I HEAR, I OBEY

Obey the voice of God completely, above the voice of man.

KEY POINTS

- After Solomon's death, the kingdom was divided: Judah under Rehoboam, Israel under Jeroboam. Jeroboam did not want his subjects going to the temple in Jerusalem for the required feasts, fearing they would return to Rehoboam.
- He then made two golden calves, told Israel that they were the gods that had delivered them from Egypt, and built altars in Dan and Bethel to sacrifice to them (1 Kings 12:26-29).
- God's response to these actions can be found in 1 Kings 13:1-32, where a prophet heard a strong word from the Lord and was willing to deliver it to Jeroboam.
- Having obeyed the Lord and having delivered the message, the Lord vindicated the prophet by performing the sign He had promised. God then performed a second sign—to protect His prophet from arrest, He withered the king's hand (vv. 4-5).
- The king then entreated the prophet to ask the Lord to heal him, and God performed a third miracle by answering the prophet's prayer (v. 6).
- It was abundantly clear to all that this prophet was indeed a man of God on a divine assignment.
- God had also called the prophet to an increased level of sacrifice and consecration as he did this work for the Lord.
- God instructed him to fast throughout this assignment, which included an approximately 15 km journey from Judah to Bethel.
- After delivering God's message, he was to head back home using a different route, still fasting.
- Word of what the prophet had done had reached the ears of an older prophet who dwelt in Bethel. He wanted to meet the younger man and had his sons prepare a donkey before heading off to find the prophet from Judah (vv. 11-14).
- The older prophet invited the younger one to come to his home for a meal. But the younger prophet declined, saying, "…I have been told by the word of the LORD, 'You shall not eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by going the way you came'" (vv. 16-17).
- This is the third time in the text where the Judean prophet has stated the Lord's command to him.
- The older prophet then lied, saying *he* had heard a word from the Lord telling him to invite the younger prophet to his house for a meal.

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Kings 12:26-29, 13:1-32; Galatians 1:8

- And the younger prophet believed him and followed him, disobeying the word of the Lord (vv. 18-19).
- This disobedience was totally uncalled for. The old prophet was a perfect stranger to the younger man, yet he chose to obey him rather than obey God!
- As a result, judgment and death came swiftly, with the older prophet prophesying how the younger prophet would die (vv. 20-32).
- What are the lessons we should learn?
- If the word of man ever contradicts the word of God (primarily His written word), do not follow the word of man.
- We must be able to recognize the voice of God for ourselves, and obey His word, whatever the cost.
  - Know the voice of God. God speaks to us, and we need to hear His voice above all other competing voices.
  - Obey the voice of God. He reserves the right to call us to do unusual things for Him, and it may come at the cost of a higher level of personal consecration.
  - Do not allow the voices of strangers to cause you to disobey God. Continue to obey God's specific call to consecration in your own life. Do not willfully put yourself in place of God's disapproval and/or judgment.
- Hear the voice of God. And obey.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. How are you able to differentiate the voice of God from the voice of others?
2. What are some of the things that God has shown/told you that you feel comfortable sharing?
3. Having heard from the Lord, what was your response and what was the result? (Did you immediately obey, have to be prodded, or disobey?)

Prayer Time

Lord, I want to obey Your every word. Help me to hear and recognize Your voice, give me the strength to do Your will. Amen.

L.G. ice-breaker: When you were a child, did you tend to be obedient, or disobedient? Share an anecdote (or two) to illustrate.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

(Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS