



Obey
Matthew 7:24-29
Message from Pastor Martin Hawley
May 28, 2017

The Bottom Line: Obedience paves the way to endurance. The goal is to be so convinced of Who Jesus is and so grateful for *what* Jesus has done that you willingly choose to *do* what Jesus says.

Introduction:

Jesus' initial invitation is to **follow**. Then, after you begin to understand what he's about through listening, reading, being around other Christians, and experiencing life ... to **believe**.

When you believe someone has your best interests in mind, only then are you open to his or her influence, advice, suggestions, and requests.

This is why Jesus said to follow, watch, and experience before he asked for **obedience**.

Those who followed and believed eventually obeyed **willingly!**

Follow >> Believe >> Obey

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?” –Romans 2:4 NIV

As we get into today's message, let's provide some context: Jesus addresses what we are talking about today at the end of his most famous and most demanding message.

He just unloaded a brand new value system on his listeners.
Heads were spinning.

- Lust is like adultery and is a sin.
- Turn the other cheek.
- If someone wants a favor, do more than he asks.
- Money! Give it away, and he didn't even give them a percentage!
- Forgive no matter what ... even if it feels like you are letting them get by.
- Pursue people who've wronged you and make it right.
- Treat everyone the way you want to be treated.

The look in the eyes of the crowd was probably something like, "How can I possibly apply all of this to my life? I will lose out!"

Jesus knows he doesn't have time to deal with every individual and every circumstance of every life, so he ended his message with this parable intended to alleviate their concerns and motivate them to action ... to obedience.

This is not Jesus threatening Hell. He is saying that disobedience doesn't work long-term. He is not trying to get them (or you) to obey him so he can love you. He is trying to get you to obey because he loves you!

You are going to hit bumps financially, relationally, and professionally, and Jesus does not want your life to fall down/collapse.

The goal is to be so convinced of Who Jesus is and so grateful for what Jesus has done that you willingly choose to do what Jesus says.

Matthew 7:24-28

²⁴Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash. ²⁸When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had

authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

For those of you who are seeking to build your lives around the teachings of Jesus, take heart. This is a **comfort** for you.

For those of you who didn't know any better or wrote that off as irrelevant, this is a **warning** for you.

For those of you who are right in the middle of a storm this morning, this is an **explanation** for you.

For all of us, regardless of our circumstances, it is a promise of hope because we now have the opportunity to choose this day ... Who are you going to trust?

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." –Proverbs 3:5

Follow >> Believe >> Obey

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Matthew 7:24.**
- Pastor, today I have decided to Follow, Believe, and Obey Jesus.**
- I am praying for and inviting three friends to Friend Sunday on June 11.**