

Hey Blockhead!

Acts 5:14-29

14 Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. **15** As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. **16** Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

The Apostles Persecuted

17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, **were filled with jealousy.** **18** They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. **19** But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. **20** "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

21 At **daybreak** they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. **22** But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, **23** "We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside." **24** On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, **wondering what this might lead to.**

25 Then someone came and said, "Look! **The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.**" **26** At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use

force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

27 The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. **28** “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. **“Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”**

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!

I. How do you make decisions?

II. What does the Bible say about obeying God?

A. We have a Biblical Example: “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

B. We have Sowing and Reaping: Galatians 6:7 says, “Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

C. There are examples of Disobedient Biblical Characters: The Bible says, “**Be sure - your sin will find you out**” (Num. 32:23).

Imagine how different the stories in Scripture would be if man knew what disobeying God would cost:

1. Adam and Eve would never have eaten the forbidden fruit.

2. The nation of Israel would have chosen to fight for the Promised Land the first time around instead of wandering 40 years in the desert.

3. After seeing Bathsheba bathing, David would have turned away and walked back inside.

4. Jonah would have willingly traveled to Ninevah to preach the Word of God.

D. Lets look at Faithful Biblical Characters: The Lord rewarded those who were willing to follow His commands:

1. Noah was asked to build a boat

2. Moses, a desert nomad, had to appear before Pharaoh, the leader of a powerful civilization, and demand freedom for the Israelites.

3. Joshua was told to march around Jericho for seven days instead of relying on the military tactics he knew.

4. Nehemiah boldly asked the Babylonian king for supplies to rebuild Jerusalem

5. While in captivity, Daniel and his three friends refused to eat meat because it was not prepared according to Hebrew dietary laws.

6. Peter and the apostles refused to stop preaching about Jesus, even though they were threatened with flogging and imprisonment.

These are examples of Faithful Biblical Characters

E. What are our Requirements? As believers, we must:

1. Believe that God is sovereign—He controls all things at all times Ps. 103:19. ¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his

kingdom rules over all.

2. Trust that He will work for our good in every situation and circumstance Rom. 8:28. ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who_[a] have been called according to his purpose.

3. Love the Lord. The Bible says we show our love for Him by obeying His commands 1 John 5:3 ³In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. We do this all of the time NOT just when they are convenient and desirable.

4. Listen to Him. Exodus 15:26 The Lord said to Moses to tell the people, “If you **listen** carefully **to** the Lord your **God** and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention **to** his commands and keep **all** his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you. Even when you pray, make time to hear what He has to say.

5. Be courageous. Obeying God takes courage because following His will often leads to conflict. **You must be willing to do what is right** at all costs. **Joshua 1:7** “Be strong and very **courageous**. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Joshua 1:18 Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and **courageous!**”

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and **courageous**. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

6. Fully surrender to Him and His will.

F. What are the Results of Obedience

1. You will experience **personal victory** if you follow His will, even if the world does not consider you a success. **Psalm 20:5** - May we shout for joy over your **victory** and lift up our banners in the name of our God. May the Lord grant all your requests.

Psalm 20:6 Now this I know: The Lord gives **victory** to his anointed. He answers him from his heavenly sanctuary with the victorious power of his right hand.

Josh. 1:8 ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

2. Obedience leads to **supernatural peace and joy** in every circumstance. **Romans 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace** as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. **Spiritual growth and maturity** results when believers continue to walk with God in the midst of suffering. **Ephesians 4:1** [*Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ*] As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Warning Against Falling Away

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time

you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Applying the lesson of obedience to our lives?

1. God may ask you to do something that doesn't make sense from a human perspective.
2. The Father may lead you to give up a hobby or donate a valuable item.
3. Has he ever placed it upon your heart to financially give or support something.
4. How about this, the Lord might want you to serve in a local church or take a new role or leadership role although you feel inadequate.

As Christians we should have a strong, passionate desire to obey God. Samuel 24:6 ⁶He said to his men, "The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord's anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the Lord."