

LIFEquestions

Your Story

- How do you react to the word 'obedience'? Why do you think you react in that way?

God's Story*:

Read the passage on the opposite page.

Take a slow look at the LIFEtext (opposite) and consider these questions:

- Jesus is speaking in these passages. The first passage comes at the end of a block of teaching that starts in Matthew 5, and which we call today 'the Sermon on the Mount'. Flick back through the sermon and see what sorts of issues Jesus has taught about.
- Discuss these questions one at a time. In these passages what does Jesus teach about
 - the nature of Christian obedience?
 - the reasons and motivations for obedience?
 - the fruit or reward of obedience?
 - the causes of disobedience?
- Why is 'love' (John 14:15) an important motivator for obedience?
- Jesus is giving this teaching to disciples who he loved, who he called his friends, and who he would die for. How does that affect your appreciation of what he says here?

Your Story

- What is your 'take-away' thought or action from this discussion?
- Pray together about these things.

* These questions are a guide only. Do not feel you have to cover them all. Do feel free to allow the conversation to develop in other directions, if it seems fruitful (and stays on the subject!). Do pray for one another.

LIFEtext

17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

24 "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

Matthew 7 NLT

31 Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8 NLT

15 "If you love me, you will obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit..."

John 14

LifeSHAPE
live for God

LifeSTREAM
connect with God

LifeSOURCE
rooted in God

