

“Did You Hear That?”

Hebrews 13:17a

September 15, 2019

INTRO:

Let me ask you a few questions to set up our time today:

- *What do you think I'm doing here?*
- Do you **remember** last week's message/*mission*?
 - We're ALL *“offering a sacrifice of praise”*
 - *What's a pastor's to look, love, & live like?*
 - How does **mine** interact with yours?
 - How does yours **IMPACT** mine? Should it?
- Today we're going to *“begin”* to answer those...

CONTEXT:

- We're slowly but surely closing out Hebrews...
- *Hebrews EXALTS Christ & EXHORTS the Church*
- What we've learned so far, in a nutshell:
 - God has always talked to & led His people...
 - Nowadays God speaks thru Jesus
 - Jesus is **God's Word**
 - Jesus declares **God's Will**
 - Jesus demonstrated **God's Ways**
 - There was wavering & waffling in church...
 - **Beware Hebrew's 5-WARNINGS!**
 - *Drift, Disconnect, Dilly-Dally, Disobey, Defy*
 - Some Jews claiming Jesus clung to Judaism
 - Behavior = belief... Shrinking back = wrath...
 - **Jesus is LORD!**
- Ch. 1-10, 11, 12-13 = *Doctrine, Disciples, Duty*
- See: Information... Inspiration... Inspection...

T/S: Before we get started... as a contextual bridge between
into this week...

⁷ *Remember your leaders* those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

¹⁷ *Obey your leaders and submit to them...*

*See that Biblical leaders have been placed in your life to help you run **TO** the Father & **THRU** His Son Jesus Christ, so that, by His Spirit, you will **BE** and **DO** what brings God glory & spreads His gospel!*

VIDEO: "Run To the Father"

BIG IDEA: Both blessing & BE-ing **BEGIN**
with believing & obeying!

PREVIEW:

1. Exhortation!
2. Personalization
3. Delegation
4. Continuation
5. Elevation

I. EXHORTATION

***OBEY** your leaders and submit to them...*

- Obey means **DO** as told/commanded... **period.**
- Here the essence is of **faithfully following** vs. more *autocratic, forced behavior.*
- Note how **distasteful** “obey” has become...

Obedience is a dirty word to the Devil. - JDP

***Resisting obedience & rationalizing disobedience** are a matched set... like the engagement rings & wedding rings of hell. Here however, the two identifying symbols are not worn openly on the hand, but rather secretly on the heart. The first, (*resisting obedience*), serves as *Satan’s promissory note*... while the second, (*rationalizing disobedience*), validates their *consummated union in sin*... - JDP*

Beware the wolves who champion the “balancing” of resistance & rationalization! - JDP

“Reason is the Devil’s whore!” - Martin Luther

- Think about God’s *obsession with obedience*

- Obedience = **Saving Faith** (John 3:36)
- Obedience = **Great Commission** (Mt. 28:19)
- Obedience = **Love** (John 14:15)
- Obedience = **Witness** (Acts 1:8 & Phil. 4:13)
- Obedience = **Blessing** (John 3:36 again!)
- Obedience = **Evidence!** (2 Cor. 5:17-21)

Saving grace is received by miraculous repentance and faith, which produce life shaping & sanctifying love! -JDP

VIDEO: *Piper on Obedience*

T/S: Keep in mind, even your obedience is your blessing! -JDP

- **DISOBEDIENCE** *results in:*
 - The **BROKENNESS** of creation
 - The **SIN** living in our lives & our world
 - The **DECEPTION** by snakes & wolves
 - The **DESTRUCTION** of relationships
 - The **DAMNATION** of souls
 - The **CROSS** of Christ

1 Samuel 15:19-23

Why haven't you obeyed the LORD? Why did you... do what was evil in the LORD's sight?" (by disobeying). **20** **"But I did obey the LORD,"** Saul insisted... **22**...Samuel replied, ***Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering...*** **23** ***Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols.***

