

# The High Cost of Disobedience

Sermon Title: **The High Cost of Disobedience**

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Thank you for tuning in to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word!

And just stay tuned in today. I have a word for you that you do not need it right now. It is something that you have experienced in the past or something you will experience in the near future that does not apply to you right now and I do not want you to get stuck in this situation so I want to give you some warnings and some guidelines to help keep you moving forward in your life and we are going to begin in the Book of Exodus 4. We are going to start at Verse 22, the Word of the Lord reads, “And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, thus sayeth the Lord, Israel is my son even my first born and I say unto thee, let my son go that he may serve me and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son even thy first born. And it came to pass by the way in the end that the Lord met him and sought to kill him and then Zipporah took a sharp stone and cut off the foreskin of her son and cast it his feet and said, surely, you bloody husband, art thou to me. So he let him go and then she said, a bloody husband thou art because of the circumcision.”

And in this same chapter Exodus 4, this chapter began by God giving Moses power to go forth to deliver this message unto Pharaoh and He told him to look at the rod in his hand and he did a lot of miracles with this rod and even though Moses was the meekest man on the earth and was going forth in all of his power and he was praying in Egypt and with all of the mysteries and knowledge of Egypt, he was destined to become a great deliverer of the nation of Israel. Even with all of these, he was going to free them from bondage. Because he did not circumcise his son as God had commanded, all of the men of Israel to do unto their sons, God was about to kill Moses here in this passage. And this happened in the very next verse after God told Moses to go tell Pharaoh that if he did not do what God told him to do, He would kill his son and the very next verse after he told him to go deliver this message to another man, He came to kill Moses for not doing what He instructed him to do to his very own child and his wife Zipporah had to step in and save Moses' life by circumcising his son.

And I tell you today that the gas prices may be at a high right now, food is higher than it has been in a long time if ever right now. Air travel is high right now, but even with all of these prices of everything that you have to buy going up, I am here to tell you today that there is nothing in this society right now that is higher than the price of disobedience unto God and I speak to you today from the title of “The High Cost of Disobedience.”

Just turn to your neighbor and say, you cannot afford it. Turn to the other side and say, you cannot afford it! And I do not care what kind of income you have, you maybe an entrepreneur, an executive—I will tell you, I do not care what kind of 401K program you have got. I know Mr. Ferguson does some investments and it

does not matter what kind of money you have got sitting in your account, I am just here to tell you, you cannot afford to disobey God right now. You do not have enough money stored up to disobey right now. And I am not teaching this message today to scare anyone or to make anybody feel bad about anything if they have done disobeying God in the past, the purpose of this message is to give your mind something to think about the next time that you are faced with the temptation to disobey God and most times when we disobey God, we just think about the pleasure, the sin of the moment or we think about the ease of the past that if we do not do what God says, things will be easier going my own way or we think about the fear or the challenge and we do not want to go through with it because it sounds hard.

But if we think about the high cost of the disobedience, it will help us stay in a path of obedience and C. Elijah normally begins his messages with a joke and I tried to look for a joke that was relevant to this message, I cannot exactly find one, so I came across a statistic that related. It was a little humorous to me, so I just give that to you in a plate and it basically came from a Japanese toilet manufacturing. They surveyed over 500 men and found that—and they did the first one in 1999 and they found that 15% of these men urinated while sitting down on the commode that they manufactured. They took another survey recently and they found that that number jumped from 15% up to 49% in Japan of the men now urinated while sitting down and they were scratching their head, the executives said, “Why did we triple the man sitting down now?” And they looked at all of the factors and they found out as they asked more questions that the reason that the rate over tripled is because the wives were tired of the man spraying—and in a nutshell, the male species who have been standing up using the bathroom for thousands of years, all of a sudden is now sitting down to please their wives and I do not know if this is out of love or fear or just a nagging, but whatever the case, men all over Japan have found that it is easier to sit down and obey than to stand up and be free!

So, I just wanted to bring that statistic to relate about obedience and it shows that the price is high enough, even men have changed their way. They go to the bathroom. Their wives are getting them to obey in that area, so that is something to think about as you all go home and when it is time to use the bathroom that is going to make you pay attention to what you are doing. Hoping that I did not get any man in trouble with that one—the wives telling, “You better sit down over there.”

Also in the Book of Deuteronomy, you do not have to turn there for the sake of time, I am going to just summarize here. Deuteronomy 1 and what happened in Deuteronomy 1 is, Moses was telling the people a summary of what they went through and leaving Egypt and getting to the Promise Land and basically what happened is when they came from Mount Sanai, God told the people to go to the hill country of the Amorites and to take over this land and this is your land, I am giving this land unto you, so the people traveled there and as they spent these days getting

there, they got fearful and thought about it and they said, once they got close to it, they said, "Well, maybe we need to send some spies into this land first to see what is over there in the land." And God really just told them that, go take it over, be bold about it, but they got a lot nervous and sent in 12 spies, one from each tribe and these spies came back and all but two gave a negative report and they talked about, of course, you know the story of the giants in the land and they brought back these big fruits and all of these things and the men all were already really nervous, but when they heard about these giants, they really—the fear gripped them and they had just done what God told them to do and just go take it over in the first place, they would not have to give the report, but once they got this report, they went back to the tent and just began to mumble and grumble and said, "God brought out us out into this wilderness to get killed by these giants now. And we are like little grasshoppers compared to these giants.

So basically, God told them because you all do not believe and because you have murmured that you will not to see this Promise Land, it is going to be your children's generation that will go into this land and it said basically, Joshua and Caleb would be the only two from that generation that would go in to this land and the people then, they had regretted murmuring and being fearful about going in and taking over this land and they said, on second thought, we do not want to lose our Promise Land and we did not come this far and come out of slavery, we are just going to go in and take it and Moses went back to the Lord and basically the Lord said, "No, you messed up now. Do not go into this land now. I am telling you it is going to be your children and I will not be with you if you go in." and they did not listen, they went on into the land anyway and figured they could beat them if this was their land and those giants ran them out of that land with their tails tucked between their legs and they chased them to another land and many Christians do not realize that the children of Israel tried to go take it over, they only know about the successful story of them going in and taking over and conquering their land. They do not know about the time when they ran from these things called giants and could not take it over, but they were doing them now in their own way, in their own will outside of the will of God and they refused to go into the land when God told them to go into the land out of fear and they had to wander in the wilderness all of these years until all of them died off and I will tell you they disobeyed on the front end and the back end.

When God told them to go, they would not go and they He told them not to go, that is when they went and my father had a saying that they used to say in the country, I do not know where they got it from and really what it meant, but in situations like these, he said that some folks will not do riding or walking and he would have used this statement talking about the children of Israel. I do not know where that came from but it would apply even unto that time and we had a case in the ark similar to this one. It was a time during the revival and the Word of the Lord came unto the Pastor and we had a lot of visitors in the ark and God basically told the Pastor, He

said, basically this was a very consecrated time and he wanted to consecrate this offering and he told the people that if you are from another church and whatever church you attend, if you are not in covenant, with tidings with that church and that ministry, do not give unto this offering, so just keep your mind on this. I know you have never heard it before—a Pastor telling you not to giveth. Do not put anything in this offering if you are not in covenant and he gave that word out until the people in this revival and no name was in place and basically, we watched as the people gave and we did not see anybody not give and after this revival, we were just talking and we just realized that we said, we looked at a lot and we knew the church statistic that only a small percentage of Christians tie and we know that a hundred percent of the Christians in this place were not tied and in covenant, but everybody put money in and we just came out almost with my father's statement. People will not do right--when you tell them to give, they will not give even when God has told them not to give, they will still not obey, I do not get it. Now that you tell them not to give—they put in money in here now. They go, you cannot tell me not to put my money, I want to put this! Take this money!

