



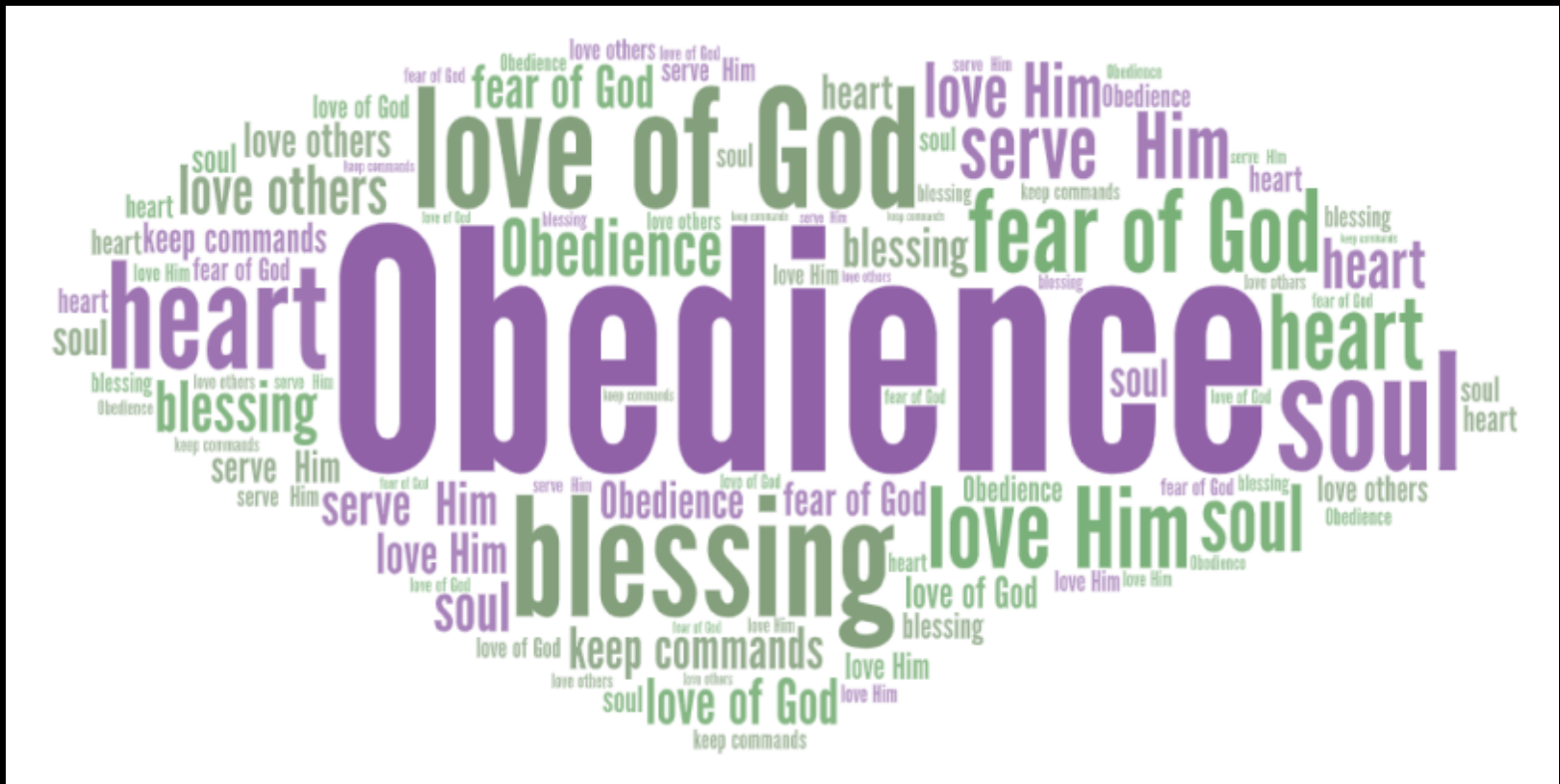
# Obedience in Service



*Saint Mary's, Ottawa, February 2024*

# Obedience

- Can you name Bible personalities that are role models of Obedience?





