

Living Outside Yourself

Obedience is Listening and Responding

- Obedience is hard
- Meaning: Listen thoroughly
- How is God calling you to action
- Putting on the mind of Christ

Obedience in the Rule

- Obedience is not just a subordinate to a superior
- Obedience is not what we expect of others but what we do in response to God for others.
- Different from Stability

Stability says: Stay put spiritually, mentally and physically

Obedience says: put yourself aside and pay attention

Learning to Listen

- Listen to one station at a time
- Be attentive to what is before you
- Obedience here is not martyrdom
- God is at the center

Grumbling is not welcome

- Benedict hated grumbling
- Grumbling is different from direction or correction
- Grumbling does not empower us to make changes

Obedience is to have our ear to God's heart

- Listen to his presence
- The root of obedience is surrender
- Remember your baptismal covenant

Tools to Obedience

How good a listener are you?

- 1) Since you think about four times faster than a person usually talks, do you use this time to think about other things while you're keeping track of the conversation?
- 2) Do you listen primarily for facts rather than ideas when someone is speaking?
- 3) Do you avoid listening to things you feel will be too difficult to understand?
- 4) Can you tell from a person's appearance and delivery that there won't be anything worthwhile said?
- 5) When someone is talking to you do you appear to be paying attention when you're not?
- 6) Do certain words and phrases prejudice you so you cannot listen objectively?
- 7) When listening are you distracted by outside sights and sounds?