

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Expedience of Obedience

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Acts 5:29-6:1

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1241

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) How many truly joyful, vibrant, and victorious Christians do you know?
  - i) There are not a lot of people who are filled with joy.
- b) What is the reason for this lack of joy?
  - i) An old song says, "Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus; but to trust and obey."
- c) Peter and the other apostles had been teaching and preaching Jesus Christ, and it caused a revival.
  - i) The civil magistrates and the religious authorities tried to stop the revival.
    - (1) They commanded Peter and the other apostles not to preach anymore.
- d) Acts 5:29-32
- e) The reason that so many Christians are not filled with joy, victory, happiness, and accomplishment in the Christian life, is because they are unbelieving and disobedient Christians.
- f) We are not saved because we obey, but we obey because we are saved.
  - i) Martin Luther said that we are not saved by faith and works, but we are saved by faith that works.
  - ii) Luke 6:46
- g) If we go to Heaven, then it will be because we trust and obey.
  - i) If we don't obey, then it is a sign that we haven't really trusted.
    - (1) James 2:26
- h) Today's message will discuss obedience, the missing ingredient in many Christians' lives.

2) THE REASONS FOR OBEDIENCE (ACTS 5:29)

- a) Peter said that we ought to obey.
- b) We ought to obey because of who God is.
- c) God is the sovereign God.
  - i) He is not a man.
  - ii) Acts 5:29
  - iii) A man may tell us to do something, and we may have some choice about it; but when God tells us to do something, we don't have a logical or reasonable choice because He is a sovereign God.
    - (1) He has every right to command His children.
    - (2) He is the God of creation.
    - (3) Jeremiah 11:3
  - iv) Because He is sovereign, there can be no refusal or rebuttal.
    - (1) There is only one alternative to obedience, and that is disobedience.
    - (2) Disobedience will bring the swift judgment of Almighty God.
      - (a) 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8
- d) God is a saving God.
  - i) Acts 5:30-31
    - (1) God loves us enough that He gave His Son to die for us.
      - (a) John 3:16

- ii) A greater reason for obeying Him is that not only is He the sovereign God, but He is also the saving God who suffered, bled, and died for us.
  - (1) The word “ought” is derived from the word “owe”.
    - (a) “Ought” and “owe” are connected.
  - (2) We obey Him because we owe it to Him.
    - (a) We are not our own; we are bought with a price.
  - (3) Acts 5:29
    - (a) It is the worst of ingratitude to fail to obey our great God.
- iii) John 14:15
  - (1) God doesn’t want us to serve Him because we have to.
  - (2) He wants us to serve Him because we desire to, and our motive is love.
- e) Why should we obey God?
  - i) Because God is sovereign.
    - (1) He is not a man.
  - ii) Because He is a saving God.
    - (1) He has saved us and redeemed us.

### 3) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OBEDIENCE (ACTS 4:20)

- a) We need intelligent obedience.
  - i) We cannot obey unless we know what it is that God wants us to do.
  - ii) Acts 4:20
    - (1) They saw it.
    - (2) They heard it.
    - (3) They were not just running around doing things for God without knowing what God wanted them to do.
  - iii) Many people are doing things for God that God does not want done.
  - iv) We must know the will of God.
- b) We need intentional obedience.
  - i) We must intend to obey.
    - (1) We must seek the will of God.
    - (2) We must want to know the will of God.
  - ii) If we don’t know the will of God, then that doesn’t mean that we are excused.
    - (1) We should know the will of God.
    - (2) We ought to intend to know the will of God.
  - iii) Every day, we should have a quiet time where we report in for orders and say, “Lord, what would You have me to do?”
    - (1) Not “Lord, what do You want others to do?”, or “What do others want me to do?”
    - (2) We should ask the Lord to do the following:
      - (a) Inhabit our humanity.
      - (b) Think through our minds.
      - (c) Smile through our countenance.
      - (d) Work through our hands.

- (e) Love through our hearts.
  - (f) Speak through our lips.
- iv) Some of us think that it is not our fault if we don't know the will of God, but we make ourselves scarce when God wants to speak to us.
  - (1) We have not reported to the Lord or asked what He would have us to do.
  - (2) Do you have a quiet time?
- v) Ignorance of God's will is no excuse.
  - (1) God will hold us accountable for what we hear.
  - (2) God will hold us accountable for what we would have heard if we had listened.
- vi) The apostles had set their hearts and their minds to do anything that the Lord Jesus wanted them to do.
- c) We need immediate obedience.
  - i) Acts 5:27-31
    - (1) While the high priest was telling Peter not to preach, Peter was preaching.
      - (a) At the same moment, Peter was preaching.
      - (b) Peter was not questioning.
        - (i) There was no reserve, no backup, and no lag in between.
  - ii) When God tells us to do something, we don't need to look around to see if the circumstances are favorable.
    - (1) We don't need to parade it past the judgment bar of our mind.
    - (2) We should do it immediately.
      - (a) Procrastination is a form of disobedience.
  - iii) We may not know why God wants us to do something.
    - (1) But God can never command us to do wrong.
  - iv) When He speaks, we must answer Him.
  - v) The reason why many of us do not have victory in our lives is because we do not answer immediately.
    - (1) We must obey the Lord.
- d) We need inflexible obedience.
  - i) This is obedience regardless of the circumstances.
  - ii) Acts 5:33
    - (1) This verse speaks about the enemies of the Gospel.
    - (2) These men's lives were in physical danger, and yet they said that they would obey God rather than men regardless of the consequences.
      - (a) Acts 5:29
  - iii) There can be no compromise with this obedience, even in the face of death.
  - iv) John Bunyan, the great preacher of the Gospel in seventeenth century England, was a non-conformist.
    - (1) He was put in prison for not registering to preach the Gospel in England.