I tell you, there is something about the nature of disobedience. It just makes you want to do what you want to do. I will tell you, it is the independent spirit that comes over us sometimes that make us do this, even when it is as far as giving away our own money even when God says not to! And mankind, this is not a new phenomenon. Mankind has been disobeying God from the very beginning of time and paying the price for that disobedience ever since. God—He created man and woman in the second chapter of Genesis and the very next chapter, chapter 3, man and woman disobeyed God by doing only one thing he said not to do.

In the Old Testament, God gave them 613 laws. A lot of things to remember and do and a lot of people would make the excuse violating the law because there are just too many. God had only given them one thing not to do! Just one thing! All of these trees, there is one of them do not eat from. And that was the very tree that they mouthed again, something to salivate for that because it was the one that they could not eat from and we are still paying the high cost of that sin today.

And in the next chapter after that, after they messed up, you go to the next chapter, Adam and Eve had son and before that very chapter could end that they had the son and before you could get to the end of that chapter, the elder son had killed his younger brother. He had done what was wrong in the sight of God. And I tell you, it just goes on and on after that and God had just wiped the whole Earth outside of Noah and his family because this sin that everybody wanted to do what they wanted to do and still crept back after that. And God had to set up a system of sacrifice involving blood to cover the sins of mankind. He first did it with animals and finally with the blood of his very son begotten son.

Imagine if we were still having to cover our sins today with animal blood. I do not think there would be enough lambs and sheep and goats and bulls and birds on the planet to keep up with the sins of the people. Imagine if you had to bring your animals with you to the ark after you had messed up during the weekend. Just imagine how much blood there would be flowing out—I mean, we would have to dig trenches in this place going all the way to the sewer line and the neighbors will just see blood just coming out for hours off of them. The animals that were slaughtered, they were sheep—for hours on end from folks thinking about all of the things they have done just during the week. And I do not think that the animal population could just keep up with it in this day and time. It would be just too much stuff and we would not even to prepare—there would be no time for the word! We would just have to tell the television audience that we are out of time. The sacrifices today have used up all of the time, but we thank you for tuning in! We hope you had your animals ready, but we do not have any time for the word today because the people have used up all of the time bringing the sacrifices.

God knew that we were going to need a better alternative to that stuff. He knew that all sacrifices could not keep up with today's times, so He had to send His son to be the one sacrifice for all of time, from that point on and I will tell you, even when my kids do things against the rules of our house, I forgive them, but I still have to train them to do the right thing or else they will keep doing wrong over and over and over again and so it is with God. Even though He forgives us under the blood of Jesus, He has to still keep us in the boundaries of proper Christian living or else we will become a bad light unto the world and we will remain outside of the Will of God in our lives and you just cannot live any kind of way as a Christian and expect to get all of the same blessings of God. God is our Father and the most common form of punishment of smaller kids in today's society is the time out.

When a parent places a child in a time out, he or she cannot move forward in their lives. They cannot earn any more money on their allowance. They cannot go outside and play with the other kids. They cannot watch TV and play their video games and do the things they would normally do around the house. They normally have to go to a corner of a room or another room by themselves until the parent releases them from the time out. And when God places us in time out, because of disobedience, it may seem like your money would just slip through your fingers and bills that you do not even understand the service—what these services offer to be—they will just come in and you say, "I do not even know I had this service." And it may seem like your promotion on your job will never come, it may seem like something has jumped in your spouse and they are acting crazy.

