



## **Obsession and Obedience**

Text: Matthew 6:19-25

Passion City Church Directory of Community Formation Mike Distefano

1. Read Matthew 6:19-21. Mike says that “the location of your treasure will determine the direction of your life. What you worship you obey.” Take a moment to honestly ask yourself, what is my treasure? What are the things that I devote my life to?
2. Use these reflection questions to identify your treasures. What themes and commonalities do you see running through? What is your treasure?
  - a. What do you fear the most?
  - b. What do you long for most passionately?
  - c. Where do you run for comfort?
  - d. What do you complain about the most?
  - e. What angers you the most?
  - f. What makes you the happiest?
  - g. What do you make the biggest sacrifices for?
  - h. What do you find yourself talking about and thinking about the most?
  - i. What is the one person or thing that if taken from you, would devastate you the most? Finish this sentence: Life would not be worth living if I didn't have \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Read Matthew 6:24. You can't worship him while storing up treasures on earth.
  - a. Why is that true?
  - b. Why can't we “serve two masters”?
  - c. Practically, how do we get to the place where we fix our gaze solely on Jesus? How do we direct our worship to the better treasure? (See Study Deeper)
4. Worship is our response to who God is – He is The Great I Am – The Faithful One– Just and Loving in all his ways. The more we know him the deeper and easier our worship flows. Which characteristics of God do have a deep appreciation and worship him for? (See below for suggestions.) Which do you want to grow in?
  - a. a. God is Provider
  - b. A Refuge and Strength
  - c. Our Defender when we are weak

- d. Our source of life and vitality
- e. A rescuer
- f. True to his promises
- g. Compassionate and just
- h. Forgives us exorbitantly
- i. Creative and resourceful
- j. Our Healer
- k. A Father
- l. Personal Friend
- m. Sovereign judge over the all

Take five to ten minutes as a group to thank the Lord and worship him for these attributes that you just discussed.

5. Mike told us that if we only fight at the level of obedience, we will ultimately fail. It is a good starting place, but we have to go deeper. Read Study Deeper.
  - a. How can you discern when it is God telling you to do something?
  - b. In what areas have you displayed partial obedience to God?
  - c. How does your attitude toward obedience change when you consider it an act of worship?

Challenge: Hopefully, there are some good and eternal things you currently treasure. Do you treasure alone time to be with just you and God? Do you treasure intimate and deep conversations with your spouse or others close to you? What about your time? Do you spend it investing in eternal things, i.e. the souls of men and the word of God? How can you grow in your worship of God through the good things you treasure?

Prayer: God, you are worthy of our praise. You are worthy of our worship. God, we want to build your kingdom and not our own. Jesus, we confess that we spend much of our day thinking about how we can lay up treasures here on earth. We obsess about the temporary and forget the eternal. God, we desire to worship you with our lives. With our minds, with our bodies, and with our spirit. God, turn our hearts to you that we may love you and obey you from a deep well of love. Thank you that you supply us with all we need through the grace and mercy of your Son Jesus. Amen.

## STUDY DEEPER

### Obedience Is an Act of Worship by Rick Warren

“Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I’ll wholeheartedly obey” (Psalm 119:33-34 TLB).

God smiles when we obey him wholeheartedly. That means doing whatever God asks without reservation or hesitation. You don’t procrastinate and say, “I’ll pray about it.” You do it without delay. Every parent knows that delayed obedience is really disobedience.

God doesn’t owe you an explanation or reason for everything he asks you to do. Understanding can wait, but obedience can’t. Instant obedience will teach you more about God than a lifetime of Bible discussions. In fact, you will never understand some commands until you obey them first. Obedience unlocks understanding.

Often we try to offer God partial obedience. We want to pick and choose the commands we obey. We make a list of the commands we like and obey those while ignoring the ones we think are unreasonable, difficult, expensive, or unpopular. I’ll attend church but I won’t tithe. I’ll read my Bible but won’t forgive the person who hurt me. Yet partial obedience is disobedience.

Wholehearted obedience is done joyfully, with enthusiasm. The Bible says, “Obey him gladly” (Psalm 100:2a TLB).

This is the attitude of David: “Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I’ll wholeheartedly obey” (Psalm 119:33-34 TLB).

James, speaking to Christians, said, “We please God by what we do and not only by what we believe” (James 2:24 CEV).

God’s Word is clear that you can’t earn your salvation. It comes only by grace, not your effort. But as a child of God you can bring pleasure to your heavenly Father through obedience. Any act of obedience is also an act of worship.

Why is obedience so pleasing to God? Because it proves you really love him. Jesus said, “If you love me, you will obey my commandments” (John 14:15 GNT).

<http://pastorrick.com/devotional/english/obedience-is-an-act-of-worship>