

# The Disciples Commands Part 3

Sermon Title: **The Disciples Commands Part 3**

Sermon Number: **5663**

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Welcome to Brothers Of The Word! Because brother, you need the word!

Today we are on part three of The Disciples Commands from the book of Matthew the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning at the fifth verse. These 12 Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans, but go rather into the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you, go preach, saying: The kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Heal the sick. Cleanse the lepers. Raise the dead. Cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Provide neither good nor silver, nor copper in your money belts. Nor bag for your journey. Nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staphs. For a worker is worthy of his food. Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there until you go out. And when you go into a household, greet it."

In part one we dealt with the first command: Do not go into the way of the Gentiles. I showed you how the Gentiles were essentially those who were not Jews. In part two: Do not enter into a city of the Samaritans. And in part two I showed you essentially that the Samaritans were a denomination. His first two commands basically said: Go to those who are your own first. In part three: But go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Anyone who knows just even a modicum of New Testament scripture, and who knows just a smidgen of the story of Jesus in the New Testament.

You know that even though Jesus said that he was sent for the lost sheep of the House of Israel, that the House of Israel turned their backs on Jesus. As the sub-topic today, I want to focus on when the Messiah is rejected. When the Messiah is rejected. But go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. The principles of the bible are the same yesterday and today. But yet the Jewish nation, the Pharisees and the Sadducees, the Rabbis of that day, they were not a stupid people. They were educated, they were learned and polished, and studied in the law. They knew Old Testament scripture, and Old Testament prophecy. So you were not dealing with a dense folk, you were not even dealing with an average level of education and mentality. You were dealing with the best of the best. So the question then begs to be answered: Why did they reject Jesus?

There were reasons dealing with the ancient 2000 years ago, but I am not going to deal with that. I am going to deal with why we are rejecting Jesus. Because it makes us feel smug and confident, and kind of above when we think about why the Pharisees and Sadducees rejected Jesus. The real question is: why are we rejecting Jesus? You say: but we are not rejecting Jesus, we are different, I am different. I would never reject Jesus! Yes you would. Yes you would. Of course you would reject Jesus. Most of his disciples left him. Jesus had about 70 disciples and he ended up with 12. They said Lord this is a hard thing. Now understand this...the 70 disciples were not the regular folk. These were the folk who were risking life and limb to follow Jesus. These were not just your regular congregation members.

These were people who had already sacrificed at an extreme level to follow Jesus. These were his committed devoted followers and 82% for those of you who are mathematically inclined, 82% of Jesus' disciples left him. So don't sit there all smug and confident and supercilious and you are all big and this and that in the Lord. You may have been among that 82%. They left Jesus! So why in today's modern times, are we any different and any better souls than the disciples who are willing to risk death to follow Jesus? Because I am going to be honest about it, I don't think most of us would risk death to follow Jesus. We won't even risk a good snow storm. If you pull the giving records, when we sing *I would rather have silver and gold*, when we pull the giving records most of us will not give God 10%, so don't tell me about you are just willing to lay down your life for the Lord.

Don't look down on the rich young ruler when Jesus said sell all you have and give it to the poor, and you can't hardly get 10% out of folk. So don't just say: No, if I would have been there. I wouldn't have been like Peter and denied Jesus three times. Yes you would have! If somebody was pointing a gun in the middle of your head with a big barrel, and said "I am going to blow your head off! Do you believe in Jesus?" "Who???" So we are not any different, we are the same souls and the same people, so why did the scribes and the Pharisees and the Church, why did they reject Jesus? They rejected Jesus for the same reason we reject the true Jesus today! The Jews asked for a Messiah, they asked for the deliverance. They cried out to God for help because they were under persecution in Egypt. They were under persecution by the Roman Empire.

How many of you all are under persecution? You have one thing or another that is oppressing you, one thing or another that has you down. One thing or another that you are struggling with, and you want Jesus to come in and get it all off of you. How many of us have situations like that? Jesus, come get this! Jesus help me! That's the way the Jews were. Messiah come and get these Romans off of us! Deliver us from Pharaoh! Please God send a deliverer! Just as the children of Israel in slavery...just as the children of Israel under Roman persecution...just as we do when we feel persecuted by the things of life...we ask for God to send a deliverer.

