



[Teaching Note: I was trying to give the idea that sometimes people leave us hanging with an event or an answer and we tend to just wait for a response. You can use my examples below or you can make up your own]

Sometimes you message someone on Insta or Snapchat or iMessage, and you can see it says they read your message, but then they never respond. That's cold.

Have you ever been left on read?

You text someone looking to get something and they just leave you hanging?

- You try to start a conversation with a friend? Literally just had someone tell me last night that I am awful at getting back to him. You just text me at the worst times.
- You try to say hi to a crush to see if something is up. Nothing.
- You ask a friend in class about homework that is due tomorrow because you have ZERO clue what is happening. Crickets.
- And the worst one, you ask your parents to bring you home some food on their way home and "they didn't see it" or they just leave it and tell you, "We have food at home."
- My mom asked me where we are going on Mother's Day and I said exactly that. Going out? We have food at home. Got her!

How does it feel to be left on read? Pretty awful. Doesn't seem like that person really values the relationship does it?

What if I told you we leave God on read all the time?

- God is speaking to us and we don't respond.
- He writes to us in His scriptures, no response.

Think about it.

- If you are a Christian, you read the Bible and you don't do what it says. You're leaving God on read.
- If you call our church home and you hear a sermon weekly, and then you leave as if you didn't hear anything and you don't change a thing about how you live. You're leaving God on read.
- Maybe this whole church thing is new to you, and people not living up to what God teaches (leaving God on read) is the reason you don't like church in the first place.

When we leave God on read, this is what it means in the simplest sense:

We think it's better for us to rebel than to obey.

It's our choice to obey God or rebel against Him.

- Some begin to think that obeying Jesus is too restrictive.
- They believe it does not allow them to live how they think they should live.
- They believe that rebelling against what He says leads to something significant in their lives because they know better than He does.

Here's the truth: obedience leads to a more fulfilled life.

I want to read a passage talking about one of the first times rebellion and disobedience happens in the Bible, and the lessons from this event.

The stories of the first act of worship in human history and the first murder are recorded in Genesis chapter 4. The act of worship — Cain's and Abel's offerings — follows the account of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, their disobedience to God, and the entrance of sin into the human race. This is the immediate story after this. Death, the judgment pronounced upon them by God, soon made its entrance in the first family.

Genesis 4:2-7 NLT

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