Refer to:  
Genesis 12  
Genesis 22





Refer to the  
Book of Jonah





Luke 1:26-45

Matthew 1:18-2:23

# *Saint Mary our Role Model*

## OBEDIENCE

- In **faith**, trusting & submitting to God

*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.*                      - Luke 1:38

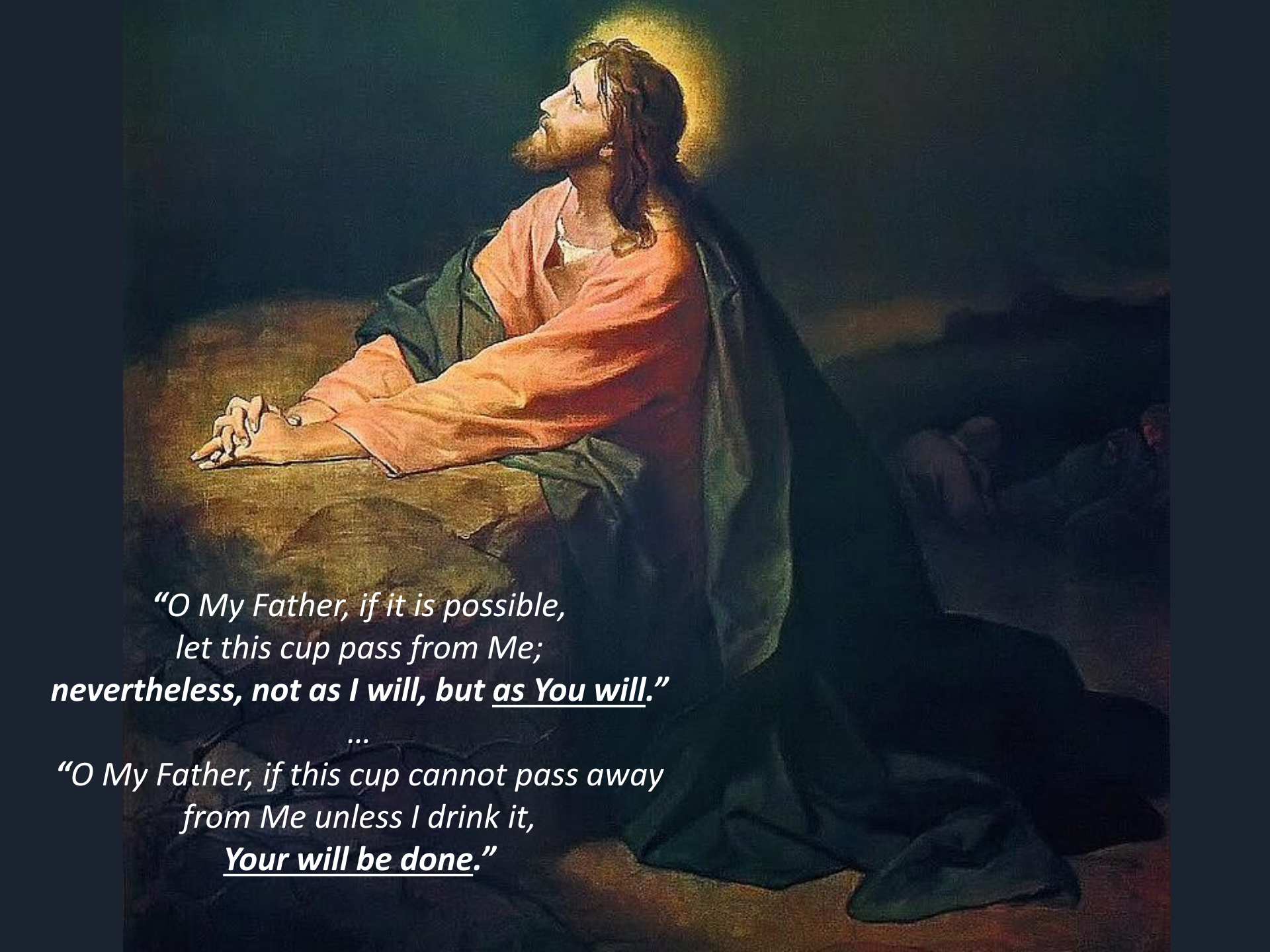
## SERVICE

- In **love**, serving & caring for others

*Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste ...*                      - Luke 1:39







*“O My Father, if it is possible,  
let this cup pass from Me;  
**nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”***

...

