



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



lent



Obedience



lectionary
 reading

Cycle A

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Lectionary # 38

Reading I: Isaiah 50: 4-7

This particular section of the Book of the prophet Isaiah is often referred to as the third of the four *Servant Songs*. Isaiah, the servant, remains **obedient** and faithful to the task of being God's mouthpiece even in the midst of suffering, violence and humiliation. He does not reject the vocation God has given him. In fact, he submits to the degradation because he is loyal to God's calling. Isaiah finds his strength in being **obedient** to God in all things.

Reading 2: Philippians 2: 6-11

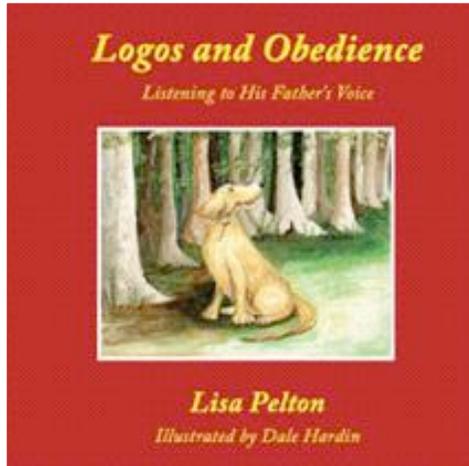
Saint Paul is encouraging the community at Philippi to be imitators of Christ. As Saint Paul does in all of his letters to the various communities he has established, he prays that each of the communities overcome any lack of unity. This becomes the introduction to what is known as the Philippian's hymn. A hymn that acknowledges the **obedience** of Christ to the will of the Father. Obedience, then, becomes the theme of being a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 26: 14- 27: 66

The plot to kill Jesus now involves not only the Pharisees, some of whom have been opposed to Jesus throughout his ministry, but now includes the chief priests and the elders. The leadership of the Temple wish to eliminate Jesus. They employ one of the twelve disciples, Judas Iscariot in their plot. Jesus, as an observant and **obedient** Jew is celebrating the Passover with his disciples. This meal becomes the backdrop for the coming days of his passion, death and resurrection. There are a great many events contained within this passage from Matthew, but for our purposes they focus on the **obedience** of Jesus to the Father's will. The suffering and death of Jesus becomes for us and indeed for all people, the ultimate expression of the Father's love for humanity. The expiation of the world's sin comes through the absolute **obedience** of Jesus.



children's
story



Logos and Obedience: Listening to the Father's Voice

Written by Lisa Pelton

Illustrated by Dale Hardin

Copyright 2009 Author House

ISBN-10: 1438951779

ISBN-13: 978-1438951775



character
education
activity

Obedience is a willingness to do what is required by law or rule. In this instance, obedience to God is to strive to respond to God's love by loving others and all of creation.

Logos and Obedience: Listening to His Father's Voice

Logos, an energetic Golden Retriever, learns the importance of **obedience**. Throughout the story the young pup is presented with many opportunities and is faced with making choices. Like all of us, he has the choice to listen and **obey** or to pursue his own wants and his own way. It is essentially a story about facing decisions regarding the role that obedience would play in the living a virtuous life. This captivating story of a young dog parallels the choices that children face when learning the importance of **obedience**. Through this story, God's principles and God's love is demonstrated as Logos learns the lesson of why it is important to **obey**.

Activity

Step One: Assemble some very dull and tarnished pennies. Tell the students that you are going to try to clean them and make them bright and shiny. Share with the students that you read somewhere that vinegar can restore the shine to pennies. Dip a cotton ball in the vinegar and rub the penny. You'll see that result is not what you expected and show your disappointment. Then tell the children you realized that you forgot that salt was supposed to be added to the vinegar and that the salt and vinegar together would do the trick.

Step Two: Provide each group of students with 1/4 cup of white vinegar and 1 teaspoon of salt in a container. Have the students stir the mixture until the salt dissolves in the vinegar. provide the students with tarnished and dull pennies. Have the students place the pennies in the vinegar and salt solution. Within moments they will see the pennies becoming shiny. Now comes the explanation: We are like the vinegar and the salt is like the Holy Spirit. We can try to be obedient on our own but it is hard to obey when trying to do it on our own. It takes the help of the Holy Spirit for us to be obedient.

Step Three: Once the pennies have been returned to their shiny state give one to each of the students as a reminder that when they are **obedient** they "shine" in God's eyes.

**Obedience involves
doing what is right--all
the way, right away
and with a willing
spirit.**



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

In the Gospels we often see Jesus move into periods of prayer with the Father. Jesus is always wanting to follow the will of the Father and seeks to always be **obedient** to the Father's will. Enter into a conversation with your parents and ask them if they can identify an area where they have seen a pattern of your disobedience. Once you have talked about this, ask them for help in learning how to be better in that particular area. This can be a real challenge because we all have areas of weakness and sometimes its hard to face up to them. However the only way to get over a weakness is to face it head on and figure out, with the help of others, how to improve.

After you've done this you might ask your parents if there was an area in their childhood in which they found difficulty in being **obedient**. Then you might ask them how they learned to be more obedient and who and what helped them to improve.

Look Feel Know Act

Obedience to rules and regulations is so important for life to run smoothly. Rules are made to keep people safe. Think of this: what if no one obeyed stop lights or stop signs? Can you imagine the number of accidents that would occur? Think of the importance of other rules and laws and how they keep you and others safe.

Try to look at all the commandments which God has given us and see how they are given to us for exactly the same reason; to keep us and others safe and to make life flow smoothly in our relationships with God and with others.

Throughout the Gospels we encounter Jesus always responding to the will of the Father. On various occasions Jesus has to make choices. Never does he do so without entering into prayer with the Father. In *Logos and Obedience, Listening to the Father*, we meet a young Golden Retriever who is also presented with all kinds of choices. Throughout the story he learns the importance of listening and being **obedient**.

Pray that you will seek to follow Jesus' example and always wish to do the will of God the Father each and every day. Ask the Holy Spirit who dwells within you to remind you to pray daily to be obedient to God's loving will.



**closing
tool**



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

www.scu.edu/character