

John 3:36
A Call to Obey the Gospel
November 4, 2012
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

A. Children's Sermon

1. Who made you? Why?
2. Do you live for his glory?
3. Will God let you get away with this forever?
4. Who is Jesus? Why did he die for us?
5. Did he stay dead? What does this show us?
6. Jesus' Command: **Trust & Obey**

John 3:36

³⁶ Whoever *believes* in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not *obey* the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

B. No Middle Ground

1. Relying on Christ and submitting your life to be used for God's glory
2. Relying on yourself for yourself

Key Idea

To obey the call of the gospel is to rely on Christ and to submit your life to be used for God's glory.

Acts 20:20–21

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

II. What Does it Mean to "Repent"?

A. Repentance is **not** “Feeling Sorry”

2 Corinthians 7:9–10

⁹ As it is, I rejoice, ***not because you were grieved***, but because you were ***grieved into repenting***. For you felt a **godly grief**, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas **worldly grief** produces death.

1. Judas (Matthew 26:24)
2. Peter (John 21:4–19)

B. To Repent is to Submit to God

1. A change of mind leading to a changed life
2. The specific change is to turn from rebellion back to submission

1 Thessalonians 1:9

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you **turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**...¹⁰

John 3:36b

...whoever does not **obey** the Son shall not see life, but the ***wrath of God*** remains on him.

Illustration: ***Super Storm Sandy***

Luke 13:4–5

⁴ Or those eighteen on whom ***the tower in Siloam fell and killed them***: ***do you think that they were worse offenders*** than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ **No**, I tell you; **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish**.”

3. A radical submission or rebellion

Jean Williams (Prophets: Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea)

“Does God ask any less of me? Whatever he asks, will I fail to give it? On the day I became a Christian, I turned my life over to him. He owns me, body and soul. He bought me with his Son’s precious blood. On that day, I exchanged a life of self-seeking –

a cosy, insular, comfortable Western life – for a life of costly service. A life whose every moment and every possession isn't mine to use as I will, but his to be poured out for others. A life in which I am to stand up for him publicly, without shame. A life of carrying my cross, of dying like a lamb on an altar, of slavery to Christ. This is the cost I agreed to and the cost I bear.

There are Christians dying today because of that reality. Fifty Christians burned alive in Nigeria. An Iranian pastor, a father, imprisoned and repeatedly beaten. Grenades thrown into churches in Kenya. A Sri Lankan school boy beaten up by his teacher when he confessed his faith in the classroom. Brutal beheadings in Afghanistan, in Tunisia, in Egypt.”

4. Cuts to the heart of our deepest idolatry

Matthew 24:9b

“...you will be **hated** by all nations for my name's sake.

III. What Does it Mean to “Believe”?

John 3:36a

³⁶ Whoever ***believes*** in the Son has eternal life...

1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10

...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ¹⁰ and to **wait for his Son** from heaven, whom he *raised from the dead*, **Jesus** *who delivers us from the wrath to come*.

A. Faith is ***not***...

1. A religious experience or a feeling
2. A leap in the dark in the absence of evidence

1 John 1:1–3

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have ***heard***, which we have ***seen*** with our eyes, which we ***looked upon*** and have ***touched*** with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was ***made manifest***, and we have ***seen it***, and **testify to it** and **proclaim to you** the eternal life, which was with the Father and was ***made manifest*** to us— ³ *that which*

we have **seen** and **heard** we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

3. "I haven't got your faith"

B. Faith **is Trust**; to **Rely** upon Something; to **Depend** upon Something

1. It is a universal; common experience
(i.e. we all have it)

2. "Have you got reliance?"

C. Biblical Faith is Total Faith (Cf. "God did His part now I have to do my part")

IV. **How does this happen? (If I am a rebel at heart)**

A. Left to ourselves we would never turn back to God

B. Regeneration: It is only by the power of God's Spirit

Matthew 16:17

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! *For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*

John 6:45

⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be **taught by God.**' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—

V. **Are You Obeying the Call of the Gospel?**

A. "A little of Both..."

B. "It is Too Simple/Easy" (Yes & No)

1. Easy for us because Jesus/God did the hard work

2. Illustration: Helping Sarah on the Jetty

D. Faith without Forgiveness!?! (Cheep Grace)