- (2) He stayed in prison and refused to obey men rather than God.
  - (3) While in prison, he wrote the book *Pilgrim's Progress*.
  - (4) He had an inflexible obedience because God is God.
  - v) Even in the face of those who could slay them, the disciples said that they were going to obey God.
    - (1) Acts 5:29
  - e) This obedience should be an impassioned obedience.
    - i) They obeyed the Lord with great joy.
      - (1) Acts 5:41-42
      - (2) They obeyed with a burning, blazing, passionate, and emotional zeal.
        - (a) Do you have a zeal to obey God?
          - (i) Not just do you obey Him, but do you obey Him with gladness?
            - 1. Psalm 100:2
      - ii) The cause of Jesus Christ has been hurt more by Sunday morning benchwarmers than all of the unbelievers put together.
        - (1) People who just kind of drag their feet.
        - (2) They have no joy and no zest.
      - iii) We cannot be moderate about Jesus Christ.
        - (1) Revelation 3:16-17
          - (a) This is what Jesus Christ said to the church at Laodicea.
          - (b) "Spew thee out of my mouth" figuratively means, "You make me want to regurgitate."
          - (c) God would rather have us out-and-out against Him than half-heartedly pretending to be for Him.
            - (i) A man who is faithful to his wife part of the time is not faithful at all.
        - (2) We are to be out-and-out for Jesus Christ.
      - iv) We are to serve the Lord with gladness; with all of our heart, joy, and enthusiasm.
        - (1) May God forgive our half-hearted obedience to the things of God.
      - v) The disciples loved the Lord so much that the Bible says they departed from this council rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
        - (1) Acts 5:41
        - (2) Some people today believe they have done God a favor when they just go to church on Sunday morning.
    - vi) Acts 5:29
- 4) THE REWARDS OF OBEDIENCE (ACTS 5:32)
  - a) There will be supernatural power in life.
    - i) You may say, "Well, I don't have spiritual power."
      - (1) Have you been obeying God?
        - (a) Would you give the keys to a high-powered, expensive, brand-new automobile to a rebellious and disobedient son or daughter?

- (b) God will not lavish spiritual power upon rebels.
- ii) When we bring our lives into conformity with the will of God, then God releases spiritual power through us.
- iii) We will not have power in our lives unless we obey.
- b) There will be supernatural joy in the heart.
  - i) Acts 5:41
  - ii) If Jesus Christ is not real to us, then we are not obeying Him.
  - iii) John 14:21
    - (1) Don't say you love Jesus if you don't obey Him.
      - (a) That is empty talk.
      - (2) In this verse, the word "manifest" means, "I will make myself known to you", or "I will be real to you".
    - iv) The reason that Jesus Christ is not real to many people is that they are not obeying Him, and He is not manifesting Himself to them.
      - (1) Can you say, "He walks with me and talks with me and tells me that I am His own"?
      - (2) We cannot say that it is real if we are not obeying Him.
- c) There will be salvation victory in the church.
  - i) We will see souls saved in great numbers.
    - (1) God has told us to witness.
      - (a) Acts 5:29
      - (b) Acts 5:32
      - (c) Acts 5:42
    - (2) Acts 6:1
      - (a) The number of the disciples was multiplied.
  - ii) When there is supernatural power in the life and supernatural joy in the heart, there will be supernatural victory in the church.
    - (1) We will see great multitudes of people come to Jesus Christ.
- d) The majority of Christians are not obedient to the Lord.
  - i) We are not witnessing and sharing Jesus Christ.
  - ii) The only alternative for obedience is disobedience.
  - iii) Acts 6:1
    - (1) "The number of the disciples was multiplied."
      - (a) Evangelism in the average church does not even make a good addition, but it is supposed to be multiplication.
- e) The best advice that was ever given to anyone was the advice Mary gave to the servants at the wedding in Cana of Galilee when she said, "Whatever He saith unto you, do it."
  - i) John 2:5

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) We are to be witnesses, doing what God tells us to do.
- b) When we begin to obey God, then we will get back to the old-time religion and New Testament Christianity.

- a) Acts 5:29
  - i) We ought to obey God rather than men.
    - (1) He is the sovereign God.
    - (2) He is the saving God.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) 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