Yet when the deliverer was sent, it wasn't long before the people complained against Moses. And they knew Moses was sent by God because they saw all of those signs! They saw the cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. They saw the Red Sea part. They saw all those signs! I haven't seen any signs that match that now, yes on the day we had the special anointing there was a cloud outside. Several people saw it, but this cloud was consistent and it moved when the people moved. And then there was a pillar of fire, I haven't seen a pillar of fire. There was a big pillar of fire. I have never seen a sea part. So this was some stuff that was absolutely phenomenal! There was no question in any of the folk's mind that Moses was sent by God...and still! The minute those folk got a little bit of pressure, they

went to murmuring and complaining about God. They made God so mad, God said: I'm going to kill all of them! Those were the same folk!

When I was showing you a couple of messages ago how those folk are us...those are the same folk. We are the same people, and the spirit has really not changed. So why do people in truth reject Jesus? Sometimes it is because people don't really recognize the Messiah. But they recognized Moses. They knew Moses was from God. First problem is often the Messiah comes disguised as hard work. "Lord deliver me!" What we often mean is this: "I don't really want to do anything about this. I want you God to get me out of this situation, and I don't want to put forth a whole lot of effort." Lord, can you just like put some money in my account mysteriously? Can you send a mysterious check? No, I don't want to go to work. No,no,no! Nope! I don't want to go to work! Can you send a mysterious check and just have my check show up in the mail? Can you touch a stranger? Lord there are some rich folk who have way more than they need.

Can you touch a stranger's heart Lord? And put me on this stranger's heart and just have the stranger walk up to me and say: I was in prayer and your picture popped up before me and the Lord said come and give you some money. That's what we want! Sometimes the Messiah comes, and the Messiah comes in a manner that requires us to pick up our bed and walk. We say I don't want to do that...I want it this way. So the Messiah comes and he demands and requires some things. The children of Israel did not want to walk through the desert. They became hot and thirsty and tired. They said Lord instead of coming through this desert; can't you just transport us over to the Promised Land? You can just instantly move us from here to there. I don't want to have to walk all of this distance. You have all power. You made the world. You can touch the Egyptians and tell them to just put us on that chariot. I don't want to have to go through all of this stuff!

God will sometimes send us a route that we don't want to go, because the deliverance comes sometimes as hard work. The second thing is the Messiah usually requires change. The Messiah requires us to change. When Jesus came to the Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducee -- in other words, to the leaders of the church -- what we would call the preachers, to the reverends, to the pastors, to the bishops, to the evangelists, to the apostles, to the prophets. When Jesus came to the leaders of the church, to be honest, he didn't say one doggone good thing about them. I couldn't find one word in the whole New Testament that Jesus had to say good about church leadership. Not one!

Even when Nicodemus came to him by night --he didn't want to come in the daytime -- even when Nicodemus came to him by night and asked him. Jesus said: You are a master and you don't even know this? He didn't even give him any credit for coming in the middle of the night. He said: You are a master and you don't even know this? So Jesus did not compliment the clergy. And clergy is used to compliments and they

are adverse to criticism. Anytime you are in power you are used to people bowing down to you. So here comes somebody who is not bowing down to you, but telling you some stuff you do not want to hear. When that happens there is an automatic defense mechanism that goes up from human flesh, and we simply do not want to change. When someone comes with a truth, and that truth hits us, there is a shield that goes up.

[Playing a video excerpt from the movie Iron Man] This is kind of what happens in a visual form when criticism comes to us. God says change what your hands are doing...put this on your shoulder. We shield ourselves from it. We put up all these barriers. He said don't walk there...stop doing that!

Sometimes the world comes and says: change what you are putting in your stomach. Change what you are looking at! This is the way we respond. We shield ourselves from truth and God had to kick us in the behind. That was a video of Iron Man putting on his armor. But often we are like that. When truth comes to us and when the truth is something that requires us to change, we put up barriers and shields against the truth. Because even though the truth will make you free, the truth is a two edged sword cutting asunder, dividing to joints and marrow. It cuts, it is painful...and the human nature and human flesh avoids pain.

So we shield ourselves from truth. We shield ourselves from the word of God. We shield ourselves to keep ourselves the way we are. And when the Messiah comes, the Messiah always brings change. The Messiah will cause us to change. The third thing is it wasn't the way they wanted their problem solved. They wanted it another way. When God sends a solution to something it is just not what we want at all. It's not what we want at all. He sends us a solution, but we want appeal, we want a tap on the head, we want a prayer, we want a word spoken and all of our problems disappear. Sometimes it happens like that, but not in the vast majority of times. So we have to learn how to eliminate the resistance that we have to change when the Messiah comes, because we are the same people 2000 years ago. Same spirit...same flesh. But it is also the same word.

