

**Monday, May 6** – *“He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:8)*

Humility is the opposite of where most of us live. We kick and scream, stretch and cry for our voice to be heard, for our opinion to be validated and for our way to win. We live as if the world and everyone in it owes us something. And let's not even begin to talk about the “O” word – obedience. This is something our dogs must be and if they aren't we will take them to special classes in order to learn to be. Obedience is something for someone else to be as opposed to our personal relationship design with God Almighty. Yet, this is the example that Jesus has given us to follow. So, your mission for today, if you chose to accept it, is to be humble and obedient. Feel free to Google the definitions!

**Tuesday, May 7** – *“And he has put all things under his feet and made him the head over all things for the church.” (Ephesians 1:22)*

Jesus is the head, the source, the inspiration, the motivation and the example for us as the church. Who are we called to be as a church? Look to Jesus. What are we called to do as a church? Look to Jesus. How are we to make decisions as a church? Look to Jesus. Now we can disagree about many things, but we can never disagree about Jesus and his position in the church. God has given us to him and him to us in order to be all that he intends us to be. Only through Jesus can we discover our identity. Thus, only through Jesus can we discover what we are to do. God has put all things under his feet, including us and made him head over all things, including us. Isn't it time we started living like it?

**Wednesday, May 8** – *“He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:17)*

This passage speaks of Jesus and how all things “hold together” in him. Notice how all things don't hold together because of him or how all things don't hold together because that is what he commands all things to do. All things hold together because all things are wrapped up in him. Do you want your marriage to hold together? Make sure it is in Jesus. Do you want your family to hold together? Make sure it is in Jesus. Do you want this church to hold together? Make sure it is in Jesus. Jesus isn't our glue or a magical incantation, Jesus is part of every fiber of our being. He is in us and through us and is us. Your question today is if you are willing to put yourself in him and trust that he will hold all things together.

**Thursday, May 9** – *“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’” (John 20:21)*

A disciple is someone who is being taught and an apostle is someone who has been sent. Now an apostle never stops being a disciple, but a disciple can never be an apostle if they are never sent. It took three years and at least one internship for the disciples to be ready to be apostles. Nothing good happens overnight and anything worthwhile is never easy. We get the benefit of learning from the three years that the disciples were taught by Jesus. We have been sent and Jesus' presence has been promised. Now it is time for each one of us to take a step in faith and to go. One of the problems that we face in Christianity is a lack of movement. We use every excuse in the book to avoid going. No more excuses. You have been sent by Jesus and Peace will be with you. Now go!

**Friday, May 10** – *“The Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.” (Matthew 16:1)*

The Pharisees and Sadducees were looking at the most profound sign from God and they were asking that sign for a sign. It is rather comical, but aren't we all like that sometimes? We ask God for a sign after everything that has already been revealed to us. If you are looking for a sign today, consider it done because you have received everything that you need. (Or you could simply consider this devotion as your sign!) I know none of us want to “test” God. I know all of us want to “believe” God. So, our prayer for this weekend is for God to help us with our unbelief. No more tests. Let us be bold and live in faith.

## Undeterred

Persevering with \_\_\_\_\_ despite \_\_\_\_\_.

What can we learn from Jesus in this moment?

1. It's not always about \_\_\_!

2. If it was \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_ would be doing it!

3. Keep on \_\_\_\_\_ !

We are moving from a \_\_\_\_\_, someone being taught, to an \_\_\_\_\_, someone who has been sent.

Don't worry, this life is a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_!