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**DATE: 23 MARCH 2014**

**OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE**

- This is the vision which God has given to us; that all of us that are called by His name should appear before Him in triumph. His desire is that none of us fall, but we appear before Him in the Promised Land. The vision of the Promised Land is a place flowing with milk and honey. It is a good land, a place which you are going to be happy to be there. We are looking forward to that time where we will see Him face to face.
- The journey wasn't what they(the children of Israel) expected. They met challenges along the way. When you get there you are going to find fields you did not plough, and cities you did not build. When the children of Israel got there they found giants. Imagine someone gives you a house, and says to you 'that is your house'. When you get there you find a big man with a spear. Either you walk away peaceably, or you dislodge the giant by force. The same principle applies today. This is what we are facing as children of God. The promises of God are free, but we need to exert some force in order to partake of them. There are many disappointments, challenges, setbacks, stumbling blocks that need to be overcome. The Lord says that here is the promise, be vigilant, be careful, watch every step.

**Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 10:1-10**

- God told Moses to pick people to spy the land. When the 12 came, they came with varying reports. 2 gave a good one, 10 gave a bad report. They discouraged the people. The people started to rebel against Moses and God. They told themselves, what are we waiting for, let us pick a leader who will take us back to Egypt. Moses and the 2 shall be stoned. God was not impressed. The 10 were hit with a plague and died instantly. Those that wanted a new leader and raised up rebellion, their bodies will be scattered in the wilderness and not see the Promised Land. God had already spoken. God to Moses; turn around, started wondering round and round and round the desert 40years, a journey that could have taken a few months.
- Just like the children of Israel, I do not want the Lord to be displeased with me and take His eyes off me. Perhaps it would take 40years for Him to turn back again and you might be dead at the time.
- Child, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. At that issue of obeying parents by the children, some people take it to extremes. It becomes as if the parents are God and misuse their children by doing all sorts of things, it is like they are owning their very souls and they do not do what is right. The Intention of God is benevolence towards them. If you as the parent do good to the children, the children will reciprocate by doing good to parents when they are no longer able.
- Hebrews 13:17; a message to the church collectively. Even in the church we are supposed to obey and submit to those in authority towards you. Minister of God in the house, as pastor I am the same as everyone else. The only difference is God has given a particular responsibility, if you look at the Bible, those put in authority were unqualified but God made them better people. There may have been those that were better but He chose not to use them. He takes the unqualified, and puts something within them that enable them to operate with the required authority. Unfortunately sometimes we think otherwise and abuse those in the church authority. We think we are better than them, a rebellion ensues. We are not to abuse out authority as servants of God. We should remain servants and not forget. Abuse in the

world, parents-children. Husband-wife, strong-weak, bullies in schools, government-citizens. Bottom line in whether we have bad examples of authority, in essence you are giving that respect and honour to God and He will bless you. For example, the Lord Jesus, a number of things are said about Him. He became subject to His earthly parents. Even though they knew so much more, He brought Himself down and was sent like a child. He emptied himself of divine attributes, and became like you and me, so that you do not think that he has a better advantage than yourself.

- He was obedient to earthly parents and God himself. He did not regard equality with God as something to hang onto, but He humbled himself, put divine authority aside and functioned as a human being,
- Submit to God in prayer. When picking disciples, He spent a night in prayer seeking the face of God. He became our example. He learned through obeying earthly parents. Before John the Baptist, he humbled himself, took away all of His reputation. The Lord Jesus is our example in the church. God does not treat us differently with different commandments for every person.
- If He wanted the Lord to be obedient, He also wants us to do the same.
- The history of the church is that of discovery, because people want to do their own things. What they see outside, they want it to happen in the church. Because those in authority are unqualified, we may think we are better more educated than we look down on them it might be so, but the Lord has better reasons. The Lord subordinated himself, so should we. When children submit, it is for their benefit.
- What I have, God put it there and no one can take it away. Give honour where honour is due. Sometimes we may be fooled by our abilities, education, and knowledge. God has placed us under a particular authority and we are supposed to obey that.
- The way you leave is the way you arrive. If you leave the church in anger or rebellion, when you go to the other church you will arrive with the same traits. As children of God, we have to know what the scripture says. We reap what we sow. There is no favouritism. God has a single instruction for all of us. If you sow disobedience, thus you shall reap. It might not come immediately but what is coming is coming. Some fruit takes long to ripen.
- Some people did bad things at the reign of King David, but they were able to live freely during his reign. When King Solomon ascended, they were taken to task. They sowed at the time of King David, they reaped at the time of King Solomon.
- We are going to see rebellion at home, at work, as a manger...
- 1 Sam 2:30; a prophecy to the house of priest Eli. God says 'if you honour me, I God personally will honour you. When you do otherwise, wherever you go you are going to be despised.
- Disobeying authority before you. Not abusive, but good authority. If you do so, God will honour us. Understand that God doesn't want rebellion, which is why the devil fell.
- Government- treason-killed/long term imprisonment. That is how serious rebellion against authority is. This is something we should never do as children of God. What it means is that you are removing the helmet of salvation/the cloud cover of salvation and removing yourself. You are making yourself a target of the enemy. He can easily take you out. The will of God is at a particular place, you move and say that you are sufficient on your own. That is rebellion and pride. You are lost.
- Pride goes before a fall. Whenever you see pride, it means that very soon you are going to fall. These things are reality.
- Hebrews 12:5-8
- If we have moved out in rebellion, you yourself must humble yourself and come back to where the Lord had placed you. If you do not do so, God steps in, and brings in judgement. Perhaps you were high and mighty, and the Lord brought you down and it was not pleasant.
- When you detect that you have gone away in error, God forgive me, if you have offended someone, go to the person 'please forgive me'
- You cannot take chances with God. Perhaps He will take 40years to come back.

- Keep short accounts, not long-term debts. Sort it out here and now not next year. If you have something against one, humble yourself and don't entertain pride. If that happens, you are headed for a fall. There are no rebels in heaven, when God wants to visit you, and finds a security guard called rebellion He will not enter in, there is no divine order, you are on your own, and your assets are not under the covering of God.
- If the Lord does not guard a house, those that do so do it in vain.
- Your things are under the covering by extension.
- Are we not going to humble ourselves? No one is better than the other.
- Authority is functional, it is not embedded in me, and it is a call to the children of God. The Lord Jesus is our example. He is inviting us to the Promised Land. He wants us to go there in triumph, victory and joy, not any of us should remain behind, it is possible for some to fall away because of attitude, rebellion, disobedience, pride... Moses prayed saying 'do not destroy them... yes I have heard them but one thing is going to happen, you will not enter the Promised Land, you will know my rejection'. Be in a safe place always.