What was it that caused 82% of dedicated disciples to walk away from Jesus? Have you ever thought about that? What was it that caused 82% of dedicated disciples to walk away? And do you have enough spiritual fortitude to be in the 18% to stay? Can you stand up when a hard saying comes your way? Sometimes people, there are some hard sayings coming even from the pulpit. God spoke to me a couple of weeks ago. I was actually sitting in a business meeting, and he spoke these words to me. He said: You can either be popular or prophetic, but you cannot be both. I understood what he meant. He wasn't talking about the traditional prophecy like: I see your breakthrough coming or your check is in the mail. He wasn't talking about that, because that is why Jesus told the church you have persecuted and killed all – not some of them – all of the prophets before you.

None of them coming with a true word of God could be popular. He said you will either be popular or prophetic, but you cannot be both. If you speak pure truth to folk, folk will get upset with you. Now if you make it politically correct, clean it up, some stuff you don't say...but you know it needs to be said, you can be popular. But you will be either popular or prophetic...you will not be both. Do you know Jesus was rough and blunt? Do you know that?! He didn't just come speaking all love...Jesus was rough! Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets. Jesus was rough! He Jesus turned and said to Peter: Get behind me Satan! You are an offense to me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but of the things of man. This was one of his closest folk!

He turned and said: Get behind me you devil! Most folk, if the pastor called them a devil, oh my goodness! Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness. Can you imagine telling the leaders of the church: You all are nothing but looking good on the outside, you are dressed up in fancy suits and shiny shoes and you are just nasty on the inside. Can you imagine? That's exactly what Jesus told them! Woe unto you teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

Can you imagine! Jesus was not politically correct at all! That's why they crucified him. You will either be popular or prophetic, but you will not be both. So God was telling me you have to make a choice. You will not be both. I see sometimes just the resistance that we have to truth because sometimes it is ego, and sometimes it is politically incorrect. Yet, if I tackle just the two biggest things that are killing us in the flesh in the church. We want health. We want Jesus to come in and heal us. See this is what we want...we want to just say Lord, by your stripes I am healed. That's what we want. Sometimes that happens, but most of the time it does not. I'm just being real; I'm telling you the truth. It is not popular, but I am telling you the truth. And you all know that most of the times it doesn't happen.

If you really want it, and you want the promises of God, there are two things just statistically speaking. I am this science mind, yes I am like that, but just the two biggest statistical killers in the industrialized world right now. This is one of them, this is a cigarette. And the two biggest killers in the industrialized world, one is a cigarette, and if I preached against a cigarette I would get all kinds of amen's. Because you know it is on the pack...it doesn't stop folks, but you know it. So if I preached against a cigarette, I wouldn't get much condemnation for that because the doctors preach against it. I wouldn't get much condemnation for that. This is the top two, and right now the top two killers are running neck and neck. Cigarettes kill roughly a thousand people a day.

The second leading killer...you can find out about the second leading killer with simply what is called the wall test. Let me tell you what the wall test is. The wall test is you simply walk up to a wall and you put your toes against the wall. Now if you put the cigarette in your mouth, the cigarette will hit the wall. That lets you know you don't need the cigarette by the wall test. But with the wall test, the second thing you do is this: you put your nose against the wall, you put your back straight, and if your belly is touching the wall, you have the second leading killer in the industrialized world if your belly is touching the wall. Now, that is not popular at all. Pastor are you calling folk fat? No, I am not calling you fat, I am just saying.

You can go to [www.bodybmi.com](http://www.bodybmi.com) and put your height in and put your weight in, and if it's...it will call you fat. Now see fat is not a politically correct word. It will call you either overweight or obese. That's fat...I don't care how you put it. That's fat...yeah you're fat. But you say pastor that just isn't popular! But you know it just as well as I do. So this is the point: some of the stuff that is truth –and people right now, overweight has surpassed cigarette smoking as the leading killer –so we want health, but we are not willing to face truth. And when truth comes, you want to crucify the person who is telling you the truth. So if you can't pass that wall test, your rate of heart disease will skyrocket, your rate of cancer will skyrocket, your rate of diabetes will skyrocket, your rate of kidney failure will skyrocket, your joints will give you problems because the weight will mess up your knees, and your hips and your back. So all of this stuff...and this is real. No it is not popular!

