



Jaazaniah the  
Rechabite

The son of  
Obedience

(Jeremiah 35)



**(Jeremiah 35):** 1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, 2 "Go to the house of the Rechabites, speak to them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink."

3 Then I took **Jaazaniah** the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habazziniah, his brothers and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites, 4 and I brought them into the house of the LORD... 5 Then I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites bowls full of wine, and cups; and I said to them, "Drink wine." 6 But they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever ...

12 Then came the word of the LORD to Jeremiah, saying, 13 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Will you not receive instruction to obey My words?" says the LORD. 14 "The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment. But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me.

15 I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending *them*, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' **But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.** 16 Surely the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed Me."

17 "Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will bring on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the doom that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them but they have not heard, and I have called to them but they have not answered.'"

18 And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: '**Because you have obeyed** the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he commanded you, 19 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever."""



# St. Anthony the Great

- Benefiting from confession depends on two things (1) preparation and prayer and self examination before the confession and (2) obedience after the confession. Even if the Father of confession says one word, even if it's difficult, ... if that person has the determination to just do it, he will run his or her spiritual path, not just walk it.
- If one is faithful in his / her obedience to their father of confession, and he happens to be wrong, they're innocent and the questioning / judgment falls on the head of their father of confession.

# Our Lord Jesus Christ

- If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (Luke 9:23)
- whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:27)
- He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8)

# The good and [obedient] servant

- God does not ask us to obey things we can not obey. Faithful over little = “obeyer” of little requests. Will be entrusted over many = will be asked to obey bigger requests / instructions. ... again, mainly through our father of confession, those in authority over us.
- So as a servant and as a Christian, if I desire to do great things (to be a useful tool) for the kingdom of God, I must keep obeying.
  - If I keep obeying → the responsibilities/instructions will get bigger.
  - At any point, I choose to stop obeying, or to delay my obeying → this is the point of the limit of my effectiveness for God’s purposes and the limit of my “usefulness/greatness” in His kingdom.
- Daniel 1:8
  - “But **Daniel purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”

# What God desires most

- The Lord desires obedience more than sacrifice. (1st Samuel 15)
- The Lord desires obedience more than fasting/asceticism. (Zechariah 7)
- The Lord desires obedience more than strength.
- The greatest commandment...
  - [Obey] the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength:
    - Obedience is the mark of faith
    - Obedience is the mark of love
    - Obedience is the mark of trust
    - Obedience is the mark of humility

# Obedience that is NOT obedience

- Selfish obedience:
  - To look good in front of others
- Conditional obedience:
  - If it is convenient for me, ok, otherwise ...
  - If it makes sense to me, ok, otherwise ...
- Selective obedience (based on who or when):
  - I like my class coordinator so I will obey him/her, but not the service coordinator.
  - I “usually” obey Abouna!
- Limited obedience / Temporary obedience:
  - I will keep obeying until a certain point in time, in difficulty, in place...

Example: The painful patient.

# Sometimes obeying means saying “NO”

- A small fraction of the time, it's saying “no” to others. (Like Jaazaniah)
- a big fraction of the time is saying “no” to
  - to our selves
  - to our body
  - to our will
  - to certain thoughts from the enemy or otherwise. Etc.
- This “no” is stemming out of our “yes” to the Lord.... “submit in the lord” ... “obey in the Lord”

**(1<sup>st</sup> Kings 13):** 4 So it came to pass when King Jeroboam heard the saying of the man of God, who cried out against the altar in Bethel, that he stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Arrest him!" Then his hand, which he stretched out toward him, withered, so that he could not pull it back to himself. 5 The altar also was split apart, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign which the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. 6 Then the king answered and said to the man of God, "Please entreat the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." So the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him, and became as before. 7 Then the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." 8 But the man of God said to the king, "If you were to give me half your house, I would not go in with you; nor would I eat bread nor drink water in this place. 9 For so it was commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall not eat bread, nor drink water, nor return by the same way you came.'" 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way he came to Bethel.

11 Now an old prophet dwelt in Bethel, ... 15 Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." 6 And he said, "I cannot return with you nor go in with you; neither can I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place. 17 For 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.'" 8 He said to him, "I too *am* a prophet as you *are*, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you to your house, that he may eat bread and drink water.'" (He was lying to him.)

19 So he went back with him, and ate bread in his house, and drank water.

20 Now it happened, as they sat at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back; 21 and he cried out to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD, and have not kept the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you, 22 but you came back, ate bread, and drank water in the place of which *the LORD* said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your corpse shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.'"

23 So it was, after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, the prophet whom he had brought back. 24 When he was gone, a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his corpse was thrown on the road, and the donkey stood by it. The lion also stood by the corpse. 25 And there, men passed by and saw the corpse thrown on the road, and the lion standing by the corpse. Then they went and told *it* in the city where the old prophet dwelt.

# The reward of obedience

- All the great characters of the Bible are so because of their obedience:
  - Abraham, Noah, Daniel ...
- Those who experience God's miracles in their life are those who obey even if it's inconvenient, difficult, doesn't make sense, for a long time...
  - The widow who obeyed Elijah.
  - The blind man who obeyed our Lord and went to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam.
  - The disciples when they obeyed our Lord after fishing all night and caught nothing and when they cast the net on the right side of the boat.

# Matthew 5

- 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
- Our obedience needs to be perfect obedience; immediate, exact, as told not as how I want it!
- Obedience is a tangible way to gauge our spiritual walk.
- We need to “practice” obedience and to purpose in our heart ahead of time to obey like Daniel.



Glory be to God Forever, Amen.