

# Small Group Bible Study



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## **This Series...**

1. Obedience
2. Difficult Times
3. Evangelism
4. Compassion

**Written by  
Chad Stecker**

# Obedience

John 14:23-24

23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

NIV

**Warm-ups: What rules growing up were the toughest to obey?**

**Verse By Verse:**

- Why does Jesus compare loving him to obedience to His teaching?
- What teaching is Jesus referring to? Give some examples.
- Is obedience the key to receiving the Father's love? Why or Why Not?
- Why does Jesus make it a point to state that these words are not His, but His Father's?
- What is Jesus meaning when He said that He would make a home with those who are obedient?
- Jesus seems to say that our obedience is the outward sign of our love for Him. How would you grade your love/obedience rating & why?

So What Does This All Mean?

**How does this scripture apply to your life directly?**

**In what areas of your life can you practice being more obedient to Christ's teaching?**

**How can your small group practice obedience together?**

## JAMIESON, FAUSSET, AND BROWN COMMENTARY

### **Joh 14:23**

**we will come and make our abode with him** — Astonishing statement! In the Father's "coming" He "refers to the revelation of Him *as a Father* to the soul, which does not take place till the Spirit comes into the heart, teaching it to cry, *Abba, Father*" [Olshausen]. The "abode" means a permanent, eternal stay! (Compare [Lev 26:11](#), [Lev 26:12](#); [Eze 37:26](#), [Eze 37:27](#); [2Co 6:16](#); and contrast [Jer 14:8](#)).

### **Obedience (Nelson's Bible Dictionary)**

Carrying out the word and will of another person, especially the will of God. In both the Old and New Testaments the word obey is related to the idea of hearing. Obedience is a positive, active response to what a person hears. God summons people to active obedience to His revelation. Man's failure to obey God results in judgment. In the Old Testament covenant between God and man, obedience was the basis for knowing God's blessing and favor (Ex 19:5; 24:1-8). Samuel emphasized that God's pleasure was not in sacrifice but in obedience (1 Sa 15:22). Even the promise of a new covenant emphasized obedience as God's gift (Jer 31:33).

## Difficult Times

Ro 8:38-39

38 For I am convinced  
that neither death nor  
life, neither angels nor  
demons, neither the  
present nor the future,  
nor any powers, 39  
neither height nor  
depth, nor anything  
else in all creation, will  
be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
that is in Christ Jesus  
our Lord.

NIV

**Warm-ups: We have all gone through difficult times. What emotions are the most prevalent in you when you are going through a difficult time? (sadness, anger, anxiety)**

**Verse By Verse:**

- Try to summarize this passage like you were giving someone the main idea.
- Is having difficult times a sign of our separation from God? How can it be just the opposite?
- Knowing that nothing can separate us from God, can we separate ourselves from Him. How does this usually happen?
- Why should this verse be encouraging to those going through difficult times?
- Verse 38 says "For I am convinced." Are you convinced that nothing can separate you from the love of God? What are your struggles or successes with this?

So What Does This All Mean?

**Knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God, how should this change:**

- What you say?
- What you do?
- Where you go?

## *Praying Through*

(Prayers taken from book, *Prayer Portions*, by Sylvia Gunter)

Lord, I choose to do whatever it takes to be able to pray the following prayer in complete surrender to your perfect will regarding (this person, situation, or problem).

Lord, help me to learn everything You are trying to teach me in (this), and please don't stop until I have learned everything You want me to receive.

Help me to seek You and not just relief from \_\_\_\_\_. I pray that You and only You will be glorified and that I will know You better as You give me greater revelation of who You are.

### THE BIBLE KNOWLEDGE COMMENTARY

**8:38-39.** Paul then ended his discussion on believers' safety in Jesus Christ and the certainty of their sanctification with a positive declaration—**For I am convinced** (perf. tense, "I stand convinced"; cf. 15:14) **that nothing can separate believers from the love of God** (God's love for them, not their love for God; cf. v. 35). Paul's list of 10 items begins with death, where the list of 7 items in verse 35 ended. These elements in God's universe include the extremes of existence: (1) **death** and (2) **life** (in either death [2 Cor. 5:8-9] or life, believers are in God's presence); the extremes of created spiritual armies: (3) **angels** and (4) **demons** (angels would not and demons could not undo God's relationship with His redeemed ones); the extremes in time: (5) **the present** and (6) **the future** (nothing known now, e.g., the hardships listed in Rom. 8:35, or in the unknown time to come); spiritual enemies: (7) **powers** (perhaps Satan and his demons; cf. Eph. 6:12; or possibly human governments); the extremes in space: (8) **height** and (9) **depth** (nothing overhead or underneath can suddenly come swooping down or up to sever believers from God's love); and (10) everything in the entire created realm. Absolutely nothing in His **Creation** can thwart His purpose for believers **in Christ**. What a climactic way to affirm the certainty of believers' salvation!

