



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The High Cost of Disobedience

Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder
January 3, 2018

The disobedience of our first parents in Gen. 3, which caused them and all their children to lose paradise, exhibits the high cost of disobedience. But, because of the second Adam, Jesus, as stated in 1 Cor. 15, paradise and heaven were opened to us again. Clearly, disobedience has corresponding consequences.

In Ecc. 5:2-7, the Lord warned us against making a vow and not fulfilling it. We should fear the Lord, not because he is frightening, but because we respect Him. We should not utter promises to Him that we do not intend to do or do not have the capacity to fulfill them. It is better not to promise the Lord anything, than to vow and not fulfill it.

Examples of the High Cost of Disobedience

1. King Saul (1 Sam. 15)

- The Lord, through Samuel, instructed Saul not to spare even one of the Amalekites, but Saul did not slay them all.
- Although King Saul immediately acted, upon hearing the command of God, his obedience was not complete.
- As a result, the Lord rejected him as king (1 Sam. 15:23). Saul lost his anointing and was punished by God.
- Saul paid the high price of disobedience, for he no longer heard God in his prayers. He had to consult mediums just to hear the Lord's voice.
- Lesson: Let us not take for granted the trust that the Lord gave us, by not completely obeying Him. Though God is merciful and slow to anger, He is also a just God, who punishes and rewards.

2. King David

- David disobeyed the Lord and he paid a high price.
- David felt shame when Nathan confronted him with a story that he was referring to David.
- Though David sinned, he immediately sought God's forgiveness.
- Lesson: Though God will forgive us, let us not disobey and then apologize time and again.

In Eph. 5:1-10, St. Paul urged us to imitate him as he imitated Christ so that we may live in the light and not incur God's wrath.

Every genuine Christian comes to understand fully that we are not our own, for we were bought at a high price—the blood of Jesus. This means that we belong exclusively to God. That is why He is intensely concerned and wants to be involved in all aspects of our life.

Sometimes, the involvement of the Lord is positive, in the form of blessings. Other times, His involvement is negative. He deals with us the way loving parents deal with their disobedient children.

Sometimes, we disobey God by not submitting all our plans to Him (Ps. 16:3). We should not take any step without consulting the Lord. We must wait for Him before taking action. Acknowledge God in everything and He will direct your path. Do not rely on your own intelligence.

Once we submit everything to Him, trust that He is already working on it and we will never go wrong.

3. Jonah (Jonah 1:15-17)

- Jonah's disobedience was planned and intentional. It was not a result of thoughtlessness or carelessness.
- Not only did he plan to disobey, he also flatly refused to follow and rejected God's command, which was to go and preach to the heathens in Nineveh.
- Jonah did not just say no to God and remained at home. He put as much distance between himself and Nineveh by riding a ship.
- The Lord sent a violent storm to the sea and the ship Jonah where was threatened to break up (Jonah 1:4).
- The tragedy is that the men in the ship were forced to suffer fear the storm because of the sin of Jonah.
- When we disobey like Jonah, we, along with other people, experience the consequences. When we obey, our generations will be blessed.
- Each of us has a sphere of influence and we touch the lives of those around us either positively or negatively.

Stages of Disobedience

1. You run away from God.

- When we disobey, we are running away from God. It may not be geographically, like Jonah, for there are many ways that we can run away from God.
- Sometimes, we run away from God when we are assigned to do something. As a result, God breaks into our game plans and we suffer because He needs to get our attention in a rather abrupt and painful way.
- Instead of running away, run to the Lord as fast as you can and say, "Let it be done to me according to Your will."
- Sometimes, the Lord intentionally sends storms- His way to test our faith. The Lord intentionally sent the storm in Mark 4 to test the faith of His apostles. Sometimes, the Lord sends storms our way to make us realize that we are guilty of something so that we may repent.

2. False sense of security

- A disobedient person has a false sense of security.
- During the storm, Jonah was sleeping below deck.
- At first, Jonah was running, trying to find an escape route. Now, Jonah felt like he had successfully dealt with his troubling assignment from God. That is why he was so relaxed and slept so soundly, despite the violent storm.
- Disobedience in a Christian's life can get to the point that he becomes insensitive to wrongdoing and becomes comfortable in disobeying God. Thus, we become lepers, who feel numb.
- We feel, at least subconsciously, that we are getting by with our sin.
- Do not sleep without reconciling with God.

3. God's Instrumentality

- Something happened that ought to have been the greatest embarrassment that could possibly have come to Jonah. He had to be called to prayer by the heathens, who did not know God. The heathens asked Jonah to pray because they saw that they were being tossed about by the storm.
- Jonah prayed but he did not make any effort and the storm's intensity did not lessen.

- The heathens came to the conclusion that someone on board was guilty of some great crime for such a violent storm would not be beating down on them, if that was not the case.
- As a result, they casted lots and the lot fell on Jonah.
- When this happened, the sailors began to question Jonah. They did not do this because they doubted the lot. They did this because they wanted Jonah to confess. This was usually good and logical thinking on the part of the pagans so Jonah was cornered.
- Jonah confessed to the heathens, but not to God. The heathens became terrified and asked him what he should do to calm the sea.
- He told them, in Jonah 1:12, *"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."*
- The pagans did as Jonah said, but they showed more mercy on Jonah than Jonah on Nineveh.
- God's sovereignty was shown in Jonah's story for everything is miraculous. God's timing was a miracle.
- When Jonah was thrown into the sea, He arranged for the ship and the great fish to converge on course at that precise moment.
- The most important in this story is not the fish, but Jonah. How was it possible for Jonah to live, for three days and nights, inside the fish's belly, when he should have suffocated and died? Why was he not digested? It was because of the Lord.
- For three days, in the fish's belly, Jonah repented and asked God for forgiveness.

We can be certain that the cost of our disobedience to God is high and, ultimately, we must pay, just as Jonah paid dearly for his disobedience.

Let us promptly obey and honor God when He wants us to do something. Let us be thankful that we are the ones that He wants to use.

Prayer

May God help us learn this lesson about obedience and the high cost of disobedience before it is too late. May God grant us the heart of Jesus, who obeyed and submitted before God until death. Amen.

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Jen Ilagan
Editor: Sis. Maria Vera Tuplano
Printing Sponsor: ALTED PUBLICATION