Delayed Obedience

WHEN WE DON'T ACT

Luke 9:59-62

- 59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

- 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

- 61 Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family."

- 62 Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

Struggle and Delayed Obedience

"If we examine our consciences deliberately, clearly, and in the presence of God, I think we're going to find out that a whole lot of what we call 'struggling' is delayed obedience." - Elisabeth Elliott
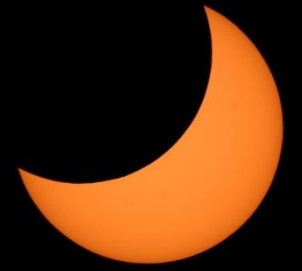
Spurgeon:

"It is my first public declaration that a thing which looks to be unreasonable and seems to be unprofitable, being commanded by God, is law, is law to me. If my Master had told me to pick up six stones and lay them in a row I would do it, without demanding of him, 'What good will it do?' Cui bono? Is no fit question for soldiers of Jesus. The very simplicity and apparent uselessness of the ordinance should make the believer say, 'Therefore I do it because it becomes the better test to me of my obedience to my Master.'" When you tell your servant to do something, and he cannot comprehend it, if he turns round and says, "Please, sir, what for?" you are quite clear that he hardly understands the relation between master and servant. So when God tells me to do a thing, if I say, "What for?" I cannot have taken the place which Faith ought to occupy, which is that of simple obedience to whatever the Lord hath said. Baptism is commanded, and Faith obeys because it is commanded, and thus takes her proper place.

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1. Delayed Obedience

- Luke 9:59-62
  - Excuses made
  - Want to delay
  - Following Jesus has a cost, each of us must be ready to serve, even when it requires sacrifice.

- Mathew 21:28-32
  - Said no and still went
  - Said yes and did not go

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2. Partial Obedience or Disobedience due to applying our Wisdom

1 Samuel 15:20-21

20 "But I did obey the Lord," Saul insisted. "I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. 21 Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." (NLT)

3. Disobedience due to fear of People

1 Samuel 15:24

Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. (NLT)

1 Samuel 15:22-23

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. 23 Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

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Obedience vs Performance

- Obedience is seeking God with your whole heart. Performance is having a quiet time because you'll feel guilty if you don't.

- Obedience is finding ways to let the Word of God dwell in you richly. Performance is quickly scanning a passage so you can check it off your Bible reading plan.

- Obedience is inviting guests to your home for dinner. Performance is feeling anxiety about whether every detail of the meal will be perfect.

- Obedience is following God's prompting to start a small group. Performance is reluctance to let anyone else lead the group because they might not do it as well as you would.

- Obedience is saying yes to whatever God asks of you. Performance is saying yes to whatever people ask of you.

- Obedience is following the promptings of God's Spirit. Performance is following a list of man-made requirements.

- Obedience springs from fear of God. Performance springs from fear of failure.

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Instant Obedience

Instant obedience is the only kind of obedience there is; delayed obedience is disobedience. Whoever strives to withdraw from obedience, withdraws from Grace. -Thomas Kampis.