

Monday, October 16, 2017

An employer once fired a servant because, as he put it, the man obeyed and more besides.

The employer explained, "He was continually doing things that I never told him to do." A man who heard the employer's statement, went immediately and hired the discharged man, grateful to have an employee who would go beyond his orders.

All went well for a time, until one day when the man was ordered to move some boxes from one side of the warehouse to the furnace room. The man performed well, and then, seeing that there were also boxes on the other side of the room, moved them as well. However, the 2nd pile of boxes contained explosives; as a result the factory was demolished.

Those who've tried improving upon God's commandments invariably meet with disaster.

Eccles. 3:14 I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has *so* worked that men should fear Him.

When the serpent taunted Eve in the Garden of Eden, He tested, "Did God say?" But rather than simply answering his question with God's exact command, Eve added her own little addition, "You shall not eat from it *or touch it*, or you will die." God had only said "don't eat," He didn't say, "don't touch." And Satan took that little alteration and ran with it, tempting Eve to question all that God had said.

Even Jesus declared His determination to fulfill only that which the Father had declared:

John 5:19 "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless {it is} something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

Jesus meaning was specific. "I am bound to obey exactly what the Father expects. No more, no less! I will do only what the heavenly Father is doing." If only we would practice that same single-minded obedience.