*“O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away  
from Me unless I drink it,  
**Your will be done.”***

# Obedience

- To **obey** God, we need to **discern** His voice.
- His sheep **hear & know** His voice.
- **Listen** to His voice often, to get to **know** Him.
- God's children **follow** His footsteps & follow His faithful **saints**.
- We do **NOT** follow strangers.



*“ the sheep follow him,  
for they know his voice ”*

*-- John 10:4*





*“ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ”*

*-- John 10:27*

**John chapter 10:** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the **door**, but climbs up some other way, the same is a **thief** and a **robber**.

<sup>2</sup> But he who enters by the **door** is the **shepherd** of the **sheep**.

<sup>3</sup> To him the **doorkeeper** opens, and the **sheep** hear his voice; and he calls his own **sheep** by name and leads them out.

<sup>4</sup> And when he brings out his own **sheep**, he goes before them; and the **sheep** follow him, for they know **his voice**.

<sup>5</sup> Yet they will by no means follow a **stranger**, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of **strangers**.”

<sup>6</sup> Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus said to them again,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the **door** of the **sheep**.

<sup>8</sup> All who ever came before Me are **thieves** and **robbers**, but the **sheep** did not hear them.

<sup>9</sup> I am the **door**. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.



<sup>10</sup> The **thief** does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

I have come that they may have life,  
and that they may have it more abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the **good shepherd**.

The **good shepherd** gives **His life** for the **sheep**.

<sup>12</sup> But a **hireling**, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the **wolf** coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the **wolf** catches the **sheep** and scatters them.

<sup>13</sup> The **hireling** flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the **sheep**.

<sup>14</sup> I am the **good shepherd**;  
and I know **My sheep**, and am known by **My own**.

<sup>15</sup> As the **Father** knows **Me**, even so I know the **Father**; and I lay down **My life** for the **sheep**.

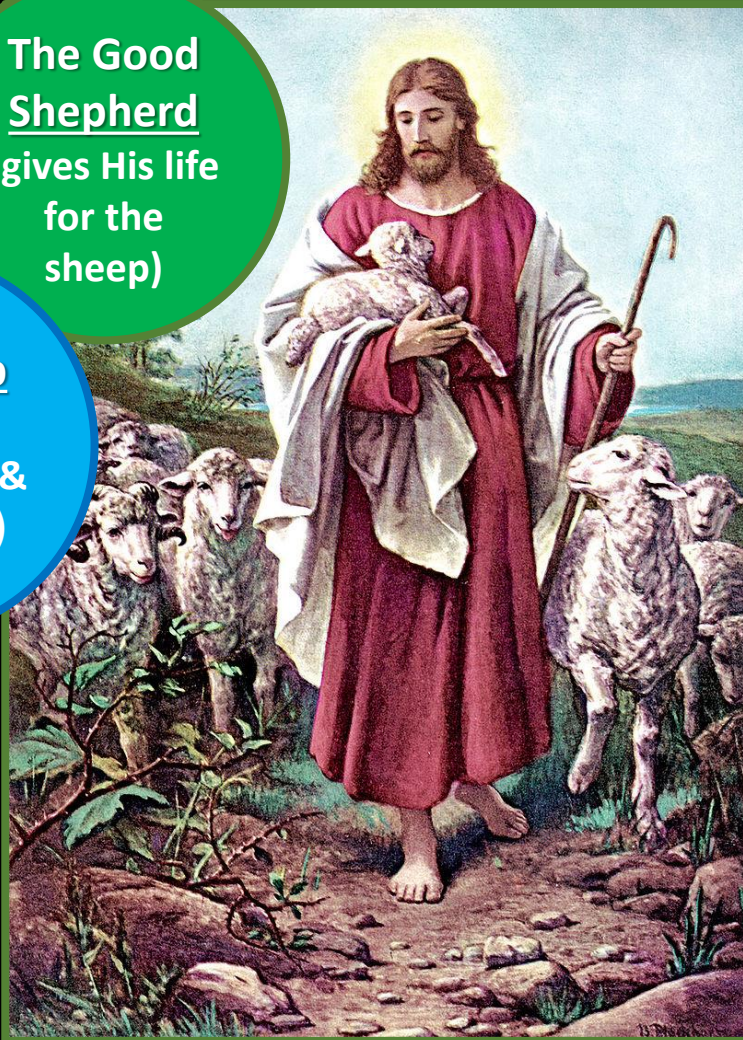
<sup>16</sup> And other **sheep** I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear **My voice**; and there will be **one flock** and **one shepherd**.

