

The Value of Obedience

[John 14:23](#)

[John 14:23 \(NASB\)](#)

²³“Jesus answered and said to him, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”**

Despite his years of fishing experience, Peter returned from a night’s work with nothing to show for it. The Lord’s request to let the nets down one more time perhaps struck him as unreasonable—after all, Peter and his partners were the professionals. Nevertheless, he complied, and his obedience blessed many.

Scripture demonstrates that divine plans often defy human logic. For instance, who would design a battle strategy that involved only marching and shouting? God told Joshua to conquer Jericho that way, and doing so proved successful ([Joshua 6:1-5](#)).

[Joshua 6:1-5 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in.

²The LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king *and* the valiant warriors.”

³“You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days.”

⁴“Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.”

⁵“It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people will go up every man straight ahead.”

Moses is another example. When he felt unsure about his leadership potential, the Lord gave reassurance in an unusual way—by telling him to throw down his walking stick. When Moses obeyed, God powerfully confirmed His choice of a leader ([Exodus 4:1-3](#)).

[Exodus 4:1-3 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Then Moses said, “What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say? For they may say, ‘The LORD has not appeared to you.’”

²The LORD said to him, “What is that in your hand?” And he said, “A staff.”

³Then He said, “Throw it on the ground.” So, he threw it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it.”

Our Father may ask us to do something that seems illogical—perhaps to accept more responsibility when we were hoping to reduce our workload, to leave a position that He provided just recently, or to take on an assignment for which we feel ill-equipped. His plan might feel unrealistic in view of our age, stage of life, or health concerns. We must press forward in obedience, regardless of how impractical the request may appear.

To grasp the importance of obeying, think about children receiving instructions from parents or teachers. Careful listening is needed for the task to be done safely and properly. Some steps may seem pointless, but the rationale often becomes clear later. Always make obeying God your priority.