heard
the gospel

The gospel message he heard

The gospel's effect on his heart

His obedience from the heart

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His Heart's Condition Before He Heard The Gospel

- Eunuch was a court official of Ethiopian queen with great responsibilities of being in charge of her treasure
- More importantly he was a religious man devoted to serving God, willing to journey to Jerusalem to worship
- Also, he was willing to study the word of God to learn His will, reading the book of Isaiah in his chariot

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His Heart's Condition Before He Heard The Gospel

Act 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert *road*.)

Act 8:27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship,

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His Heart's Condition Before He Heard The Gospel

Act 8:28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Act 8:29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."

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His Heart's Condition Before He Heard The Gospel

- Although he was devoted to God and was seeking to study to learn His will, he was not a Christian
- However, the eunuch had a humble and honest heart, seeking to know and follow God based on the truth in His Word
- And, upon hearing the truth about Jesus, he was willing to obey it from his heart

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The Gospel Message He Heard

- Eunuch wanted to know what the passage in Isaiah 53 meant and was willing to listen to Philip explain it
- Philip starts at that point preaching Jesus to him
- This included Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and exaltation as Lord.
- It also included what Jesus commanded people to do in order to be forgiven

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The Gospel Message He Heard

Act 8:30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Act 8:31 And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

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The Gospel Message He Heard

Act 8:32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

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The Gospel Message He Heard

Act 8:33 "IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH."

Act 8:34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?"

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The Gospel Message He Heard

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

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The Gospel's Effect On His Heart

- The message about Jesus and salvation moved the eunuch to want to be baptized
- Again, no sinner's prayer here
- But Philip tells the eunuch his actions must be based on his belief in the gospel from his heart
- Many deeply believe Jesus is Lord but do not believe in what Jesus commands them to do to be saved

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The Gospel's Effect On His Heart

Act 8:36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

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The Gospel's Effect On His Heart

- In order to obey the gospel from the heart, we must believe in Jesus as Lord to the point of obeying all He has commanded
- If we do not believe in Him or believe accurately in His commands, then it will be of no use for us to do anything
- I believe in Jesus as the Son of God, Lord and King, and He commands me to do this

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His Obedience From The Heart

- Upon believing Jesus to be Lord, the Son of God, the eunuch confesses that belief to God and to Philip
- Only time we have someone becoming a Christian who confesses Jesus to be the Son of God before being baptized
- Then, the eunuch is baptized for forgiveness of sins (implying his repentance)

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His Obedience From The Heart

Act 8:37 [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."]

Act 8:38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

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His Obedience From The Heart

Act 8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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His Obedience From The Heart

- The confession of the truth that Jesus is the Son of God is the foundation on which He built His church
- But what does being the Son of God mean?
- He is equal in nature with the Father
- The Father has entrusted to Him all authority over heaven and earth

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His Obedience From The Heart

Mat 16:16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Mat 16:17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

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His Obedience From The Heart

Joh 5:17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

Joh 5:18 For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

Joh 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

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His Obedience From The Heart

- Both confessing Jesus as Lord and being baptized are directly related to faith, believing the Word to the point of trusting in God to do as He said He will do
- Those who would try to separate baptism from faith do not have an accurate understanding of obedient faith that acts in harmony with the Word
- The eunuch was immediately baptized because his salvation depended on it

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His Obedience From The Heart

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"--that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

Rom 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

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His Obedience From The Heart

Rom 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Rom 10:11 For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

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His Obedience From The Heart

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

Col 2:12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

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His Obedience From The Heart

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Act 16:32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

Act 16:33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

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Your Obedience From The Heart

- Like the eunuch, do you believe with all your heart Jesus is the Son of God, Lord and King of all?
- If so, why not obey the gospel from your heart as he did, repenting of your sins, confessing Jesus to be the Son of God and being baptized now for the forgiveness of your sins?
- Then, rejoice in His mercy and begin to grow as a Christian

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