Who to *obey* & who to *run* from?

Who to *follow* & who to *flee* from?

The Good Shepherd  
(gives His life for the sheep)

The Sheep  
(hear His loving voice & follow Him)



Thief & Robber  
(steal, kill, destroy)

Hireling  
(hired hand, does not care)

Stranger  
(is not familiar, does not care)

Wolf  
(catch, kill, scatter)



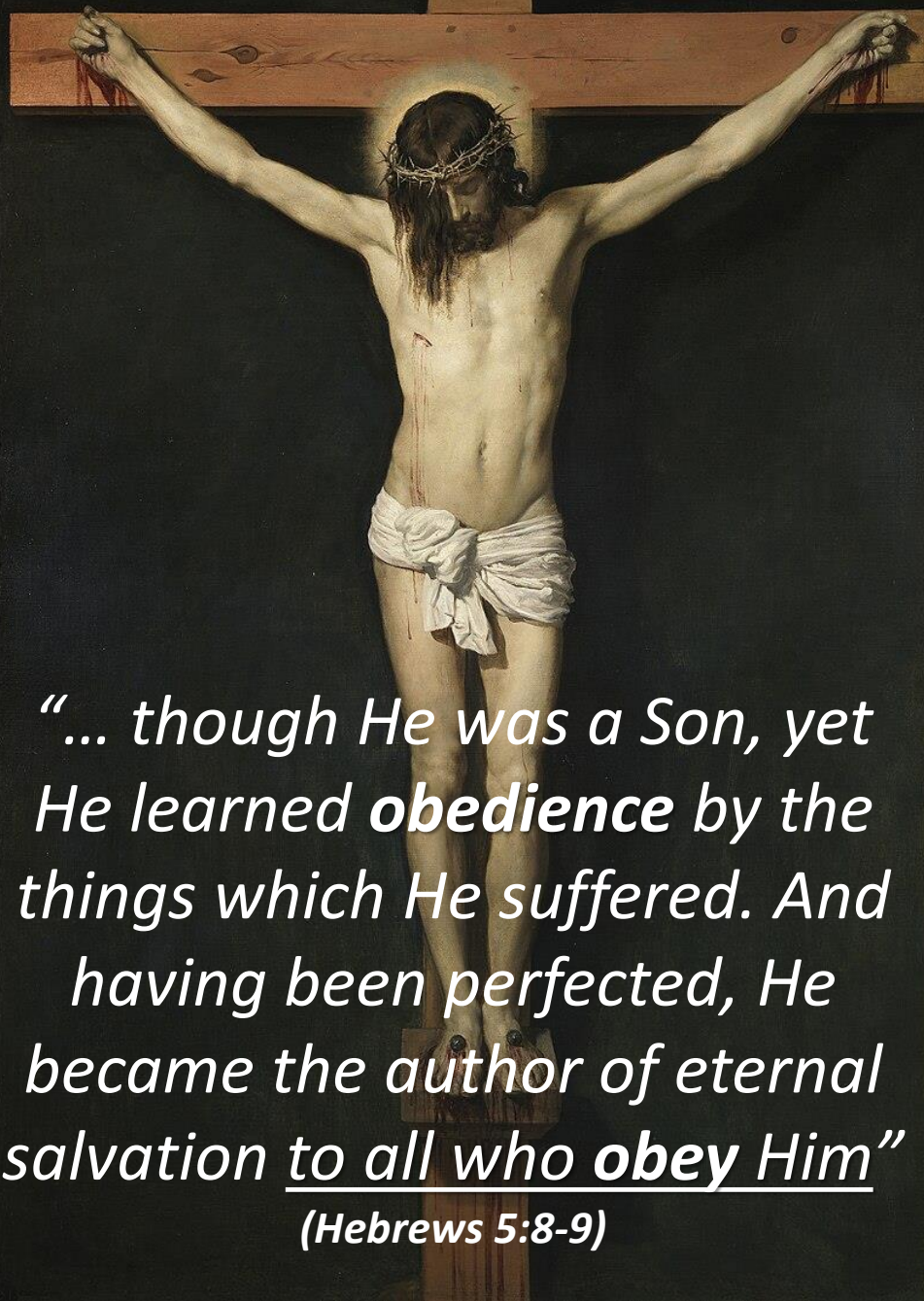
# *Obey the One who cares for you ...*

- To **obey** God, we need to get to **know** His voice.
- **Listen** to His voice often, to get to **know** Him.
- God's children **follow** His footsteps & follow His faithful **saints**.
- We do **NOT** follow strangers.
- The **Good Shepherd** knows us, knows what is best for us, and protects us from all harm.



*“ the sheep follow him,  
for they know his voice ”*

*-- John 10:4*



*“... though He was a Son, yet He learned **obedience** by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey Him**”  
(Hebrews 5:8-9)*



# *Obey (keep) God's Commandments*

If you love Me, **keep** My commandments (John 14:15)

If anyone loves Me, he will **keep** My word (John 14:23)

If you **keep** My commandments,  
you will abide in My love,  
just as I have kept My Father's commandments  
and abide in His love. (John 15:10)

To **obey** is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22)

Blessed are those  
who hear the word of God and **keep** it! (Luke 11:28)

Now he who **keeps** His commandments  
abides in Him, and He in him. (1 John 3:24)

For this is the love of God,  
that we **keep** His commandments. (1 John 5:3)



Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things. It consists in accepting, with a smile, what Jesus sends us. It consists in accepting and following the will of God.

— *Mother Teresa* —

AZ QUOTES



# *What kind of Obedience?*

- **Children of God**  
... obey out of **love**