No, most preachers won't say it, because they want to be popular. You will either be popular or prophetic, but you won't be both. So I understand why when the Messiah came, he called them hypocrites, he called them son of the devil, he called them unclean. He called them all of this stuff. I said Lord, that is kind of rough. But he called it as it was, and truth is rough. Most people will put on a suit of armor against truth, because we don't want to face it and we don't want to change it. We don't want to do what is necessary to change it.

A member asked me about the wall test. They said pastor I stood up against the wall, but I stood with my back facing the wall, and when I did, because I have a rather large behind my shoulders would not touch the wall. What about that? That was an excellent question. First of all, the wall test is designed specifically to detect excess abdominal, stomach, or belly fat. It's not designed to detect hip or thigh or behind or breast, simply because those areas are not as dangerous as belly or abdominal fat. Doctors are really baffled by why African-American women do not suffer the statistical health affects that would be indicated with an overweight body.

I believe this is because the weight distribution is different among African-American women. It is often distributed heaviest in the behind, in the hip and in the thigh area, and not in the belly area. It is the belly area that is the real danger

area, and that is why the wall test is significant. And that is why that test is an indicator of insulin resistance, which relates to so many other diseases. So the wall test is designed to detect basically a pot belly. It doesn't really apply for hip, or behind, or thigh. Those areas are just medically not as dangerous as abdominal fat.

Why did they reject the Messiah? They didn't want to change. He was not politically correct, and he required them to do stuff the hard way. Lord, this is a hard saying, is what his disciples told him. The bible says that many of them on that day departed hence from him. Lord, this is a hard saying. This is a hard saying. See the stuff that is going to truly transform your life, it is a hard saying. That stuff just doesn't come easy. It just doesn't. I don't know anybody who has achieved any serious level with some ease. That stuff is a hard saying. And whatever you want transformed in your life...I have seen so much where people have come to me and they say God sent me or I recognize the wisdom that you have. Pastor, I want your advice...tell me! And I tell them and I see the armor kicking in just like iron. Well, I don't want it that way pastor, I want to do this my way. I said if your way was working, you wouldn't be here.

So it is a challenge sometimes, and see God is not gentle with me. Remember what I told you last Sunday, I was sitting up here and I heard. I was just glorying in my good stuff, oh yeah I have done this, and Lord look at the blessings that have come from this. Lord, I have been obedient with that and look how this has turned out. Lord, I know you are so proud of me Lord. Oh yes, you are proud of me Lord. Oh I know you are proud of me, I have done so good. And I heard God speak: You don't know the blessings that you have missed because of your disobedience. Pow!!! God sometimes needs to say: You want to be grown?! Well, if you want to be grown...like God told Gideon: Gird up your loins and act like a man! So if you want to be grown, gird up your loins or just go back in the nursery! Gird up your loins! Because God is going to tell you some stuff if you truly are in tune with God. He will tell you some stuff that will shake your world, and it will shake your behavior, and it will cause change in you. When the Messiah comes, you will not be the same after coming in contact with the Messiah...you are going to have to make a decision.

You make a decision, Lord I am going to be with you. Yes, it is a hard saying. I am going to be with you or I am going to turn my head and walk away. That is why they rejected Jesus. He had a hard saying. He told the Pharisees: you all are lovers of money, let the money go! Are you kidding? You are talking about let the money go? See that one thing...store not up for yourselves treasure in heaven...that one thing. I preached a sermon called *The Roughest Verse in the Bible*. I believe that is the roughest verse in the bible: you will either love God and hate money. I said wait a minute Lord, is this right? Are you kidding me? That is a hard saying. So the hard sayings are something that most of us will go into instantly if we could push an Iron

Man button and that armor comes and that iron will cover everything we have. Give up that illicit sex, and then the armor goes pow! No, no. No, no! If you want health, stop eating all of that mess you are eating. Pow!!! No, no. No, no!

We don't want to fool with the things that really require us to change. We will reject the Messiah because when you check the Messiah's record, he came with some rough truth that was not politically correct. And he came with some rough stuff for you to do that folk didn't want to do. Do you think Jesus is any different today? God said I am the same yesterday, today, and forever more. If he is the same, his son is the same. Now he has great mercy, but he has always had great mercy. He had great mercy when he got here. So his mercy hasn't changed, but he still had those hard sayings. And most people could not walk and obey and be with Jesus.

