



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Moving out of the Carnal... By Antish

READ: JEREMIAH 18: 1-6

- **J**eremiah 18 was revealing a serious issue of disobedience of the God's people.
- Last time I was stating how the carnal represents a great impediment to obedience. The resistance of the clay signifies it is not ready to be turned into what the Potter wants to draw from it. This is an example of the carnal operates. When there is no inclination of the heart to shift away from the carnal, there is no way a life can be transformed into a vessel of honor for God. So here God is highlighting the great importance of OBEDIENCE he requires of his people because obedience is the only way to move ourselves from the carnal to the spiritual.
- Several things are important to be known about Obedience:
 - **1. Obedience is crucial for the will of God to be accomplish on earth in men's lives.** Remember that the aim of heaven for your life, is to transform you into a vessel of glory for His service. Only on the road of obedience can we move from the carnal to the spiritual. Paul showed the great gulf that exists between the two.
 - Romans 8: 6-8 : The mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind of the flesh is hostile to God: It does not submit to God's Law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God.
 - 1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. It is important to grow spiritually, moving from the carnal posture because only there can we UNDERSTAND God ... and WALK WITH GOD...
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
 - **2. Obedience requires that you stop on your track in order to catch the voice of God.** Sometimes His voice will pass your ears and hearts you are are running on your own agenda, your own plans, your own destinations... God may bring the world around you to an ABRUPT stop in order that you decide to turn your ears away from yourself and other things and hear what he is saying. He wants you to TURN YOUR FEET BACK TO HIM. David thought about God's ways and made the turn...
 - Psalm 119:59 I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.
 - **3. Obedience is the real sacrifice ... of Love.** The evidence of love is in your obedience but when love is NOT ENOUGH... DISOBEDIENCE will prevail. Your life is assessed by your LOVE FOR GOD, not by your agenda on earth. It is impossible for God to change a disobedient christian. What does Disobedience stand for?
 - Disobedience is a manifestation of UNWILLINGNESS... It is a RESISTANCE and reveals that the LOVE OF SOMETHING, SOMEONE OR YOURSELF is more powerful than to love God. Disobedience is treated as a mark of AFFRONT ON GOD'S AUTHORITY.
 - Spurgeon said this: *Disobedience to the gospel is, also, an act that contains the concentrated essence of rebellion against God. It is 'to slight the motive, the wonderful love, of the God who sends it (His Word) to us.*
 - Disobedience is to put God aside and to do as one wishes EVEN if that may offend God. IT IS A LACK OF CARE. Jesus said this: **"If you love Me, keep My commandments".** (John 14:15) In Deuteronomy 5:10 , God said: *He shows mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 25

4. God called the Disobedience of His people as a 'provocation to His jealousy'

God did not show his anger when the people were following the Egyptians' gods in Egypt, He showed pity and mercy. He sent Moses to deliver them because his people were in ignorance and in darkness... He came to save...

But in the wilderness, he demonstrated his wrath because the people knew Him, saw Him and experienced Him. They were no more ignorant. Although they knew, they resisted... This is serious because it is called to provoke God.

- *Deuteronomy 9:7 "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the Lord your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the Lord.*
- *C.S Lewis said this: It is a very serious matter to provoke God's wrath and trigger His judgment upon our lives. But even in the midst of His chastening blows, we can still forsake our sins and return to the Lord, who is willing to forgive, restore and bless.*

5. **Loving God means you are READY to lose, for God to win, ready to endure, for God's justice to prevail.** READY to wait, for God to have his purpose done, READY to be disciplined for God to use you as an instrument of his justice for His pleasure, READY to suffer for the sake of His name, READY to be broken, to be accused, to be rejected. This is what Sacrifice means.

In the Bible men like Noah, Abraham, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Job, Enoch, Paul... showed us what Loving God means... WHAT SACRIFICE REALLY MEANS!

- *Abraham took his son Isaac to the altar for God on Mount Moriah until God stopped him at the fulness of his obedience.*
- Noah endured in an unrighteous generation but kept obeying
- Job fell asunder when his life was utterly destroyed. *Job 1: 21-22: Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped, saying: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.*
- Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3: 16-18: *replied to King Nebuchadnezzar, "we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."*
- Apostle Paul preached intensively on OBEDIENCE. He understood the reality of living and persevering a life of obedience on earth... if not all our faith, all our spirituality will have no sense. He qualified His life as a life born to obey. *For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.* Brethren this is what real sacrifice means.

Carnally-minded people are never ready people. They are excuse-people. They negate God for themselves and they choose themselves over God. This is why carnality makes men resistant to pressures coming from God. Only spiritually-minded people endure pressures. I leave you with this last word from Henry Blackaby author of the book *Flickering Lamps* published in the US in 2015, saying this:

"Over the course of my life, I have learned some important lessons about God's power. For one, you don't need divine power if you are not obeying what God said. It doesn't take a miracle to live in disobedience!"