- **Slaves**  
... obey out of **fear**
- **Children**  
... willingly choose to obey
- **Robots**  
... forced to mechanically obey



[www.howardlyon.com/fineart-store/i-am-a-child-of-god](http://www.howardlyon.com/fineart-store/i-am-a-child-of-god)

We are **not** slaves nor robots

You are **children of God** with a free will ...

*Accept with a smile what the Lord sends your way :-)*

*But if I am free ...  
why do I have to obey anyone!?*





# Romans 6:16

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, ...

- whether of **sin** leading to **death**,
- or of **obedience** leading to **righteousness**?”



*Okay, so I only have to obey God, right?*





## *Titus 3:1-2*

*“Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.”*

***Obey God first & foremost.***

***Honour & obey your parents, in the Lord.***

***Obey God’s Word & His faithful Saints.***

***Obey rulers & authorities, in the Lord.***

# How to Obey God & Serve

## OBEY ... little by little

- Come to church early
- Come to church often
- Read the Bible regularly
- Pray the Agpeya & Psalms

*Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.* - Luke 1:38

## SERVICE ... start at home :-)

- Help siblings with homework
- Help with chores regularly (dishes, laundry, snow, grass, vacuum, clean)

*Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste ...* - Luke 1:39



# *Coptic Reader – Agpeya Prayers*



## ● Prayer for God's Accompaniment

Grant me Your grace O Lord Jesus, the longsuffering, and be with me that I may dwell in You unto the end. Grant me that I may ask and wish always for what is pleasing to You. Let Your will be my will. Let my will follow always Your will and be in accord with it in a perfect way. Let both of us have one will, for I don't want to desire anything except what You want and what You wish.

