

1 Kings 13:11-24 NASB95

11 Now an old prophet was living in Bethel; and his sons came and told him all the deeds which the man of God had done that day in Bethel; the words which he had spoken to the king, these also they related to their father.

12 Their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" Now his sons had seen the way which the man of God who came from Judah had gone.

13 Then he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him and he rode away on it.

14 So he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak; and he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am."

15 Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread."

16 He said, "I cannot return with you, nor go with you, nor will I eat bread or drink water with you in this place."

17 For a command came to me by the word of the LORD, 'You shall eat no bread, nor drink water there; do not return by going the way which you came.'"

18 He said to him, "I also am a prophet like you, 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.'" But he lied to him.

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

20 Now it came about, as they were sitting down at the table, that the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back;

21 and he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed the command of the LORD, and have not observed the commandment which the LORD your God commanded you,

22 but have returned and eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which He said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water"; your body shall not come to the grave of your fathers.'"

23 It came about after he had eaten bread and after he had drunk, that he saddled the donkey for him, for the prophet whom he had brought back.

24 Now when he had gone, a lion met him on the way and killed him, and his body was thrown on the road, with the donkey standing beside it; the lion also was standing beside the body.

Intro:

This prophet from Bethel invited the unnamed man of God to his home, as Jeroboam had invited him. The man of God refused, under the same reason he refused Jeroboam – that God had specifically told him to return to Judah without accepting hospitality, and to return a different way.

The prophet from Bethel gave a false word from God, trying to persuade the man of God from Judah to change his course from doing exactly what God told him.



EXACT OBEDIENCE

1. The Word

2. The Work

3. The Wage

Literal obedience to God is indispensable to those who would carry his messages.

God is exact and requires exact obedience.

I. THE WORD

A. God's Word Is Distinct.

The unnamed prophet from Judah had received distinct instructions not to eat bread nor drink water while on his divinely-commissioned errand.



B. God's Word Is Direct.

The man of God had performed God's errand bravely and well, and his words were verified by the result; but he perished as a castaway.

1 Corinthians 9:27 says, *"but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified."*

If only he had obeyed God's word, as it came directly to himself, he might have been entrusted with many similar errands.

C. God's Word Is Decisive.

God never goes back on His first instructions. God's word is **FINAL**.

Isaiah 55:11 *"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*



When God has spoken to us, let us not dare to turn aside
on the advice of others, however good they seem.

In Him is no variableness, nor shadow cast by turning.



II. THE WORK

The man of God failed, because the older man professed to speak by divine warrant and because the invitation chimed in with his own inclinations.

A progression happened:

I. Temptation: A person is lured and drawn away by their own cravings.

II. Conception: When that unchecked desire takes root, it gives birth to action, or sin.

III. Consequence: When that sin is fully realized, it leads to negative consequences or death.

Everyone is tempted by his own desires as they lure him away and trap him.

James 1:14-15 *"But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."*

Temptation originates from within, when a person is "dragged away and enticed by his own desires".

The man of God from Judah listened to the lie from the prophet of Bethel. Reasons:

- The prophet from Bethel was probably older and had the respect of the man of God.
- The prophet from Bethel identified with the man of God.
- The prophet from Bethel claimed a spectacular experience.

- The prophet from Bethel claimed to speak for the LORD.
- The prophet from Bethel did not seem to be an idolater who should be shunned.
- The prophet from Bethel offered no reward, other than simple food.

No matter how natural and seductive enticements are, it is our duty to resist them.

III. THE WAGE

God takes His Word seriously. **Psalms 89:34** *"My covenant I will not break, nor will I alter the thing that has gone out of My lips."*

Disobedience to the Word and misappropriation of the Word of God have consequences and are deadly or fatal. These happens when a Christian becomes irresponsible and begins taking the Word lightly and obeys partly.

The man of God died.

God expects **EXACT OBEDIENCE.**

Eg. King Saul.

1 Samuel 15: 22 *But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.*

God values obedience far more than religious rituals or sacrifices.

Disobedience is the common problem of man. Not because he fully disobeys, but because he partly obeys.

Moses obeyed God's instructions to build the Tabernacle exactly.

Noah obeyed God's instructions to build the Ark exactly.



The Tabernacle is a picture. The Ark is a picture. Both are pictures of Salvation.

No one can be saved except when he enters the Ark and the Tabernacle. Obedience is required to enter.

God Himself made a New Tabernacle and a New Ark and sent them to men in the form of His only Son. Jesus is not just the New Tabernacle and Ark where we should enter, but He is also our "**obedience**", the requirement to enter.



Jesus came to fulfill the law. He came to fulfill what God requires. Jesus' obedience was not partial but perfect because He obeyed even to the death on the cross.

The wages of sin (disobedience) is death, from the disobedience of Adam and Eve, to the disobedience of the man of God and to the disobedience of men, but Jesus took the wages of our disobedience, to the cross so that through His Resurrection the wage becomes a gift.



Jesus is our EXACT OBEDIENCE in our failure to obey. His obedience for our disobedience.

We need to appropriate His obedience in our lives by becoming more aware of His expectations. We didn't have the power to obey but now in Christ and through Christ we do. Our obedience starts in Christ and will continue in Christ.



CONCLUSION:

We are always tempted to obey partly. And the enemy will always make us think that it is alright. But today we learned that God expects exact obedience, like that of Noah and Moses, not partly. Noah and Moses obeyed exactly, and their obedience is put to their credit.

But we have a greater Noah and greater Moses, - Jesus, whose obedience is credited to all.