
Luke 5:4-5 (NLT) - When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.” ⁵“Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.”

Is obedience still an important consideration in the life of a modern believer?

1. YES!!!

1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT) - But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”

2. Genuine obedience often involves an inner discussion with the Lord beforehand.

Matthew 21:28-31a (NLT) - “But what do you think about this? A man with two sons told the older boy, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹The son answered, ‘No, I won’t go,’ but later he changed his mind and went anyway. ³⁰Then the father told the other son, ‘You go,’ and he said, ‘Yes, sir, I will.’ But he didn’t go. ³¹Which of the two obeyed his father?” They replied, “The first.”

3. ‘Little’ acts of obedience make way for ‘big’ ones; it is primarily a trust-building exercise.

Matthew 25:21 (NLT) - “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’”

4. Obedience’s best gift is increased closeness with the Lord.

John 14:15 (NLT) - “If you love me, obey my commandments.

Discussion Questions

1. Is obedience still an important consideration in the life of a modern believer?
2. What makes obedience challenging to you?
3. Are there things that you can do to get better at it?

Study Guide

1. Let’s start with exactly the same question that the entire Riverside body is pondering: “Is obedience still an important consideration in the life of a modern believer? Why or why not?”
2. Take some time to review the scriptures that were referenced on Sunday:
 - 1 Samuel 15:22 (for greater context, start reading at the beginning of the chapter)
 - Luke 5:4-5 (from our Discipleship booklet)
 - Matthew 21:28-31a
 - Matthew 25:21 (again, it may be helpful to read the entire parable: vs.14-30)
 - John 14:15
3. Take some time to formulate your thoughts and observations into prayer. Pray for yourself. Pray for others on this significant part of our journey in faith.