

Following Jesus

Study Guide – Submission to Authority

Main Idea: Jesus demonstrated a pattern of submission to God-given authority throughout his life.

Living like Jesus: Rather than being rebellious and self-sufficient, we should be people who submit to God-given authority. This includes submission to the Lord and his Word, submission within the family, submission to the state (when it is fulfilling the purposes of God), submission at work, and submission to other believers, including church leadership. We should be people of humility, integrity and responsibility, doing what we know is right and true as the normal pattern of life under God's rule.

Key Scriptures: In the following situations and relationships, Jesus submitted to God-given authority:

- to his role as Savior by becoming a human being (John 1:1, 14; Phil. 2:6-7)
- to his parents (Luke 2:40, 51-52)
- to baptism by John (Matt. 3:13-17)
- to the Holy Spirit (Matt. 4:1; 12:28; Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; Heb. 9:14)
- to the Father (John 5:30; 8:29; 15:10)
- to God's Word (Matt. 4:1-11; and every place in the NT where Jesus quotes the OT)
- to Jewish traditions when they coincided with kingdom purposes (Luke 4:16; Matt. 4:23)
- to God's timing (Matt. 26:18; John 2:4; 7:1-14, 30-31; 8:20; 12:23, 27-28; 13:1; 17:1)
- to his God-given mission:
 - to preach and teach about the kingdom of God (Matt. 4:17, 23; Mark 1:38-39; Luke 4:43-44)
 - to God's will (John 4:34; 6:38)
 - to the cross as God's plan (read about his struggle in Gethsemane, his arrest, trials, and crucifixion in all the Gospels)
- to God in prayer (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 6:12; Matt. 6:9-13; 26:36-46; Heb. 5:7; John 17)
- to the Jewish Law as he came to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17-18; 22:37-40; Mark 2:23-28)
- to ministry from others (Luke 7:36-50; 8:1-3; Matt. 26:6-13; John 12:1-11)
- to paying the temple tax (Matt. 17:24-27)
- to paying taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15-22)
- to God's leading to do difficult, controversial things, such as cleansing the temple (Mark 11:15-18) or debating with the religious leaders (e.g., Matt. 22-23)
- to menial tasks of service (John 13:1-17)
- to suffering (Heb. 5:8; the betrayal, abandonment, humiliation, inward struggle, physical pain and death related to the cross)

Discussion Questions:

1. After hearing some of the examples of how Jesus submitted to God-given authority, what surprises or impresses you the most about this aspect of his life? Why?
2. What are the most difficult situations for you to be submissive? What is the hardest part of the situation for you to deal with?
3. If Jesus were in your situation, how do you think he would live in submission?
4. What are some of the good things that could come from living in submission? What kind of help do you need to endure and hold out for these good things to happen?