

God's people need to obey Him



"If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.

~ Leviticus 26:3-5 (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.' The son answered, 'No, I won't go,' but later he changed his mind and went anyway. Then the father told the other son, 'You go,' and he said, 'Yes, sir, I will.' But he didn't go.

"Which of the two obeyed his father?"

They replied, "The first."

Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I tell you the truth, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do. For John the Baptist came and showed you the right way to live, but you didn't believe him, while tax collectors and prostitutes did. And even when you saw this happening, you refused to believe him and repent of your sins.

~ Matthew 21:28-32 (NLT) ~

Have you ever been in a situation when someone says they are going to do something for you, but then they never do it for you?

It isn't a nice feeling, is it?

You feel hurt and let down!

Weekly Family Devotion: Leviticus 8: Leviticus 26 & Matthew 21:28-32 – God people need to obey Him.

Jesus told a story about this very thing. A father asked two sons to help in the vineyard. One son said he would help and the other said he wouldn't help. But in the end the first son didn't actually help his father while the son who said he wouldn't help did help!

That second son, even though he said he wasn't going to help, was the son that the father was happy with, because he actually helped the father.

And it is the same with us and God.

God doesn't just want us to say that we follow Jesus, but what God really wants is for us to listen to him and do what he says.

We don't become part of God's family because we always listen to him and do what he says, we can only become part of God's family by trusting Jesus. But if we are trusting Jesus, we need to make sure we are listening to Jesus and living his way.

That is sometimes hard and sometimes we don't do that, but Jesus promises that if we confess (tell him those times we don't live his way) he will forgive us. And Jesus gives us his own Holy Spirit to live in us and help us be obedient to him.

Some questions to think about:

1. How do you feel when someone says they are going to do something for you and then they don't do it?
2. In the story Jesus told, which of the sons was the father happy with? Why?
3. Does God just want us to say we follow him? How does God want us to live?
4. Are we made part of God's family because we always follow his way?
5. Who does Jesus give us to help us obey him?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus makes it possible for us to be part of your family. Sorry for the times that we don't live the way that you have told us to. Please, through the Holy Spirit, help us obey you always.

Amen.