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## REAL OBEDIENCE ?

Obedience. That's another of those things we all want from someone else, but don't want to do ourselves. Jesus had a lot to say about obedience. An interesting story in Matthew 21: 28 helps us understand it.

Jesus said, ***"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' and he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same and he answered 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?"***

Hmm. Not the one who only said he would, but the one who actually obeyed his father. Maybe you can think of examples in your own life. Si Robertson talks about obedience in Duck Dynasty's "Faith Commander" Bible study resource.

Si says, *"Jesus' story contrasts two kinds of people. First, one who knows and says all the right things about God but doesn't do the right things. Second, one who may have run away from God a long time but now has turned around and is obeying Him. God would rather have someone who says no and then changes his mind and obeys, than someone who keeps saying yes but is all talk and no action."*

"Obedience" means doing the will of someone else, especially someone in authority or in whom you have great trust. Is this why you hesitate to obey? You don't like the ring of authority, or risk of accountability. You want to do what you want, how you want, when you want, whether you want.

With over 24 years of military service, Robertson knows a lot about authority, accountability and trust: *"The only one who won't fail you is the One I put my trust in. That'd be Jesus, the Son of God,"* he says.

That's why REAL obedience can be described as "trust in action." When it comes to trust and authority, Jesus is the ultimate. He never fails. Jesus deserves your obedience, your trust, your worship, and your love. When He asks you to obey Him, you can be confident of the outcome.

But why did each of the two sons not do what they said? Thinking about possibilities may help us understand ourselves. Maybe the son who said "yes" but did not obey had no intention of obeying, and meant to deceive his father. Maybe he didn't want the conflict and consequences that would come if he refused. Maybe self-deceit got the best of him, due to pride and selfishness. Maybe he has trouble counting the cost, or misplaces his priorities, or forgets his commitments, or gets distracted by temptations. Maybe he's a people-pleaser who just says what he thinks you want to hear.

The son who first said "no" but changed his mind shows what REAL obedience involves. It's a matter of the heart and will, not the mouth. When a lady once told Robertson she needed a job, he said *"Hey, have you put in any resumes?"* She said God would take care of it. Si replied, *"Not if you don't do your part. You have to respond, to do what He has for you to do."*

Uncle Si says that when you obey God, He often amazes you by the good things He can do through you. And when you don't obey, the consequences can be very bad. God's will for you is always for your good, too. Most of all, simply because He is God, He deserves your obedience, trust, and love.

*"Your obedience doesn't earn a right standing before God,"* notes Robertson, since this comes only by receiving the sacrifice of Jesus. Then His perfect obedience becomes yours. His life becomes your real life. *"God gave His commands to protect people, not enslave them. It's for your good,"* says Si. *"Obeying Him makes all of life and your relationship with Him sweeter."*

Jesus said, ***"If you love Me, you will obey my commandments"*** (John 14:15). The good news is, when you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the indwelling Holy Spirit gives you both the "want to" and the "how to" - power to both trust and obey the Lord.

So even when you don't feel like it - you can, trust & obey!