



Bethel South Sermon Notes – “Yes, Lord.”

Speaker: Ps Mike Gowans

Series: Awesome God

Scripture: John 14:15, 1 Samuel 15, James 1:22–25, 2 Kings 5:1–14

Main Idea

The fear of the Lord is revealed through obedience. Following Jesus means surrendering our preferences, trusting His Word, and choosing to say “**Yes, Lord**” even when His instructions are difficult or don't make sense.

The Battle With Self

The fear of the Lord isn't about being afraid of God. It is living with reverence and awe, hating what is evil because we love God and desire to please Him.

One of the greatest obstacles to this kind of life is **our love of self**.

We naturally want:

- **What feels good.**
- **What makes sense to us.**
- **What is comfortable.**
- **What fits our preferences.**

But eventually, following Jesus will bring us to a moment when **what we want and what He wants are different**.

Those moments reveal who is truly Lord of our lives.

Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, surrender our preferences, and trust Him enough to say:

“Yes, Lord.”

1. Obedience Is God's Love Language

Jesus said:

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

John 14:15

Love and obedience are connected.

We don't obey God to convince Him to love us. His love has already been freely given to us.

We obey because we love Him.

When we truly love someone, we care about what pleases them. In the same way, the fear of the Lord produces a desire to please God with the way we live.

Obedience isn't about earning God's love.

It's our response to His love.

2. Partial Obedience Is Disobedience

In 1 Samuel 15, God gave King Saul specific instructions.

Saul obeyed **most** of them.

But he spared King Agag and kept the best of the livestock.

When Samuel confronted him, Saul responded with excuses and blamed the people.

Saul's story teaches us that **partial obedience is still disobedience**.

We can fall into the same trap when we say:

“I know what the Bible says, but...”

Pay attention to whatever comes after your **“but.”**

That thing may have more authority in your life than God's Word.

Saul feared the opinions of people more than he feared God, and that fear eventually led him into compromise.

The fear of the Lord says:

If God said it, my answer is yes.

3. We Must Know the Word to Obey It

We cannot consistently obey a Word we don't know.

If Scripture is going to shape our decisions, relationships, priorities, and behavior, we have to regularly put it inside of us.

Occasional exposure to Scripture isn't enough.

We need a consistent relationship with God's Word.

Ps Mike challenged the church to spend time in Scripture **at least four days each week**.

The goal isn't simply completing a reading plan.

It's allowing God's Word to continually shape the way we live.

4. Don't Read the Bible Just for Information

Knowing Scripture and obeying Scripture are not the same thing.

We can know theology, memorize verses, understand biblical history, and still fail to become more like Jesus.

Knowledge alone can produce pride.

Obedience produces transformation.

James tells us to be **doers of the Word, not hearers only.**

Every time we open Scripture, we should approach it with a surrendered heart:

“God, whatever You show me, my answer is yes.”

Bible knowledge without obedience can simply make us more religious.

The purpose of God's Word isn't only to inform us.

It's to transform us.

5. Obey Even When It Doesn't Make Sense

Naaman was a powerful military leader suffering from leprosy.

God's instruction to him was simple but strange:

Go wash in the Jordan River seven times.

Naaman initially resisted because the instruction didn't make sense to him.

But eventually, he obeyed.

He went into the water once.

Nothing.

Twice.

Nothing.

Even after six times, nothing had changed.

But on the seventh time, Naaman came out completely healed.

The breakthrough came through complete obedience.

Sometimes we stop because we don't immediately see results.

But God's instructions don't have to make sense to us for them to be trustworthy.

You may be **one step of obedience away** from what God wants to do in your life.

Keep obeying.

Keep trusting.

Keep saying, **“Yes, Lord.”**

Final Challenge

Where have you been giving God partial obedience?

Where have you been saying:

“I know what God says, but...”

Following Jesus means surrendering our right to always understand, agree, or get our own way.

This week, make a commitment to spend time in God's Word **at least four days**.

But don't read simply to gain information.

Read with a surrendered heart.

Ask God what He wants to show you, and decide before you even open your Bible:

Whatever You say, my answer is yes.

Let Jesus truly become Lord over your desires, preferences, relationships, and decisions.

Discussion Questions

1. **Ps Mike said that eventually following Jesus brings us to a place where what we want and what God wants are different. Why do those moments reveal who is truly Lord of our lives?**
2. **Jesus connects love with obedience in John 14:15. How is obeying God because we love Him different from obeying Him because we're trying to earn His approval?**
3. **Saul obeyed most of God's instructions but compromised where God's command conflicted with what he and the people wanted. Is there an area where you're tempted to say, “I know what God says, but...”?**
4. **What's the difference between reading Scripture for information and reading it with the intention of obedience? How could approaching the Bible with “Yes, Lord” change your time in God's Word?**
5. **Naaman had to continue obeying even when he didn't immediately see results. Where in your life do you need to continue trusting and obeying God even though you don't yet understand what He's doing?**