Grant me not to lust for the things of this world, that I may dwell in You in all things and hold above all things the desire to be as You would have me be and to do as You would have me do. You are the peace of my heart and the shelter of my life. You are the real peace and the only comfort and apart from You everything is hard and confusing. Therefore, in this peace which is in You, the Great Eternal Good, I am able to rest. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.

## ● Prayer for God's Guidance

Lord, You are aware that I do not know what is good for me, and now that I am about to start (...), how can I know if it is right unless You guide me with Your grace? O Lord, I beseech Your guidance in this matter. Do not let me follow my tendencies, if it will cause me to be confused and fall. Keep me from slipping, help me, and let it be according to Your will. If You see it fit, grant me Your blessing to complete it. If not, remove this desire from my heart. You know all things, nothing is concealed from You, Lord I am Your servant, deal with me as You see fit, as I realize that I will have neither success nor peace unless I submit myself to Your will. Teach me to say in every occasion, "Let it be according to Your will, Lord, not according to my own." For Yours is the kingdom, the power, the glory forever and ever. Amen.



Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

**Your will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead not us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.

In Christ, Jesus, Our Lord.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.

# Disobedience ☹️

Disobedience goes  
hand-in-hand with **pride**



*“I know better than God,  
I don’t need to obey!”*

# Obedience 😊

Obedience is built on  
faith in God



*“God knows what’s best  
for me & I lovingly obey.”*

# *Obedience*

Who to Obey?

How to Obey?

Why Obey?





# *Additional Material*

# John chapter 9 – The Man Born Blind

Now as Jesus passed by,  
He saw a man who was blind from birth.

<sup>2</sup> And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

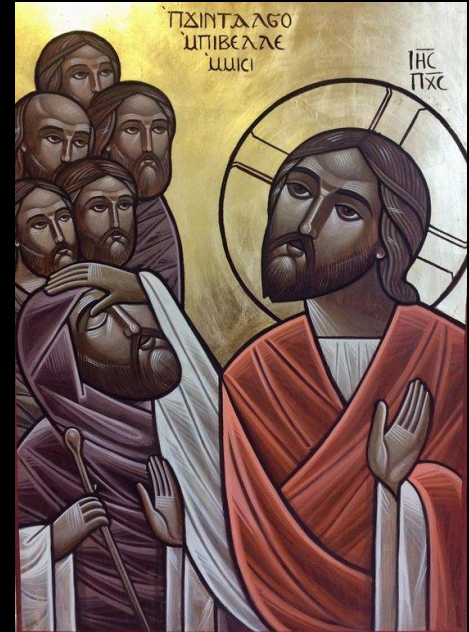
<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

<sup>6</sup> When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

<sup>7</sup> And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent).

**So he went and washed, and came back seeing.**



## *2 Kings chapter 5 – Naaman the Syrian*

**5** Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper. <sup>2</sup> And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. <sup>3</sup> Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

<sup>4</sup> And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

<sup>5</sup> Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

<sup>6</sup> Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

<sup>7</sup> And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

<sup>8</sup> So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."



## 2 Kings chapter 5 (cont'd)

<sup>9</sup> Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

<sup>10</sup> And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

<sup>11</sup> But Naaman became **furious**, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

<sup>12</sup> Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

<sup>13</sup> And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, **if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it?** How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'"

<sup>14</sup> **So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.**

<sup>15</sup> And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

# *Discussion*

- *It is ok to ask questions.*
- *What is blind obedience?*
- *It is ok to try and understand.*
- *It is ok to struggle.*  
*(yes, we all struggle, but it's not ok to be rebellious)*
- *It is ok to fall once in a while?*  
*(but you must try to get up quickly)*
- *Who benefits from the obedience?*
- *What if the blind man did not obey the Lord?*
- *Could the Lord not just have opened the eyes of the blind man without sending him to wash?*
- *Could Elisha not have just waved his hand and asked God to heal Naaman the Syrian?*