 **Flip The Script 2.5 -- Obedience Is Not Optional**

**(week of 8/9/2015)**

**Text:  Luke 6:46-49**

**Big Idea:  You cannot claim Jesus as Savior, and not obey him as Lord**

**Ice Breaker:  The information that you learned in your favorite-ever class in school -- how do you use it in your life today?**

*Luke 6:46-49 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (47) As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. (48) They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. (49) But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

Are you a “Vampire Christian?”  Dallas Willard wrote that some Christians are “vampire Christians”.  He’s talking about people who want to take Jesus as their SAVIOR, but not as their LORD.  They somehow settle into the idea that Jesus wants to save us from Hell, but doesn’t really care about our obeying what he says.  They decide from moment to  moment, from situation to situation, which of Jesus’ commands they need to obey and which they don’t -- which parts of their life they need to change, and which are just fine the way they are.  They’re happy to allow Jesus’ blood to save them, but then they want to be left alone.  So, “vampire Christians.”

A. W. Tozer expressed it this way: "a notable heresy has come into being throughout evangelical Christian circles -- the widely-accepted concept that we humans can choose to accept Christ only because we need him as Savior, and that we have the right to postpone our obedience to him as Lord as long as we want to!"

Is it possible to claim salvation in Jesus, but to ignore his teaching, or refuse to follow his instruction?  Will Jesus be my Savior if I don’t submit to him as my Lord?  For everyone who thinks the answer is, “Yes,” Jesus flips that script right on its head in just a few words in Luke 6:

**(1)  Obedience is the true test of whether Jesus is my Lord.**

*Luke 6:46-49 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?*

“The decision to obey Jesus, to submit to Him is a daily decision. We must bend the knee and whisper the prayer of surrender to Christ each day. It is not a one-time thing. This is why Jesus urges His disciples to ask for daily bread when they pray and to make their obedience to Him an act of daily taking up our cross to die to ourselves. This is also why God's mercies are new every morning. We have short memories and God knows we need to surrender to him afresh with every breath.”  [Keith Giles]

**Q:  Why is obeying another person so difficult?**

**Q:  What ideas do we have to accept about that person before we’re ready to obey?**

**Q:  How would you reply to a person who says to you, “I accept Jesus as my Savior, but not as my Lord”?**

**Q:  Give examples of everyday life in which obedience shows that a person is submitted to Jesus’ lordship.**

**Q:** Mohandas Ghandi famously said, “I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians.  Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” **Why is our wanting jesus as Savior but not as Lord a hindrance to others coming to him at all?**

**(2)  Obedience builds strength for the storms of life.**

*Luke 6:47-48 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. (48) They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.*

“There is only one way to build a house secure against a storm and that is to dig deep and lay its foundations on the rock. But digging deep can be troublesome. It is all too easy to be content with a superficial knowledge of Christianity and a superficial, normal profession of faith without real obedience to Christ. But just as there is only one foundation, so only those who by personal contact with him build directly and squarely on the foundation of His Word, believed, applied and performed, will survive the storms here and hereafter.” [David Gooding]

**Q:  What is the difference between a solid foundation for our lives in God and what the world builds on for a “fulfilled” life?**

**Q:   How does our obedience (or lack of it) show what our life’s foundation is?  Give examples.**

**Q:  What kinds of “storms” are most likely to show just how solid our life’s foundation is?**

**Q:  How does obedience trust in God?**

**Q:  Give examples of obedience in the face of storms from your own life.**

**(3)  Obedience ignored sets us up for “faith failure”.**

*Luke 6:49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

“The house represents our lives. We’re all building a house. The question is, are we building our lives on the sure foundation of obedience to Jesus or are we building it on the sand of empty profession? To build a house involves a lot of time and expense. It’s not like throwing up a shed, where you don’t plan to spend much time inside and it isn’t expected to last. In a new home, you can install the finest hardwood cabinets. You can spend extra money on brass doorknobs and crystal chandeliers. But if the house is not resting on a solid foundation, you’re throwing your money away. If you build the house of your life without obedience to Jesus on the heart level, it’s like wasting your money on a house without a foundation.”  [Steven Cole]

**Q:  “Obedience  . . . on the heart level”: What does that mean?** [LEADER --think about how it connects to foundations -- if Jesus is actually first in your heart, how important will obedience be to you?]

**Q:  Why is it important to trust God when things get tough in our lives?**

**Q:  If our heart isn’t in a particular act of obedience, should we do it anyway?  Why or why not?**

**Q: Do you have any examples you can share with us of how you learned obedience by first facing the consequences of FAILING to obey?**

**NEXT STEPS:**

1) EXAMINATION: Think through the decisions you’ve made in the last 24 hours and answer this question: How do the decisions I make show whether Jesus is *MY* Lord?

2) DETERMINATION: For every decision you made that did NOT show Jesus as Lord, write down how you’ll decide differently next time, so that they do.

***FURTHER STUDY NOTES*** Ralph Wilson. <http://www.jesuswalk.com/beginning/12_lord.htm>

Being an authentic Christ-follower is much, much more than taking a weekend hike with Jesus. It requires a kind of willing obedience that is foreign to most of us. The relationship with Jesus is complex. It begins with obedience, but concludes with friendship. Let me explain.

**Follow Me**

When Jesus called his first disciples, the command was simple: Follow me! *"As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.* ***'Come, follow me,'*** *Jesus said, 'and I will make you fishers of men.'* ***At once they left their nets*** *and followed him." (Matthew 4:18-20)*

So the first characteristic of a disciple is one who leaves what he has been doing and follows Jesus wherever he leads.

**Obey Me**

But being a disciple goes beyond simple following. It involves obedience, doing what Jesus tells us. Jesus said:

*"If you love me, you will* ***obey*** *what I command." (John 14:15)*

*"Whoever has my commands and* ***obeys*** *them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." (John 14:21)*

*Jesus asked his disciples, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and don't do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).* Then he told the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders. You may be acquainted with the story. The wise man built his house upon a rock foundation. The foolish man built his house on the sand. All went well until a storm hit. Then the house with no foundation was washed away, but the house built on the rock withstood the flood.

Jesus said, *"I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and* ***puts them into practice****. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock." (Luke 6:47-48a)*

Many people claim to believe in Jesus, but have no intention of obeying him when it might be inconvenient or conflict with their own will. They have a kind of affection for Jesus, an infatuation, but not real love. Love requires commitment.

**Jesus Demands Priority**

Following and obedience are certainly part of a disciple's life. But it goes farther yet. Jesus demands priority over any other kind of allegiance. *"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37)*

This is a hard saying. The disciples certainly struggled with it -- as we must. But Jesus is clear: He demands the highest level of allegiance -- greater than family, greater than country. Why does he demand this? The answer lies in who Jesus is.

**Jesus Is Lord**

Here is a title of Jesus to explore: "Lord." In Greek the word can refer to "owner," as well as to a person in authority: "lord, master." When reverent Jews would read the Old Testament, they would substitute the word "Lord" whenever the name of God ("Yahweh") would appear in the text, so as not to sin by saying the holy name in vain. By New Testament times, the term "Lord," in a religious sense, carries not only the ideas of "owner, lord, and master," but also, "divine Lord, divine Master."

In this light, consider these verses:

"If you confess with your mouth, **'Jesus is Lord,'** and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

"No one can say, **'Jesus is Lord,'** except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:3)