II. PERSONALIZATION

*Obey **YOUR** leaders and submit to them...*

- Note: *“your”* conditions prior & following words

*The call & command to obey is not an aimless, primal yelp to relieve tension... No. The word “your” points out & makes clear that God’s imperative “Obey” has an *intended audience*, and therefore, by definition, an *expected adherence*. -JDP*

- *“your”* tells who obeys & who is to be obeyed!
- *“Your”* **parallels** Ephesians 5... where women are admonished to *“submit to **YOUR** husband...”*
- *“Your”* defines relational conditions on 2 parties
~ Disciple/follower & ~ Discipler/leader

III. DELEGATION

*Obey your **LEADERS** and submit to them...*

*Before you can **BE** a true leader **FOR** God...
you must **BE** a lover **OF** God! -JDP*

- See here God's design for His people
(see Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua {Caleb & Joshua vs. Korah & 250 bad elders} + Prophets
- Shift to the N.T. to see John the Baptist, Jesus with the disciples, Paul **from** Jesus, Paul to Titus & Timothy... and now the Book of Hebrews...

A. 5 biblical (Eph. 4) THOUGHTS on “*gifted*” leaders:

- Gifts **TO** the church...
- Gifts **FOR** the church...
- Gifts **IN** the church...
- Gifts **OF** the church...
- Gifts **THRU** the church...

B. 5 biblical (Eph. 4) TYPES of “*gifted*” leaders

- **Apostle** - THUMB
- **Prophet** - INDEX finger
- **Evangelist** - MIDDLE finger
- **Shepherd** - RING finger
- **Teacher** - PINKY finge

T/S: Uniting “*obey your leaders*” and “*submit to them*”

VIDEO: *MacArthur on Wretched TV about Authority...*

IV. CONTINUATION

*Obey your leaders **AND** submit to them...*

- Conjunctions = *“Wait! There’s more... #2!”*
- Now **5 “leader commands for the disciple:**
 - *Remember* your leaders
 - *Consider* your leaders
 - *Imitate* the faith of your leaders
 - *Obey* your leaders
 - *Submit* to your leaders...

V. **ELEVATION** / clarification

*Obey your leaders and **SUBMIT** to them...*

- *Submitting* both contrasts & **compliments** *obey*
- *Obey* = COMPLY! ... *Submit* = **“STOP RESISTING”**

John 13:20

*Truly, truly, I say to you,
 whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and
 whoever receives Me receives the One who sent Me.*

While obeying can be done with your hands and your feet... biblical submitting requires your head, heart, & tongue to surrender as well! - JDP

*Just as church leaders are to rule in love and humility,
 those under leadership are to submit in love & humility.*

*Biblical submitting is **right**-hearted **AND**
whole-hearted, faithful-obedience. - JDP*

CLOSE:

*Let's be honest, the biblical call for obedience and submission creates **a convicting fork in the road** of faith... To be clear, the right/righteous way is **narrow-gated** and is protected by narrow guard-rails. By contrast, the wrong-way is both broad and downhill – seemingly more inviting, while in reality, its invitation is to **damnation**. May we faithfully **hear and heed, see and sense**, our biblical-leaders bridge-building truth in love. - JDP*

Friends...

Listen to the words of the song that we used to open last week's time of worship in the Word:

Build My Life

Jesus - the name above every other name
Jesus - the only one who could save
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you
Oh, we live for you

Holy there is no one like you
There is none beside you
Open up my eyes in wonder
Show me who you are
and fill me with your heart
and lead me in your love to those around me

Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe
We live for you... Oh, we live for you!

And I will build my life upon your love
It is a firm foundation...
And I will put my trust in you alone...
And I will not be shaken!

**You see Church... biblical leading, feeding, and
heeding all meet at the cross of Christ...**

Let's live & love there together in prayer & praise!

Prayer

VIDEO: *"Build My Life"*