

# OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN

## ACTS 5

Text: Acts 5:29

(Acts 5:29) "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

Introduction:

The demands of the Christian life are not optional, they are mandatory. Even love to God is legislated. Jesus commanded, "...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment" (Mark 12:30). This is not popular preaching in an age of compromise and complacency, but is nonetheless the heart of our gospel.

For the believer, there are certain things that he ought to do. Failure to comply is sin, for the Scriptures insist that "...to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).

We can see in our text another ought. "Men ought to obey God rather than man."

I believe that this truth, if obeyed and practiced would turn the world upside down.

Notice:

## **1. THE PRINCIPLE OF OBEDIENCE (1 SAM 15:1-23)**

- A. God demands obedience.
- B. God deserves obedience.

## **2. THE PROMISE FROM OBEDIENCE (JER. 7:23, 11:4)**

(Jeremiah 7:23) "But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."

(Jeremiah 11:4) "Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God:"

- A. Way will be well

### **3. THE PRICE OF DISOBEDIENCE (JER. 12:17, JER. 10:18 ROM 2:8-11)**

(Jeremiah 12:17) "But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD."

(Jeremiah 18:10) "If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."

(Romans 2:8-11) "But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, {9} Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; {10} But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: {11} For there is no respect of persons with God."

- A. Nations will be destroyed.
- B. Bad will come.
- C. Tribulation and anguish

## **4. THE PERCEPTION OF OBEDIENCE & DISOBEDIENCE (GAL 5:7)**

(Galatians 5:7) "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"

- A. People can see when you are running well.
- B. People can also see when you not running well.

## **5. THE PRECAUTION OF DISOBEDIENCE (2 THESS. 3:14)**

(2 Thessalonians 3:14) "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."

- A. Note the disobedient one.
- B. Have no company with them.

## **6. THE PRACTICE OF OBEDIENCE**

- A. Salvation

(2 Peter 3:9) "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is

longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

## B. Baptism

(Acts 2:41) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

(Acts 8:12) "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

## C. Read your Bible

(2 Timothy 2:15) "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

## D. Faithful to Church

(Hebrews 10:25) "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

## E. Persistent in prayer

(1 Thessalonians 5:17) "Pray without ceasing."

(Luke 18:1) "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;"

#### F. Soul winner

(Mark 16:15) "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

(Proverbs 11:30) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

#### G. Separation

(2 Corinthians 6:17) "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

## **7. THE PRODUCT OF OBEDIENCE (ACTS 5:29)**

(Acts 5:29) "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."

#### A. Healthy development (Acts 5:42)

(Acts 5:42) "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

#### B. Holy dedication (Acts 5:32)

(Acts 5:32) "And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

#### C. Happy discipleship (Acts 5:41)

(Acts 5:41) "And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name."

Close:

It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibility of not doing it. Let's desire, as well as determine to "Obey God rather than men."