I go therefore for the lost sheep of the House of Israel. We are still lost. I struggle every single day to do what God tells me to do. It is not a day I don't struggle with it. I wish I could tell you it is easy. It's not a day I don't struggle trying to do what God has told me to do, but the more I do what he tells me to do the blessings flow. I mean I get blessings in areas I didn't even imagine. People, we like to talk about the blessings, but you read the bible. You read his law. There were three times as many curses enumerated as blessings. Well pastor, I think the curses are gone. Look around you...look around you. I'm just telling you straight...those curses haven't gone anywhere. Look around you!

Every single one of the curses –and I did a series of sermons about the blessings and curses, and defined them –every single one of those curses are right here, and in just as great a force. They haven't gone anywhere. Look around you! But his promises have not gone anywhere either. Choose you this day, life or death; blessings or curses. That choice is ours, and Jesus says the yoke is easy and the burden is light. And it is! But he is going to make you shed a whole lot of stuff. That's another part of it. He is going to make you shed a whole lot of stuff. His yoke is easy...well some of that stuff you have is not on his yoke. He is going to tell you to get rid of it. Huh??? No, you don't want to do that.

These are sometimes the challenges that all of us struggle with. All of us struggle with it. When God spoke that to me last week, I just had to re-dedicate it. And that is why we have re-dedication; it is not that I didn't know that. I knew it. Then he told me exactly what it is. He said I have given you 13 things to do every day. You do those things and as far as I am concerned, you are in obedience. Those 13 things take up all day. They govern what time I get up and what time I go to bed. All day long! But if I get up on time, go to bed on time, I feel so much better. I feel so much better. Let me tell you something people, me getting in the bed on time is not for God. God never slumbers or sleeps. It is not for God! Who do you think that is for?

So all of the stuff God wants you to do, that is not for God, that is for you! This stuff is for your spirit, it is for your help, it is for your peace of mind. It is for your relationship, all of this stuff is not for God. You are doing this for you! When you love your enemy, when you forgive...that is not for God...that is for your spirit. That is why those doctors' reports say: I have never seen a case of cancer where there was not extreme unforgiveness. When God tells you to forgive, that is to keep you from getting sick. When you carry around all of this hate, all of this animosity, all of these grudges, all of this stuff against folks. Including the one who is giving you the hard saying, that is going to make you sick, not me. So if you are mad about what I am saying, whew, I hate Pastor Nathaniel...that is going to make you sick, I am going to sleep just as sound, as long as I get in the bed on time.

These things are principles, but they are not easy. That loving thine enemy...you think that is easy? That is a hard saying! But that thing is designed for your peace, for your health, because hate kills you. Love makes you blossom and grow. So when Jesus tells you to love thine enemy, that is not for your enemy's sake. That is for your sake, but it is a hard saying. It is a hard saying, but my goodness how it blesses. He came for the lost sheep of Israel, and that is us...all day long. We need the great shepherd. Last week I made a re-dedication and said Lord, I am going to do what you say. I am going to do it. I got on the program and I am struggling with it. I'm working on it and I'm making some changes in my life that will make it easier for me. He said first of all, it will be 80% easier in an ultra clean environment. I had to get some stuff cleaned and straightened up, and still working on it. It is going to take me a minute.

Some of you all can do it a lot easier if stuff around you was just clean, but it is going to take you a minute. Do you know what I mean? Matter of fact, it will probably take me a couple of months to get everything ultra clean. It will take me a month just on my garage. There are some things in our lives like that. Some of you all can't invite the pastor over because you have to straighten up and put some stuff in the closet. Don't feel bad because pastor's stuff is just as bad. All of us have issues that we have to deal with. He was telling me to just basically clean up and organize your stuff a whole lot better. Some of these things people, when we truly are in communication with God, he will tell us some stuff that to be honest we don't want to hear. But if we heed it, and if we do it, it changes our blessings. And it will take us to areas that we didn't even imagine. And an ultra clean environment, he said: I am not just talking about material and clutter, I am talking about spirit. Get some of that stuff out of your heart! Your blessings will just blossom!

Number one: Anything anyone has done to you in the past, it is gone and it is over with. It is over! It really is, but you can keep it alive. It's over with! But if you harbor this stuff, it will make you sick. This is a hard saying. Pastor, it is easy to say forgive. Do you know what that rascal did to me? You don't know what they did! What do you think folk are doing today to folk, that they weren't doing in Jesus'

day? What??? What do you think folk are doing today that they weren't doing in Jesus' day? Can you think of one? Well, maybe so...back there in that day they couldn't post anything negative about you on Facebook.

