

TUESDAY

DO HIS WILL. PERIOD.

Matthew 7:1–29 or 7:15–20,24–25

ANDREW MURRAY {AD 1828–1917}

Obedience to God is such a heavenly art, so utterly foreign to our nature, and the path in which the Son himself learned it was so slow and long, that we must not wonder if it does not come at once. Nor must we wonder if it needs more time at the feet of the Master in meditation and prayer and waiting—in dependence and self-sacrifice—than most people are ready to give. But let us give it.

In Christ Jesus heavenly obedience has become human again. Obedience has become our birthright and our life-breath. So let us cling to him, let us believe and claim his abiding presence. With Jesus Christ who learned obedience as our Savior, with Jesus Christ who teaches obedience as our Master, we can live lives of obedience. This is a lesson we cannot study too earnestly. His obedience is our salvation; in him, the living Christ, we find it and partake of it moment by moment.

Dallas Willard

Whatever the ultimate explanation of it, the most telling thing about the contemporary Christian is that he or she simply has no compelling sense that understanding of and conformity with the clear teachings of Christ is of any vital importance to his or her life, and certainly not that it is in any way essential. We—including multitudes who have distanced themselves from any formal association with him—still manage to feel guilty with reference to those teachings, with a nervous laugh and a knowing look. But more often than not, I think, such obedience is regarded as just out of the question or impossible . . .

Individual Christians still hear Jesus say, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock,” standing firm against every pressure of life (Matthew 7:24–25). How life-giving it would be if their understanding of the gospel allowed them simply to reply, “I will do them! I will find out how I will devote my life to it! This is the best life strategy I ever heard of!” and then go off to their fellowship and its teachers, and into their daily life, to learn how to live in his kingdom as Jesus indicated was best.

reflection

1. How can you tell if a person really is a genuine Christ-follower?
2. What does your effort at obeying God reveal about your faith?
3. What does it mean—spiritually speaking—to build your house on a rock?

For your next devotional reading, go to page 1086.