

Reflection# 3

Obedient God

Andia Bernard

Alliance University

SWK 499 Integrated Seminar NA

Dr. DeVonne Allen

February 9, 2023

### **1. Why do the authors state that "In Jesus Christ we see that God's compassion can never be separated from obedience?"**

God showed his compassion in various ways, not just by being a suffering servant in obedience. God's compassion and obedience to Jesus are inseparable. The author provides a persuasive case that God's mercy is neither vague, ambiguous, tangible, nor personal. We can call out to God even amid our grief, and He will freely open His loving arms to us in gratitude for Christ's revelation of God's whole heart. God compassionately stepped into the human situation of brokenness, injury, and grief brought about by Christ's entire obedience (p. 33). Our servant God, who was made weak, is the one who frees us and purifies us. Christ is an example of a leader who also serves.

### **2. How and where does Mark's gospel provide insight in the movement that exists between intimate listening and compassionate action?**

Christ is the pinnacle of obedience, which is listening to the Holy Spirit without reservation or restraint. This gesture indicates the closeness of the two people. When Jesus refers to God as "Abba," His Father, He is paying close attention. Obedience implies a loving relationship instead of one based on fear (p. 34). The compassionate God is the one who serves with both compassion and obedience. When obedience and service are not combined, the heart rises to spiritual stardom. Therefore, we must comprehend how God's intimate listening and unwavering love relate to Jesus' compassion. The book of Mark serves as an illustration of attentive listening and kind action. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mk 1:35 NIV). Jesus stood up to pray, demonstrating His attention to His Beloved Father and seeking a secluded place to engage in intimate communion with His Father. This movement also shows how Christ's

sermons in the nearby towns represent His relationship with His Father and how carefully He listened to His Father. "Everyone is looking for you!" "Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also." That is why I have come." (Mk 1: 37-38 NIV). Jesus shows us that he cares for us by being obedient. Jesus willingly offers His complete attention to His Father's will to fulfill His mission of obedience, even if it results in anguish and sorrow (p. 37).

### **3. What do the authors say about the "will of God" as it relates to our relationship with God and being in the world?**

According to the writers' explanation, suffering is not a part of God's will. God's will is manifest in the current moment. It is impossible to link God's will with an unfavorable circumstance, worry, tragedy, injustice, or horrifying event. God's presence and His will limit the potential for fear, apprehension, and anxiety. God always talks to us, so we must be receptive to His voice. We must permit ourselves to feel God's loving care if we want to experience it. God is our loving parent because there is nothing, he does that is not motivated by love. We cannot let our worries and pains paralyze us since there are so many fears and sufferings in the world that we live in. If we are attentive to God's benevolent presence, our hearts won't be darkened or immobilized by the pain to which we may be led (p. 42).

### Reference

McNeill, D. P., Morrison, D. A., & M., N. H. J. (2010). Compassion: A reflection on the Christian life. Darton, Longman, and Todd.

Mark 1:35-38 NIV - Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place - Bible Gateway.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%201:35-38 version=NIV>