

Last week we discussed: **What to do with parents?**

God gave you these parents. And, you're stuck with them. They are sinners. They don't always do the right thing.

But God says in **Ephesians 6:1-3**

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

But you may wonder: **What does obedience look like?** Today, I'm going to give you...

5 Keys to Obedience

1) Immediately

- First Time obedience. Your parents should never have to ask you twice.
- If your parents have to ask you 5X, then you've disobeyed them 4X, and then obeyed on the 5th time.

2) Cheerfully

- No frowns. No crossed arms. No drooping head or dragging feet.
- Like we say in our family ... No hairy eyeballs.
- Have a smile on your face, and say, "Yes mommy." Or "Yes Daddy."

3) Without Complaining

- Don't ask why! – We have a rule in our house. When mommy or daddy give a command, responding back with the question "Why" is not allowed.
- Inappropriate responses:
 - Do I have to?
 - I don't want to do that.
 - Awww mom
- No whining: Often kids, you don't complain with actual words, but rather with the groanings of a discontented spirit. "Uhhh..."

4) Completely

- When mom asks you to clean your room, clean the whole thing. Make the bed. Put the dirty clothes in the bin. Clean up the toys. Throw away garbage. Go all the way. Don't leave a single little paper on the floor or even one dirty sock.
- When you make a puzzle, do you ever get down to the last piece and just decide to leave out the last piece? No. You finish off the puzzle. Similarly, finish off the job. Get the whole thing done.

5) Go the Extra Mile

- **Matthew 5:41** - Jesus said: "And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles."
- The Romans could force the Jews to carry their stuff for a mile. After that mile, the Jews could drop their stuff on the ground and say, "**Carry your own stuff**. I've done my mile." But Jesus said, "Do more. Yeah, you only **HAVE TO** go one mile, but I'm asking you to go the second mile."
- Do a little extra.
- When your parents ask you to put away the dishes, do it right away with a song on your heart, but after you're done, then **look for something else** you could do. Some little extra thing you could do that you weren't asked to do. Maybe you could sweep the kitchen or wipe off the table. Maybe you could put away the cereal boxes or pick up some garbage off the floor.

- But I wasn't told to do that. Yes, that's exactly the point. You weren't. You're doing it to be extra nice and because Jesus asked you to. Why not surprise your parents and go the extra mile? Maybe you could make your sister's bed for her. Or, maybe you could clean up your brother's toys.
- **Don't** do it just to avoid a spanking or so you don't get into trouble.
- The fact that to obey is coupled with the command to honor implies that this obedience should be done with the **right heart attitude**...with a desire to please your parents and your God.

Ephesians 6 says: Obey your parents **"In the Lord"**

- Obey your parents because you are a Christian. You are in the Lord.
- Jesus has saved you. He's given you eternal life. You owe him everything. And he says to you:
 - "I died on the cross for you. I gave you everything. Will you do something for me? Will you obey these parents I gave you?"
 - I know they're not perfect. I know they're sinners. I know about that time they yelled at you and hurt your feelings. I know about that time that you got in trouble and it **wasn't** even your fault.
 - **But for me**, will you obey these imperfect parents that I have given you?

Kids, sometimes you come **off to church or Kids Camp**, and you are all excited about God. You're reading your Bible. You're praying. You're excited about going to church. You want to give \$\$\$ to the missionaries. Zealous. You're praying, "**God whatever you want** from me. I'll do it. I'll go to Africa as a missionary. I'll go to China. I'll sell my bike and give the money to the poor. Wherever you want. Whatever you want me to do."

And God says, "**Hey see those parents** over there. If you really want to please me. If you'll really do whatever I want, then here's what I want. I want you to obey those parents that I gave you."

Because when you obey mom and dad. When you say **Yes Mom or Yes dad**, you're really saying, "**Yes, Jesus**" because Jesus is the one asking you to obey your parents.

WWJD: What would Jesus do? - Did you know Jesus obeyed His Father?

John 14:31 – Jesus said, "I always do the will of my Father."

What would Jesus do? He would obey His parents. And, so should you!

That it may go well with you. And that you may enjoy a good, long life!