

Teacher Devotional

Lesson 7 - I Will Obey Jesus!

BIBLE LESSON: The reinstatement of, and instructions given to, Peter - John 21:1-19

BIBLE VERSE: "But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand." Matthew 7:26 (NLT)

Results matter. People often try to justify wrong-doing and rule bending, by saying that the ends justify the means. This can be an especially powerful argument when what Jesus asks us to do doesn't seem to make sense.

The disciples were experienced commercial fishermen. Their experience taught them that tossing the net on the other side of the boat to achieve a better result was not only pointless, but ridiculous. It was a foolish suggestion that seasoned professionals should have shrugged off and ignored. But, the results that Jesus had in mind for the disciples when He asked them to cast their net on the other side were amazing. Fishing doesn't usually work that way.

It was equally ridiculous for Jesus to tell Peter, the brash, outspoken, foot-in-mouth, sword-wielding, cursing, lying, tough guy to be a tender shepherd and wise leader for the early church. But, Peter became an amazing leader for the church by obeying Jesus' command, and the church spread across the known world within his lifetime.

What has God called you to do that you don't think fits your personality or that you think seems foolish?

It can seem impossible to give your tithe when money is already tight. It can seem foolish to use your only day off in a week to serve at your church, or a week of vacation to serve at kids' camp. But we need to remember that God has amazing plans for us. If we knew what was in store, we would say the the ends justify the obedience.

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

"Jesus said, 'My mother and my brothers are all those who hear God's word and obey it.'" Luke 8:21 (NLT)

"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment." John 3:36 (NLT)