

Jesus and the Word

Introduction:

- 1) **Jn. 1:1-3, 14**
- 2) Though Jesus is called the Word, i.e. the communication of God to man, He is often depicted as being relatively unconcerned about the written communication of God, i.e. the Scriptures.
- 3) Jesus is seen by many as treating the word of God as containing little more than some rough, general guidelines. He is said to be unconcerned about strict obedience to the word and a major part of His conflict with the Pharisees was that they were overly strict in their approach to the word.
- 4) We live in an era where many see attitude as triumphing over obedience, grace as the all-sufficient cover for those who “love God.”
- 5) While Jesus manifested God’s grace, we will see that He also demanded obedience to the word of the Father (and His own words too).

I. HIS HIGH REGARD FOR THE WORD.

A. He Relied Upon It.

1. It was His guide when tempted. **Mt. 4:3f, 7, 10**
2. He cited it to explain His outreach to sinners. **Mt. 9:9-13**
3. Why did He cleanse the temple? **Mt. 21:12, 13**
4. Leading up to and on the cross. **Jn. 13:18; Mt. 26:31, 55, 56; 27:46**

B. He Saw It as the Standard.

1. When His disciples were accused of law-breaking He didn’t excuse breaking the law, but defended them by the Scriptures. **Mt. 12:1-8**
2. It was to the word that He turned when asked about divorce. **Mt. 19:3-6**
3. The parable of the sower was about reaction to the word. **Lk. 8:11-15**

C. It Would Stand.

1. The Law and Prophets could not be cast aside. **Mt. 5:17, 18**
 - a. We see in **Heb. 8:7ff** that a new covenant was made when this was fulfilled, but the point is that not even the smallest detail could be cast aside.
2. The Scripture could not be broken. **Jn. 10:31-36**
3. To Him it had to be fulfilled. **Lk. 24:44-47**

D. Some Implications.

1. Shouldn't it be our guide too? **2 Tim. 3:16, 17**
2. Instead of simply seeking a "relationship," we need to start listening/reading.
3. We must have a relationship with God and His Son, but that relationship is to be based on the concrete standard of "it is written" and not "I feel" or "I think."

II. HE TAUGHT OBEDIENCE.

1. It is a gross misconception to think Jesus conflicted with the Pharisees because they were too strict in their obedience.
 - a. He warned against breaking the least commandment. **Mt. 5:19, 20**
 - b. Refer back to **Mt. 12**. He defended from the Scriptures the disciples as guiltless.
 - c. They were rebuked for setting aside the commandment of God. **Mt. 15:1-9**
 - d. Was not an either/or with Jesus. **Mt. 23:23, 24**
2. Jesus taught and demanded obedience.
 - a. Do the will of the Father. **Mt. 7:21-23**; cf. **Lk. 6:46**.
 - b. Love and obedience go together. **Jn. 14:15; 15:14**; cf. **1 Jn. 5:3**.
3. Applications/implications.
 - a. Grace does not set aside the need for obedience. **Heb. 5:8, 9**
 - b. We can have a good attitude, be good people, love our neighbor, etc., but we must still do all the will of the Father.

III. HE BELIEVED IT COULD BE KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD.

1. Believed one could abide in His word and know the truth. **Jn. 8:31, 32**
2. Men must be drawn by God; i.e. taught by God. **Jn. 6:44, 45**
 - a. The drawing is explained as hearing and learning.
3. Have you not read? **Mt. 12:3; 19:4**
4. He understood that inferences would have to be drawn; i.e. unstated implications would have to be recognized, but He believed it could and should be done. **Mt. 19:3-6; 22:29-32**
 - a. When men portray the word as beyond our comprehension or attack the concept of a "necessary inference" or "inescapable conclusion," they are in disagreement with Jesus.
 - b. That some have abused the implication doesn't render it invalid.
5. The key is our desire to know and submit to His will. **Jn. 7:17, 18**
 - a. It requires a desire to obey and seeking the glory of God and not self.

IV. HE USED THE WORD “AGAINST” PEOPLE.

1. To this point we have seen that Jesus had the utmost respect for the word of God, taught obedience to it, and taught that we should be able to understand it.
2. But it also important to understand that He didn't limit Himself to a “positive” understanding of the word; i.e. simply doing what He believed to be right, but He used the Scriptures in the correction of others.
3. Stated the general principle. **Jn. 5:38, 39, 44-47**
4. Honor father and mother; in vain they worship Me. **Mt. 15:1-9**
5. When He cleansed the temple. **Mt. 21:12, 13**
6. In the parable of the wicked vinedressers. **Mt. 21:40-45**
7. Against the Sadducees. **Mt. 22:31, 32**
8. Let's not ever be afraid to contend for the faith and use the sword of the Spirit as Jesus did. **Jude 1:3, 4; Eph. 6:17**
9. We are not to be contentious folks, but we do need to be like Jesus and willing to “turn over some tables” and say what needs to be said.

Conclusion:

- 1) How does the Word feel about the Word?
- 2) It can and should be understood and made our rule in life. Obedience and defense of it are essential.
- 3) Have you been obedient to it?