



7: God's Word - Our Response

Today we conclude our study by answering the question, **WILL WE OBEY or TURN AWAY** from God's Word?

beourguest

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teachingnotes

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VISUAL NOTES

How will we RESPOND to GOD'S WORD communicated through the Scriptures? **OBEY** or **TURN AWAY**?

The Serpent Speaks

Genesis 3:1 (CSB) Now **the serpent** was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden?'"

Who or what is this serpent? Interpreters have several different views:

1. *Is this a fable intended to communicate a real truth?* Adam is referenced in the New Testament as a real individual (e.g. [Rm 5:12-15](#), [1 Tim 2:13](#), [1 Cor 15:21-22](#), [45-49](#); [2 Cor 11:3](#)). Adam & Eve have children mentioned in family lineages. *Where does the 'fable' stop and the history begin?*
2. Did animals God make desire to disobey God and lead humans to do the same...before the fall of man?
3. This is more than a snake, a clever & conniving being later referred to as, "**the ancient serpent, who is called the devil & Satan**" ([Rev. 12:9](#); [20:2](#)).

Genesis 3:2-5 (CSB) The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.' " "No! You will certainly not die," **the serpent said** to the woman. "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

LIE #1 You won't die. This is the oldest trick *in the BOOK*. The devil prompts people created in the image of God to doubt the goodness and truthfulness of God. "*You won't die. God is trying to keep you from something good.*" **That's why we disobey, isn't it?** We doubt the goodness and truthfulness of God.

LIE #2 "You will be like God." The serpent says, "*You don't have to submit to HIS authority. You rule over ever other animal. YOU should rule over YOU too!*"

Mankind Sins

Genesis 3:6 (CSB) The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it;

It **tasted good**. It **looked good**. It was going to make her **feel good**. Adam & Eve questioned God's goodness & bought into the lie that they could become like God, the authority of their own lives...and the consequence followed quickly...

Genesis 3:7 (CSB) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Suddenly there's a sense of shame that they needed to cover up. Before their disobedience the Scriptures note they had a very different outlook.

Genesis 2:25 (CSB) Both the man and his wife were **naked**, yet felt no shame.

HIDING instead of SEEKING

Genesis 3:8-11 (CSB) Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, **"Where are you?"** And He said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." Then He asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

Sin's immediate price tag is SEPARATION from the God they once walked and talked with. Instead of *fearlessness* there was *fearFULness*. Instead of *enjoying God's Presence*, they were *hiding from Him*.

"Where are you?" was NOT a geographical question, it was a spiritual question. God is essentially wanting Adam to answer this question: **"Where are you WITHOUT Me?"**

We sin too. We HIDE too. We wonder why we can't find lasting purpose in possessions, trophies, or human relationships.

✓ We are created to KNOW God and make Him KNOWN.

✓ We are created to WALK with Him, *not HIDE from Him*.

OBEY God's words or TURN AWAY?

Genesis 4:7 (CSB) If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but **you must rule over it.**"

Had Cain OBEYED rather than TURN AWAY from God's word, his life would have been very different.

Paul's Challenge to OBEY God's Words

2 Timothy 3:12-17 (CSB) In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. *Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.* But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed. You know those who taught you, and you know that from infancy you have known **the sacred Scriptures**, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All **Scripture is inspired by God** and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, **so that the man of God may be complete**, equipped for every good work.

Write in front of Bible: **"Sin will keep me from this book and this book will keep me from sin."**

Josiah's Ungodly Legacy - Grandpa Manasseh

2 Kings 21:2-7 (CSB) He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, imitating the detestable practices of the nations that the Lord had dispossessed before the Israelites. He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed and reestablished the altars for Baal. He made an Asherah, as King Ahab of Israel had done; he also bowed in worship to all the stars in the sky and served them. **He built altars in the Lord's temple, where the Lord had said, "Jerusalem is where I will put My Name."** He built altars to all the stars in the sky in both courtyards of the Lord's temple. He sacrificed his son in the fire, practiced witchcraft and divination, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did a huge amount of evil in the Lord's sight, angering him. Manasseh set up the carved image of Asherah, which he made, in the temple **that the LORD had spoken about to David and his son Solomon: "I will establish my name forever in this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel.**

Baal was a fertility god who had a lover - **Asherah** - a Canaanite fertility goddess of whose images are highly sexual.

Remember the battle between Yahweh and the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah ([1 Kings 18:19](#)) at Mount Carmel? Those were the 'gods' Manasseh built altars for INSIDE the temple of Yahweh!

Josiah's Dad, Amon

2 Kings 21:20-22 (CSB) He did what was evil in the LORD's sight, just as his father Manasseh had done. He walked in all the ways his father had walked; he served the idols his father had served, and he bowed in worship to them. He abandoned the LORD God of his ancestors and did not walk in the ways of the Lord.

Amon's servants assassinated him. **Josiah** became king in his father's place.

2 Kings 22:1-2 (CSB) Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. *He did what was right in the Lord's sight and walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left.*

Josiah was trying to repair the damage to the temple (2 Kgs 22:3-7). While cleaning up the temple, a book was found. Josiah wanted to hear what it said. Scholars think this is likely **Deuteronomy** (2nd Law) - Moses is reminding the Jewish people of all God said and expected.

