



The Good News

August 15th, 2021

Volume 21, Issue 32

The Character of Jesus - Submission

By Michael McCleary

We know from the Bible that we are to strive to defeat sin in our lives. We are encouraged by the Hebrew writer in **Heb. 12:1-2** to “*lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...*” We also know that Jesus was “*in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*” (**Heb. 4:15**). Considering these facts, we may find ourselves asking, “How did Jesus do this? What characteristic helped Him to live this perfect life?” Out of all the characteristics that we could consider, one stands out as perhaps the one from which all others came; His willingness to submit Himself to others, despite being the Son of God.

What do we know about Jesus as a young man that might provide an example and encouragement for our young people? In **Luke 2:51**, Luke records, speaking of Jesus’ parents, “*And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them.*” In what might be an easily passed-over Scripture, we see how Jesus was “*subject*” to His parents. This term means that He was obedient to them, in subjection. Despite the fact He was the Christ, and He had just been about His Father’s business in Jerusalem, He was faithful to the command of obeying His parents and honoring them. Young people, see the example of Christ, recognizing that our parents have authority from God to take care of us and rule over us, and we have the command to be “*subject to them*”. Be as Christ was, increasing “*in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*” (**Luke 2:52**)

Looking beyond His willingness to be in submission to His parents, we also see that Jesus was willing to be in submission to the will of His Heavenly Father, even to the point of death. In **Matt. 26:38-44** Jesus, knowing He was about to be betrayed, was “*exceed*

ingly sorrowful, even to death”. He prayed to His Father three times, saying “*O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*” Despite His knowledge of the pain, anguish, torture, and shame that He was about to endure, He was willing to put Himself under the authority and will of His Father to the point that He would die for the sinners and very enemies of God who were about to murder Him. He knew that His death was the only avenue available to bring about the plan of salvation that God had ordained from the foundation of the world. As Christian people, desiring to please God in all things, we also must be willing to “put ourselves under” the authority and will of God in all areas of our lives. We must follow the example of character that Christ has given us if we hope to obtain the resurrection unto life on the Last Day.

Therefore, as we go about our business this week, let’s remember the lesson of Christ’s character of submission. Children and teenagers, be sure to obey and honor your parents, even when you disagree with them. If Christ, the Son of God, was willing to be in submission to earthly parents, so can you. Brethren, as we are out and about this week, let us remember Jesus’ words to His Father, “*...not as I will, but as You will.*” Be sure to yield to what the Father would have you do in all areas of your life, in the decisions you make, in the way you conduct yourself as an employee, parent, spouse, student, or whatever else you may be during the course of the week.