Trust and Obedience Even When Circumstances are Difficult

(Todd Sorrell, 10/15/23)

- I. Recap of Last Week: Acts 5:26-32
 - a. Was God's request that they continue preaching unreasonable?
 - b. Was God's request that they continue preaching difficult?
- II. The world is going to try to _____ you! a. Jeremiah 17:9
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:13

III. Two common reasons given for disobedience

- a. God's commands are _____.
- b. God's commands are _____.
- IV. Examples of commands we struggle with because they don't seem reasonable:
- V. Examples of commands we struggle with because they seem too difficult:
- VI. How do we encourage obedience and belief in the promises of God, even when things seem bleak or impossible? Does the Bible offer any guidance for trusting and obeying God during difficult circumstances?
 - a. The truth about man
 - b. The truth about God
 - c. Our response

VII. Man's Character

- a. 1 Samuel 28:3-10
- b. 1 Chronicles 10:13-14
- c. People are _____.
 i. Proverbs 20:6; Isaiah 59:7; Romans 3:23
- VIII. God's Charactera. Leviticus 11:44; Psalm 50; Psalm 145:9; 1 John 4:8; John 3:36
- IX. Our Response
 - a. James 4:7
 - b. Luke 23:46-47 (The Centurion and Jesus)

- X. The goal
 - a. "Be so confident in God's plan that you don't even get upset any more when things don't go your way" (anon.)
 - b. "We are not free to do what is right in our own eyes. We are called to do what is right in his eyes" (R.C. Sproul)
- XI. Excuses
 - a. It's not fair!
 - b. Delayed obedience
 - c. Feel like a hypocrite
- XII. Practical steps
 - a. Share the Burden
 - i. Our effectiveness with people is directly related to our tolerance for inconvenience
 - b. Back to the Basics
 - i. Holy Spirit
 - ii. Bible
 - iii. Other Christians
- XIII. Ask the following questions:
 - a. Am I obeying God, or man (myself or my feelings/intellect)?
 - b. Do I love God? (John 14:15)
 - c. Am I a friend of God? (John 15:14)
 - d. Do I know God? (1 John 2:3)
- XIV. Comparing the Centurion and Lot's Wife
 - a. Do you hate God's commands?

Remember, our circumstances are temporary. Our reward is not. And God cares.