

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Expedience of Obedience

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 5:27 – Acts 6:1

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2277

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2021 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Many Christians are not living happy, victorious lives.
 - i) The key to living victoriously is obedience.
 - (1) Is there something that God has laid upon your heart to do that you have not yet done?
 - (2) Has God been telling you that there is a confession of sin you need to make, and you haven't yet confessed it?
 - (3) Has God been speaking to you about a gift you need to give, and you have not yet given it?
- b) In this passage in Acts, we find that the apostles had been jailed for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - i) An angel of the Lord came that night to the prison and set them free and commanded them to continue preaching the Gospel.
 - ii) The next morning, the apostles were found preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- c) Acts 5:27-29
- d) Acts 5:32
- e) The Christian life runs on two tracks:
 - i) Trust
 - ii) Obey
- f) These Scriptures in Acts will show us foundational truths on obedience that will lead us to a more joyous, victorious life.

2) ALL CAPS

- a) Obedience is a duty to be performed.
 - i) Acts 5:29
 - (1) If what men say to do and what God tells us to do contradict, we ought to obey God.
 - ii) God is sovereign and has every right to command us.
 - iii) We often get into trouble because we do not obey God.
 - iv) 1 Samuel 15:22-23
 - (1) We cannot buy God or bribe Him.
 - (2) God does not want our sacrifices; He wants our obedience.
 - (3) What is disobedience like?
 - (a) Disobedience is like witchcraft.
 - (i) When we disobey God, we are practicing a form of witchcraft.
 - 1. Disobedience puts us on the same side of the fence as Satan.
 - 2. His rebellion against the will of God is what made the devil the devil.
 - (b) Disobedience is iniquity.
 - (i) Disobedience is a clenched fist in the face of God.
 - (ii) It says, "God, not Your will but mine be done."
 - (iii) Even disobedience over a small thing is not a small issue; disobedience is always a big thing.

1. When we defy God over a small thing, that small thing becomes a big thing.
- (c) Disobedience is idolatry.
 - (i) An idol is anything we love more, serve more, fear more and honor more than God.
 - (ii) When God commands us to do something and we do not do it, it is because we have put something else before God.
- b) Obedience is a debt to be paid.
 - i) Acts 5:29-31
 - ii) Jesus Christ has done so much for us.
 - (1) He suffered, bled and died upon the cross as our substitute.
 - (2) When we look at bloody Calvary, we have no right to disobey.
- c) Obedience is a delight to be preferred.
 - i) God will not force His will upon us.
 - (1) God's will is not something we have to do but something we get to do.
 - ii) When we learn to obey, we will then learn the joy of the Christian life.
 - (1) There is no such thing as a happy, disobedient Christian.
 - iii) Acts 5:41
 - (1) Obedience and joy go together.
 - (2) It is a lie from the enemy that doing the will of God is painful and brings misery.
 - iv) 1 John 5:3
 - v) The reason many of us do not obey the Lord is because we don't trust the Lord.
 - (1) We have difficulty taking commands from a stranger we don't know.
 - (2) 1 John 4:10
- d) Obedience is a decision to be practiced.
 - i) We must decide to obey.
 - ii) God will allow us to disobey.
 - (1) God's will is not always done in everything on Earth.
 - (a) This is why the Lord taught us to pray "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done" in Matthew 6:10.
 - (b) This does not diminish God's sovereignty.
 - (i) He gives man a choice; man can choose to obey or disobey.
 - (ii) God is all-loving and all-powerful, and He allows man the freedom of choice.
 - (2) There are certain things, that by His very nature, God cannot do.
 - (a) God cannot fail. (Ephesians 1:11)
 - (i) God is omnipotent.
 - (b) God cannot do evil. (Titus 1:2)
 - (i) God cannot lie, steal, etc.
 - (ii) God is holy.
 - (c) God cannot be tempted. (James 1:13-14)

- (i) When Jesus was tempted of Satan in the wilderness, He was tempted in His humanity. He was not tempted in His essence as Almighty God. (Luke 4:1-13)
- (d) God cannot deny Himself.
 - (i) 2 Timothy 2:13
- (e) God cannot be unjust. (Romans 3:26)
 - (i) It is impossible for God to forgive sin without a sacrifice.
 - (ii) The reason Jesus died on the cross is that He might be both just and the justifier.
 - (iii) Matthew 26:39
 - (iv) God cannot overlook or bypass sin.
- (f) God cannot force loving obedience.
 - (i) God cannot make us love Him.
 - 1. Forced love is not love at all.
- (3) God cannot do the six things listed above because of His very nature.
 - (a) He is not limited in power.
 - (b) He is sovereign.
- iii) Obedience is a gift from God in that He gives us the will (He enables us to obey Him) and He works in us, but there comes a decision; He will not force us to obey.

3) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBEDIENCE

- a) Our obedience must be informed obedience.
 - i) We must know what it is that God desires us to do.
 - ii) Acts 5:17-20
 - (1) The apostles had a command from God.
 - iii) All true obedience is informed obedience.
 - (1) We must hear from God in order to obey God.
 - (2) God has never promised to bless any endeavor that He has not commanded.
- b) Our obedience must be intentional obedience.
 - i) Doing right is not merely abstaining from doing wrong.
 - (1) The apostles wanted to know the will of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) Proverbs 8:32-34
 - iii) Are you hearing God?
- c) Our obedience must be immediate obedience.
 - i) Acts 5:28-31
 - (1) The apostles immediately began preaching again once they were freed from prison.
 - ii) Procrastination is a form of disobedience.
 - iii) The best time to do the will of God is when we are aware that God wants it done.
 - (1) Understanding can wait; obedience cannot.
 - (2) Psalm 119:60

- iv) Procrastination is a form of disobedience.
 - d) Our obedience must be inflexible obedience.
 - i) We must be obedient no matter what it costs.
 - ii) We cannot compromise with obedience.
 - iii) Acts 5:33
 - (1) The apostles continued to preach even though their lives were threatened.
 - iv) Selective obedience is not obedience at all.
 - e) Our obedience must be impassioned obedience.
 - i) We should have a passion to obey the Lord Jesus; doing the will of God from our hearts.
 - ii) We should serve the Lord with joy.
 - iii) Romans 6:17
- 4) ALL CAPS
- a) The Spirit will be received.
 - i) Acts 5:32
 - ii) The Lord will not release the anointing power of the Holy Spirit upon our lives when we're living in disobedience.
 - (1) God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.
 - (2) The Holy Spirit is here to accomplish His work.
 - (3) God cannot trust some people with spiritual power.
 - iii) We will never know the release of the Spirit until we know the restraint of the Spirit.
 - iv) If we do not have Holy Spirit power in our lives, it's because we're living in disobedience.
 - b) Joy is achieved.
 - i) Acts 5:41
 - ii) We will be joyful Christians when we obey the Lord.
 - (1) Disobedient Christians are not joyful Christians.
 - c) The Gospel is believed.
 - i) Acts 5:42
 - ii) God has commanded us to share with others the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - (1) To not share Jesus is disobedience.
 - iii) Acts 6:1
 - (1) God will bless our obedience to Him.
 - iv) No matter what else we do, if we are not sharing the Lord Jesus Christ, then we are disobedient.
 - (1) We cannot all be preachers, but we can all be reachers.
- 5) CONCLUSION
- a) If God is telling you to do something, then do it.
 - i) We need to do what we're supposed to do when we're supposed to do it.
 - ii) James 4:17

- b) If you've never been saved, that obedience comes with believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c) 2 Thessalonians 1:8
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16