

Listen, watch, or read the sermon on the website if you missed it.

Ice Breaker: What are some of the distinguishing traits of people in your family? Give examples of recurring interests, unique talents/habits that mark your family.

1. Nathan explained that obedience is the first mark of a true Christian. (v 121; 126-127)
  1. Read the following passages: Deut.12:28; 1 Sam 15:17-23; John 14:12-15, 15:8-10; Acts 5:27-32; Heb 13:17.
  2. Why is your obedience so important to God? To you?
  3. What are some of the reasons that we are prone to do things that God has commanded us not to do? Give some examples of your struggles with disobedience to God's commands that is fitting to share with the group.
  4. What about the difficulty of disobedience to the good things that God has commanded us to do? Give some examples.
2. When you disobey God does it really bother you? If so, why? If not, why not?
  1. What changes in habits of obedience need to occur in your life?
3. Another mark of a follower of God is reliance on Him and on His timing (v 126).
  1. Describe a time when you did not wait on God and later wished that you had.
  2. As you reflect on it, what are some of the reasons that may have influenced you to act prematurely?
  3. Read Isa 40: 25-31. What does this passage reveal about God? About us?
  4. Read Psalm 27:13-14. What's required of us to be resolute in waiting for the Lord to act?
  5. Read Acts 1:6-8. This verse is about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, but how does it help us to take confidence of God's response to our desire for Him to act?
  6. Read Gal 6:8-10. How does this passage encourage us to "wait" on God in the "long haul" of our lives on earth?
4. Dependence on God's steadfast love toward us is another mark of a follower of God. (v 124)
  1. What is the meaning of God's "steadfast love" in the Scriptures?
  2. How does God's steadfast love toward you, affect your affection of Him? Does your faith reflect this? If so, how? Your obedience? If so, how?
5. In Nathan's message, he challenged us—the Church—to make "an intentional and definite decision to follow God." How can we do this? (v 128)
  1. Read 1 John 2:15-17. What future hope do we have about the enticements of the world? How should that affect us now?
  2. Read Rom 12:9. What should be our attitude about the sinful pleasures of this world? What areas or habits of your life should you be resolute to begin hating?
  3. What other decisions, if made, will help you be a more loyal follower of God?