

PERFECT OBEDIENCE AND THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

July 5, 2020

Matthew 26:26-56

“The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” Mark 12:27-30

The first commandment requires, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). In previous messages we considered duties that it imposes, and transgressions against it. Among the duties required are belief in God and in Him alone, belief in, trust in and submission unto God and His Word, and all-consuming love for God.

Transgressions of the first commandment include creating an idol god, violating any of the Ten Commandments, self-adoration, ignoring God, leaning unto our own understanding, self-will and self-promotion. Today we endeavor to answer the question, “What does obedience to the first commandment look like?” Or, how did Christ obey the first commandment?

1. His Father’s business was Christ’s first concern.

“How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I **must** be about my Father's business?
(Luke 4:49).

“I **must** work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4).

2. Christ’s life exhibited submission to the truth that God alone is the source of life, that He is never to be presumed upon, and that He is worthy of our exclusive worship and service (Matthew 4:1-10).

When tempted by Satan, Jesus:

A. Affirmed that spiritual health supersedes physical well-being, and that God’s Word, rather than human appetites, is what must rule our actions. “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God (v. 4).

B. Taught reverence for God that refuses to presume upon His power and goodness: “It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (v. 7).

C. Practiced and admonished exclusive worship of the one true God: “Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (v. 10).

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”
(I Corinthians 10:31).

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4:11).

3. Christ was committed, at all costs, to obey and fulfil God’s Word.

A. He obeyed all ten of the commandments (Hebrews 4:15; John 8:29).

B. Christ chose Judas to be a disciple, knowing Judas would betray Him unto death, and did so that Scripture might be fulfilled: “I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.” (John 13:18; Psalm 41:9).

C. “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it **must** be?” (Matthew 26:53).

4. The pinnacle of Christ’s obedience to the first commandment was His crucifixion for the sins of mankind; He “became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a “ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28)

“As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I **must** bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. **Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life**, that I might take it again. No man taketh

it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father” (John 10:14-18).

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:5-11).