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# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Spring Cleaning Series, Lesson 55

**Lesson Title:** Dust Away Disobedience

**Take Home Point:** Dust away disobedience – obey God.

#### Warm-Up:

A woman was going to be gone from home for a couple of weeks and left instructions with her husband on how to care for the household. Everything was included – basic cooking, laundry, getting the kids ready for school – plus a little love note that said she was looking forward to returning. She knew it didn't include absolutely everything, but was sure it would be enough to get him through her absence. But when she returned, the household was in shambles. She looked at him and said, "Didn't you get my note?!" "Of course I did!" he replied. "I read it and reread it. I outlined it to make sure I understood your meaning. I formed a note study group so we could all share what we thought the note meant and how important it was to us." She was stunned. "But did you DO what I asked?"

**Read:** 1 John 5:3-5, Exodus 20:4-6, John 14:15-17; 2 Corinthians 9:8, Hebrews 12:11

#### Observation (What happened?):

How do we demonstrate our love for God?

According to 2 Corinthians 9:8, what does God provide that allows us to do his work?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

When we do not obey God, what are we demonstrating?

What does it mean that John uses past tense to say we have won the victory over the world?

#### Insight:

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." These words of Jesus are so striking. It's not the desire or expectation of obedience – every deity real or invented has that; it is the why that is so unique. We are not ordered to obey because God will zap us if we don't; we are not told to obey so we can reap rewards that are immediately gratifying. It is out of love, caring enough to want to please the One who loves us, that God appeals for our obedience. What he really desires more than anything else is our love. Remember that is the first and greatest command (Mark 12:30). But by giving us free will, God leaves the choice with us. He will not force us to obey. This is what makes true Christianity unique – God's endless grace and his desire to have a relationship with us, created in his image. He doesn't demand perfection; that demand was satisfied by Jesus being the perfect sacrifice in our stead. Now he wants us to love him, to care about what he thinks and wants. Loving obedience is our part. Then he can do his transforming work in us to make us all he designed us to be.

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

Where in your life is God's Spirit convicting you of disobedience? What will you do about it?

How has God demonstrated his grace to you this week? Thank him for it.