

## I. The Call To Be Radical

- A. A life of obedience is the only way one can fully walk with Jesus. A heart completely yielded and surrendered to him will prepare the way for His second return.
- B. You have been radically released into LIFE empowered by the Spirit to live in the impossible. The Christian Life is an impossible life to live.  
**"You will do even greater things than me..." John 14:12**
- C. We seek to live a radical way before God. Yet, what does it mean to live radically? Jesus defined this in the Sermon on the Mount by calling us to live perfect. Perfect.  
**You shall be perfect just as your Father is perfect. Mt. 5:48**
- D. Perfection is not preached in our culture for it is impossible to attain. Yet, perfection can be attained through radical obedience. To live radically is to obey radically striving to be perfect as commanded.
- E. This perfection is centered upon a comprehensive obedience to Love.

By this, **love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment;** because **as He is, so also are we in this world.** <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...and the one who **fears is not perfected in love.**  
**1 John 4:17-18**

- F. Power in our personal life is found in pursuing 100-fold obedience. There are powerful dynamics that occur in our heart when we soberly seek to walk in total obedience. The 98% pursuit of obedience has a limited blessing. The last 2% given to the Lord positions us to live with a vibrant heart (knowing there is nothing left to give).
- G. A sustained reach for 100% obedience is different than attaining "sinless perfection" in this life. When we sin, we repent and renew our resolve to obey with confidence that God enjoys us. When we neglect to thoroughly confront sin in our life we are NOT loved less by God, but we do suffer loss in minimizing the "**full gift of our love**" from this life to Jesus on the last day. (vs.17)

## II. Obedience vs. Excellence

- A. Question: what is our aim in life – obedience or mere excellence? The North American Evangelical Gospel prefers the latter.
- B. The difference:
  - a. **To aim for obedience is to aim for perfection.**
  - b. Excellence is something different, which is actually something less. Excellence allows room for mixture, where ***obedience has a fixed standard. (Excellence has a mixed standard.)***
- C. Example: Corporate America is in search for excellence. They could be in search of perfection, of course – perfect products, perfect service – but

perfection is too costly and eats into profits. Rather than be perfect, businesses know it's enough to *seem* perfect to their customers. By stopping short of perfection they find a profitable balance between quality and costs.<sup>1</sup> This is the pursuit of excellence.

- D. This pursuit asks, "*How far can we go and still seem perfect? By how far can we stop short?*"
- E. The cost of perfection is simply too much for a business (and often times for believers). In business, the façade of perfection that excellence provides is profitable, yet in the spiritual realm, it's simply comfortable – not profitable.
- F. The life of excellence positions themselves to stop short at the middle ground where costs are low, fruit is minimal, faith is balanced and the radical call is offensive. It lands between paganism and obedience.
- G. Again, excellence is a mixed standard. Obedience is a fixed standard.
- H. Excellence actually masquerades the mutinous heart.
- I. What are we shooting for as individuals? As a corporate House of Prayer? As a city in Dallas? As a Nation?

### III. The Tale of Two Kings (could do two rulers) Saul & RYR

#### 1. The Excellent King (Saul)

1 Samuel 10:8 "And you shall go down before me to Gilgal; and behold, I will come down to you to offer burnt offerings and sacrifice peace offerings. You shall wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you should do."

1 Samuel 13:8 "***Now he waited seven days***, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him *and* to greet him. 11 But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, 12 therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering." 13 Samuel said to Saul, "You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 "***But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you.***"

- A. Saul's Kingdom did not endure because of his first SEVEN days in office.
- B. Appointed by God into a place of authority and glory, yet because of mutiny in his heart, God could not entrust him with the eternal Kingdom. The more

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<sup>1</sup> Every Man's Battle, Arterburn & Stoeker

authority one has the more responsibility he carries in the spirit. Two chapters later, Saul was called to destroy all of the Amalekites, utterly destroy everything, yet he kept a bounty (1 Samuel 15) resulting in another rebuke from Samuel.

- C. The enemy is able to work in the heart that is not fully surrendered to obedience. Rebellion creates compartments of secrecy in our lives that enemy uses to come into our lives. Fear, arrogance, self-will and hardness of heart are attributes of this posture, ultimately leading one into demonic control/oppression. Saul would be tormented by an evil spirit after this rebuke.

## 2. The Obedient King (Josiah)

2 Chronicles 34:27 "Because **your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God** when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declare the Lord."

2 Chronicles 34:33 "Josiah removed all the abominations from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the LORD their God. **Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the LORD God of their fathers.**"

## IV. The Radical Call to The Impossible

Matthew 19:16-21

16 Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "**Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?**"

17 "**Why do you ask me about what is good?**" Jesus replied. "**There is only One who is good.** If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."

18 "Which ones?" the man inquired.

Jesus replied, "**'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, 19 honor your father and mother, [a] and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'**"

20 "All these I have kept," the young man said. "**What do I still lack?**"

21 Jesus answered, "If you want to be **perfect**, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. **Then come, follow me.**"

- A. The RYR was focused on the what's.
- B. The excellent heart tends to focus on the 'things' of God instead of God Himself.
- C. Moral Code was listed in the Old Testament. Moral Code meaning societal and horizontal law. Jesus listed 6 of the 10 commandments all dealing with man and NOT GOD. Jesus was exposing the RYR mixed standards.
- D. A life of mixture is plagued with the question, "What do I still lack?"
- E. Jesus was not focused on the what's, but the Who.
- F. Jesus answers the Rich Young Ruler's question with His question.

Why do you ask me about **WHAT** is good...there is only One **WHO** is good." Vs 17

### ***True Eternal Life***

- G. The Jews understood the concept of eternal life. Since life is the ability to respond to the environment, eternal life is the ability to respond to the divine environment--forever. We respond to the life of God because we come alive to God.
- H. Eternal life is more a **quality** of existence than a **quantity** of existence. I become sensitive to God; I can respond to Him in love and obedience. Before I was saved, I was dead in sin--totally unresponsive to the divine environment. When I became a Christian, I became capable of responding to the divine environment.
- I. John 17:3 "**This is eternal life, that they may know You; and the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent...**"

### ***The Impossible Attained***

Matthew 19:22-26

22When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

25When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?"

26Jesus looked at them and said, "**With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**"

- J. Obedience is focused on the Who instead of the "what's". Yet when we focus on the Who instead of the "what's" ---- WHO knows 'what' will happen?
- K. Radical obedience leads us to a place of supernatural desperation where the impossible is possible.
- L. Jesus was not afraid to expose what was keeping the RYR from entering into Eternal Life (relationship with Him). Are we willing to live in a fixed standard obedience which ultimately will expose the mixed standard in others?

**Practical Key's to Radical Obedience**

1. Obedience is a choice.

Isaiah 1:19  
19 If you are willing and obedient,  
you will eat the best from the land

2. Obedience is learned.

***Hebrews 5:8***  
**8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered** 9  
**and, once made perfect,** he became the source of eternal salvation for all  
who obey him

3. Obedience releases authority.

***Hebrews 5:7-9***  
7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions  
with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he  
was heard because of his reverent submission