

Becoming like Jesus in obedience (Based on Chapter 3 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Jesus wants to get us into a place where faith is possible.

Biblical Foundation

Once a man came to Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what good thing must I do to receive eternal life?" "Why do you ask me concerning what is good?" answered Jesus. "There is only One who is good. Keep the commandments if you want to enter life." ... "I have obeyed all [the] commandments," the young man replied. "What else do I need to do?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me."
Matthew 19:16-17, 21 (TEV)

When Jesus calls the rich young man to single-minded obedience, he leaves no room for compromise, no middle ground, no negotiation. He commands that the young man decide: Will you live a good life or live a God-life? What is your answer to that question?

We must do what we know we're supposed to do and, as we take each step of obedience, Jesus will reveal the next thing for us to do.

How does obedience lead to greater belief? Tell about a time when you took a step of faith not knowing exactly what God was doing?

Has Jesus ever put you in a place where a step of faith would be irrevocable, such as the young man giving away all he had (that is, he couldn't get his wealth back if he changed his mind or if Jesus wasn't able to come through with his promises)? Talk about what God told you to do.