



Scripture nugget - Obedience to God brings the greatest blessings

Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been established by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority oppose what God has appointed, and those who oppose it will bring judgment upon themselves (Romans 13:1-2).

Christ sets the example in obedience to authority. *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15).* Christ lives to do the will of the Heavenly Father (cf. John 4:34). He was obedient unto death even death in public shame. On the cross of crucifixion, a method of death reserved for the vilest of criminals in those days, Jesus said: “It is finished” before He breathed His last (cf. John 19:30). Mission accomplished. Jesus, as a Child obeyed Mary and Joseph when He was living with them in Nazareth. In accordance with God’s will, Jesus lived an ordinary life in obscurity and adhered to the Jewish tradition of learning the trade of His foster father in carpentry work before His public ministry which He began only at age thirty. By adhering to His Heavenly Father’s will and submitting Himself to the God-given parental authority of Mary and Joseph, Jesus offered more glory to God the Father than He would by conducting great miracles before the people. Thus, Jesus gives us a good example of obedience to God and to those people whom God has given authority over us.

All authority is from God (cf. Romans 13:1). Authority is part of God’s design and plan. God establishes order in human society through authority structures. Thus, there is authority in government and its agencies, authority in Church, authority in families, at work, in schools, etc. Authority properly exercised brings about protection, security and harmony. In the family, the father is given the highest authority, and the wife is to submit to her husband. The husband is to love his wife as his own body (cf. Ephesians 5:22, 28). Children are to obey their parents (cf. Ephesians 6:1). When the proper authority structure is not respected and practised, the family will experience vulnerability as they cannot receive the full extent of God’s blessings, and will be exposed to evil such as infidelity by a spouse, and rebellion, or other wrong doings by the children. Legitimate authority whether in family, Church or society should be obeyed unless it violates a higher law of God. Christ submitted to the civil authority of the arrogant Pontius Pilate, a Roman governor and accepted his death sentence by crucifixion but reminded him: *You would have no power over Me if it had not been given to you from above (cf. John 19:11).*

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, on You alone, God the Father has bestowed the greatest authority and power because You have always been obedient to His will. God has demanded of us only one thing: trustful and unquestioning obedience to His divine authority. Teach me to love and embrace God’s will like You do. Give me the humility to submit to the proper authorities above me and the grace to exercise authority with care and compassion to those under me. Thus, in this way, we may enjoy God’s greatest blessings on earth and in heaven. Our filial obedience to God’s commandments is the strongest proof of our ardent love for and allegiance to Him. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.