So maybe there are some things that are due to technology, they might have not been able to post it on Facebook, but they could write it on the walls. Still there is nothing in principle today, that people were not doing in Jesus' day. Not one single thing, so there is nothing new under the sun.

But to make some of these changes it is a hard, hard saying. Why did they reject the Messiah? For the same reason that we reject Jesus today.

Last week, I had to make a re-dedication and a new commitment. Not to any new stuff God told me, I had to re-commit to the old stuff. Last week we had a huge flood of people come to the altar, and the message was on just going first to those who were at home and close to you. Today, I want to just ask for those who want to re-dedicate not to anything new. I said re-dedicate not to anything new, just the old stuff. No new commitments, now try to be obedient to this, no new commitments. This is stuff that you have already committed to, but you just fell out of the saddle and rolled down the hill. This is not any new stuff, please be obedient. No new stuff. See, all of the stuff God told me, you don't know how many blessings you have missed by your disobedience. None of that was new stuff. Matter of fact, it was not newer than four years, it was old stuff. This is old stuff. Stuff that you have already committed to, but you just have not stuck to it.

But yet today, you want to re-dedicate your life to the things that God has spoken into your life, either through divine word or just through natural wisdom. Stuff you know you are supposed to be doing. I really didn't need God to speak to me about getting in the bed every night by 11pm; because I know statistically if you go to bed early you live seven years longer. I knew that statistically, I didn't need God to speak it, I know it. It helped when he spoke it, but I know it. So some of you have gotten things from divine, and some just pure natural. For those of you and you want to re-dedicate your life. This is not salvation. See, God didn't tell me I wasn't going to get into heaven; he just said I didn't know the blessings that I am missing now because I am not doing it. This had nothing to do with your heaven.

Some of you all need some stuff right now; you don't need to wait to get into heaven. I want some of my stuff now, so this is right now. I want to invite those of you right now, and you want to re-dedicate your life to things you have already in the past committed to, but for one, or two, or multiple reasons you have fallen out of the saddle and rolled down the hill. God is a God of multiple chances. He is a God of grace and he is a God of infinite mercy. God gives us time and time and time and time again to get right. The sooner we get and stay right, the sooner God can open the blessings. The thing about it is this people; the same thing is with you that is

within me. He said you don't even realize the blessings you have missed. My mind cannot grasp itself around the blessings that I have missed.

And this is the way God works. That is why Ephesians 3 is my favorite verse. It says: Beyond, above, what you can even ask or think. It is beyond what I can imagine. He said you don't even know the blessings you have missed. You don't even know it. If we become obedient...because how can you be obedient to something new God is going to tell you to do? How are you going to obedient to something new, and you have not even done the old stuff yet? So this is why I didn't want anybody coming down with new stuff. This is the old stuff. Stuff you have no question about, stuff you know without a doubt you need to be doing. This is where we are. I know everyone struggles with staying on track. Even Jesus. That is why the bible says: Jesus learned obedience through the things that he suffered.

How long must we suffer? How long must we go through the pain? How long must we go through the anguish? If Jesus learned obedience through the things that he suffered, I don't know about you people, but I have suffered long enough. I don't care who you are, I don't care what you have...you are doing some suffering. I don't know about you, but I have suffered long enough. I have gone through enough pain. I have gone through enough lack. I have gone through enough frustration. I have gone through enough wondering: Lord, when is this going to end? I have gone through enough! Everyone of you has some areas like that. In every case where I know the details, you can always trace it back to we have not done what God has told us to do.

You don't even know the blessings that you have missed. Raise your hands up to God, because you are going to need his help. I just want you to repeat after me: Lord, I am tired of this. Lord, I haven't done what you have told me to do. I know it. And I know you know it. But Lord I stand before you today with a new commitment. Lord, I believe that I missed out on some blessings. And I don't even know how many, nor how great, nor how magnificent, nor how wonderful the blessings you have in store for me are. But Lord I am ready. I am determined. And though I have fallen in the past, and Lord I might –I am going to do my best not to –but I might stumble. But though I stumble, I shall not fall. I will get back up. I will get on the path. I will march with my knees high. I will take a deep breath. I will look at the goal. And I shall not quit. Lord, you can depend on me this time, because I am tired of missing out on what you have in store for me. On this day, I (put your name in here), declare that it shall be so! And so it is! In thy son Jesus' name, Amen.

I say to you in this closing word of benediction, go in the words of Jesus: Go and sin no more!