God has to use certain time outs with us to get our attention to get us back on the right course, so we will not keep repeating the same behavior over and over. Imagine if God was not a good parent and did not put us in time out when we got into disobedience, what would happen to our souls? Just imagine if God told you to

become a minister and to the study—study His Word and prepare yourself and I want you to be a minister unto my people and imagine if you thought about it and said, I do not want to do that. I want to make me some money. I want to become a lawyer and I have got a good mind and I can make more money over here and imagine if God was not a good father and there was no time out in place and you went to try to apply for Law School and you just got in easy. You just got a scholarship easy and you just breezed through your classes and it just flowed easy and you just formed good relationship with all of your professors and it is just saying like the system just clicked for you and you were making relationships and associations and just kept moving through and you got internships and things just clicked and snapped into place. Imagine if all of these happened and you never got a time out. You get further away from the Will of God and after a while, you begin to make money and you will begin to wonder if you were ever supposed to even be a Minister because the path had been so smooth and things just flowed so easy for you.

Imagine if God told you to break up with the person that you are dating and He had someone else for you that was better suited for your destiny and for your purpose. Imagine if the relationship just seemed to get better and better and the love has gotten sweeter and sweeter after He told you that and you did not break it off. Without a time out, you can marry this person and you will always doubt whether God even had—would be better for you? Time outs help us as children of God to stop and sit and think about what we did wrong. How we got off our paths and how to get back on the path. They allow us time to pray, time to meditate upon our destiny and when one of my children gets a time out and after they come out and sometimes, a few minutes later, I look and there is a wrong doing again, it kills me that the child did not really learn anything from his time out. When I see him right back a few minutes later into it and it tells me that they just used that time to rest and to gather their strength for their next act of disobedience and it is just frustrating sometimes as parents. You just want them to have a sense at all sometimes and you see some of the behavior that goes on with kids and it is at this point that I have to increase the punishment to enforce the lesson that they have to learn and one day I had grabbed my boy and he was acting up and as I grabbed him, he was still wiggling and I just looked him square in the eyes with a firm tone of voice and I popped him one time, I said, “Listen boy, I am going to take this thing as far as you want to go with it.”

And once he felt that pop escalating, after a while, he was trying to get his own way, but he said, “Dad I was not playing with it.” I said, “Come on! Take it up. That is good. Let us take it up.” And as he felt that, he stopped and he said, I have got to cut this thing. And he had to think about it and the Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived sought out to see what was worth doing in life and God did not tell him to do these things. He just saw all the men doing—it looked like they were having a ball and he went about to try to see the value of it and he got drunk and listened to

a little music here and there and said, let me see if this is what life is about and after the morning came and he had a hangover and did not progress, he said, it really was not worth it. He saw a lot of pretty women and went out and got a lot of wives, a lot of concubines and by the time he got through paying for all of those weddings and dealing with the parents and in-laws and dealing with all of his other religions they were involved in, they would listen and got some nagging day and night on this thing and he said, “No, this thing is not really worth it. This is not where it is.” He looked at some of the scholars and said, surely, these PhDs got it going on and they have got all of these big books that they read and figured that this were the key was—he began to read the libraries of the world and subjects of every manner and woke up with a headache and said, that really was not worth it. There is no fun in it and I know a lot of facts, but still, it is not what life is all about.

Finally, he got to the end and at the end of his life and concluded, the end of Ecclesiastes, the wisest King that ever lived, Ecclesiastes 12, the last chapter, the last few verses 13 and 14—he said, let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work and adjustment with every secret thing whether it be good or whether it be evil and my father, when we get our report cards, my mother would get it first and look over the whole thing and then she would give it to my father and my father would just go straight to the Conduct column, he would not even look at the grades, and he would look and see how we did in Conduct and he would judge his punishment and counsel to us strictly and reward strictly out of our Conduct grade and my father knew that no matter how smart we were, we did not obey our teachers who were in authority over us that we would always have a discipline problem in life and he wanted us to be obedient first and then smart second.

And this is the same way our Heavenly Father is. He is not so much concerned about your skill sets, as He is with your willingness of heart to obey what He has told you to do and I live you today with just a word of this wisest man that has ever set foot on this planet, Solomon with the gift of wisdom, fear God and keep His commandments.

Thank you for joining us today at Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word!