# Evangelism

Ro 10:14-15

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

NIV

**Warm-ups: Who had the greatest impact on you concerning you giving your life over to Christ, Jesus? Why?**

**Verse By Verse:**

- What is EVANGELISM? What is this verse telling us about evangelism?
- What is the primary way God expects us to get His Gospel out to the world? Where are you currently in this process?
- The author saying, *Faith comes by hearing*. What are the primary ways that people hear?
- Summarize the Good News that we are supposed to be bringing to the World. What is your version of it (your testimony)?

So What Does This All Mean?

**Are you bringing the good news to those in our community? What would help you?**

**What are some ways you can bring the good news to those at your work, your school, and etc...?**

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Eleventh Edition)

**evangelism** \i-'van-jə-,li-zəm\ n

**1** : the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ

**2** : militant or crusading zeal

**evangelistic** \-,van-jə-'lis-tik\ adj — **evangelistically** \-ti-k(ə-)lē\ adv

## MATHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY

1. How necessary it was that the gospel should be preached to the Gentiles, v. 14, 15. This was what the Jews were so angry with Paul for, that he was the apostle of the Gentiles, and preached the gospel to them. Now he shows how needful it was to bring them within the reach of the forementioned promise, an interest in which they should not envy to any of their fellow-creatures.

(1.) They cannot call on him in whom they have not believed. Except they believe that he is God, they will not call upon him by prayer; to what purpose should they? The grace of faith is absolutely necessary to the duty of prayer; we cannot pray aright, nor pray to acceptance, without it. He that comes to God by prayer must believe, Heb 11:6. Till they believed the true God, they were calling upon idols, O Baal, hear us.

(2.) They cannot believe in him of whom they have not heard. some way or other the divine revelation must be made known to us, before we can receive it and assent to it; it is not born with us. In hearing is included reading, which is tantamount, and by which many are brought to believe (Jn 20:31): These things are written that you may believe. But hearing only is mentioned, as the more ordinary and natural way of receiving information.

(3.) They cannot hear without a preacher; how should they? Somebody must tell them what they are to believe. Preachers and hearers are correlates; it is a blessed thing when they mutually rejoice in each other—the hearers in the skill and faithfulness of the preacher, and the preacher in the willingness and obedience of the hearers.

*(from Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database.  
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# Compassion

Mk 1:40-42

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

41 Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

NIV

**Warm-ups: What is the greatest memory that you have concerning someone showing you compassion? Or, what is your greatest disappointment concerning an unmet need for compassion?**

**Verse By Verse:**

- What is the significance of the man's statement in verse 40?
- Do we sometimes think Jesus can, but won't? Why would we believe that?
- Why do you think that Jesus had so much compassion for this man?
- Was Jesus' compassion the result of this man's actions? Did he earn it?
- What is the basis for whether or not we have compassion for others?
- How can we help others have a better life because of the compassion we offer them?
- Can a person be healed /restored solely because of compassion?

So What Does This All Mean?

**In what area's of your life does compassion need to be more present?**

**As Jesus showed us in this verse, are you a person that is compassionate to those in need? What are the main obstacles?**

**How can you show Christ-like compassion this week?**

## MATHEW HENRY'S COMMENTARY

### The healing of a leper

We have here the story of Christ's cleansing a leper, which we had before, Mt 8:2-4. It teaches us,

1. How to apply ourselves to Christ; come as this leper did,

(1.) With great humility; this leper came beseeching him, and kneeling down to him (v. 40); whether giving divine honour to him as God, or rather a less degree of respect as a great Prophet, it teaches us that those who would receive grace and mercy from Christ, must ascribe honour and glory to Christ, and approach to him with humility and reverence.

(2.) With a firm belief of his power; Thou canst make me clean. Though Christ's outward appearance was but mean, yet he had this faith in his power, which implies his belief that he was sent of God. He believes it with application, not only in general, Thou canst do every thing (as Jn 11:22), but, Thou canst make me clean. Note, What we believe of the power of Christ we must bring home to our particular case; Thou canst do this for me.

(3.) With submission to the will of Christ; Lord, if thou wilt. Not as if he had any doubt of Christ's readiness in general to help the distressed, but, with the modesty that became a poor petitioner, he refers his own particular case to him.

2. What to expect from Christ; that according to our faith it shall be to us. His address is not in the form of prayer, yet Christ answered it as a request. Note, Affectionate professions of faith in Christ, and resignations to him, are the most prevailing petitions for mercy from him, and shall speed accordingly.

(1.) Christ was moved with compassion. This is added here, in Mark, to show that Christ's power is employed by his pity for the relief of poor souls; that his reasons are fetched from within himself, and we have nothing in us to recommend us to his favour, but our misery makes us the objects of his mercy. And what he does for us he does with all possible tenderness.





## Rules for our small group:

**Priority:** While you are in the group, you give the group meeting priority.

**Participation:** Everyone participates and no one dominates.

**Respect:** Everyone is given right to their own opinion and all questions are encouraged and respected.

**Confidentiality:** Everything that is said in this meeting is never to be repeated outside this meeting.

**Empty Chair:** The group stays open to new people at every meeting.

**Support:** Permission is given to call on one another in time of need—even in the middle of the night.

**Advice Giving:** Unsolicited advice is not allowed. We're here to support one another, not to fix one another.

**Mission:** We agree to do everything in our power to start a new group as our mission.