Josiah's Response to God's Words

2 Kings 22:11-13 (CSB) When **the king** heard the words of the book of the law, **he tore his clothes**. Then he commanded the priest Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Achbor son of Micaiah, the court secretary Shaphan, and the king's servant Asaiah, "**Go and inquire of the Lord for me**, for the people, and for all Judah **about the words in this book** that has been found. For great is the Lord's wrath that is kindled against us because **our ancestors have not obeyed the words of this book** in order to do everything written about us."

Josiah is distraught. His ancestors have disobeyed God and led the people of Judah to disobey God. God will delay his destruction of Judah because until AFTER the reign of Josiah - because...

God's Response to Josiah

2 Kings 22:19-20 (CSB) because **your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before the Lord** when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and because **you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I myself have heard**—this is the Lord's declaration. 'Therefore, I will indeed gather you to your ancestors, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster that I am bringing on this place.'" Then they reported to the king.

Josiah responds to God's correction from the Scriptures, no longer IGNORANT - he refuses to IGNORE what God said. So...

Josiah Acts On What the Scriptures Say

2 Kings 23:1-7 (CSB) So the king sent messengers, and they gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to him. Then the king went to the Lord's temple with all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, as well as the priests and the prophets—all the people from the youngest to the oldest. **He read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the Lord's temple**. Next, **the king** stood by the pillar and **made a covenant in the Lord's presence to follow the Lord and to keep his commands**, his decrees, and his statutes with all his heart and with all his soul in order **to carry out the words of this covenant that were written in this book**; all the people agreed to the covenant. Then the king commanded the high priest Hilkiah and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out of the Lord's sanctuary all **the articles made for Baal, Asherah, and all the stars in the sky**. **He burned them outside Jerusalem** in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. Then **he did away with the idolatrous priests** the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense at the high places in the cities of Judah and in the areas surrounding Jerusalem. They had burned incense to Baal, and to the sun, moon, constellations, and all the stars in the sky. He brought out the Asherah pole from the Lord's temple to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem. He burned it at the Kidron Valley, beat it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people. He also tore down the houses of the male cult prostitutes that were in the Lord's temple, in which the women were weaving tapestries for Asherah.

2 Kings 23:24-25 (CSB) In addition, Josiah eradicated the mediums, the spiritists, household idols, images, and all the abhorrent things that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem. **He did this in order to carry out the words of the law that were written in the book that the priest Hilkiah found in the Lord's temple**. **Before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord** with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength according to all the law of Moses, and **no one like him arose after him**.

Josiah heard what God said & bent His beliefs to fit what the Bible said. He would not TURN AWAY, but chose to OBEY.

② Anything in YOUR life you need to DESTROY and REMOVE from your life?

Josiah's Son, **Jehoiakim**, was king during the ministry of Jeremiah the prophet. God told Jeremiah to write a word of warning to Jehoiakim. He sent his servant to read the scroll to the people inside Jerusalem, and when many of the officials heard what he said, and concerned about how the king would respond - they told the servant and Jeremiah to hide and took the scroll to the king.

Jehoiakim TURNS AWAY

Jeremiah 36:22-23 (CSB) Since it was the ninth month, the king was sitting in his winter quarters with a fire burning in front of him. As soon as Jehudi would read three or four columns, **Jehoiakim would cut the scroll with a scribe's knife and throw the columns into the fire** in the hearth until **the entire scroll was consumed by the fire in the hearth**.

Jeremiah 36:24-26 (CSB) As they heard all these words, **the king and all his servants did not become terrified or tear their clothes**. Even though Elnathan, Delaiah, and Gemariah had urged the king not to burn the scroll, **he did not listen** to them. Then the king commanded Jerahmeel the king's son, Seraiah son of Azriel, and Shelemiah son of Abdeel to seize the scribe Baruch and the prophet Jeremiah, but the Lord hid them.

God brings judgement on King Jehoiakim, kills him, and makes sure **his name is forever hated** while **his father's name (Josiah) is forever honored**.

Josiah WANTED to hear what God said. He chose to OBEY rather than IGNORE and TURN AWAY from what God said.

Jehoiakim chose to IGNORE and TURN AWAY from what God said, and God punished him.

WHICH EXAMPLE WILL YOU FOLLOW?

- ✓ Will you explore what the Scriptures say and then OBEY what God says?
- ✗ Or when confronted with the correction of God's Scriptures, will you respond like Jehoiakim - TURNING AWAY and IGNORING what God says?

FEET TO FAITH

Read & heed **Psalm 119** - the importance and knowing and obeying God's Word.

Finally, as we prepare for communion, we are reminded that our greatest example of how we respond to God's Word is Jesus - the living Word of God.

When Jesus, the 2nd Adam, is tempted in the wilderness. Yet Jesus, fully human and experiencing our struggles, doesn't waiver from God's words when tempted. Adam & Eve were in the garden with every need provided for. Jesus is in the wilderness with no provisions - **he was hungry**.

Jesus (God's Word) Responds to God's word

Matthew 4:1-4 (CSB) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." He answered, "**It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**"

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? You might need to look back in your notes to help explain your answer.
2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:12-17**. Name some ways the Scriptures help us to grow to maturity.
3. Had you ever heard the story of Josiah compared to his son, Jehoiakim? How does this story challenge, encourage, or confront you?
4. **Read Genesis 3:1-11**. What are the lies the devil tells us to prompt us to TURN AWAY rather than OBEY? Tell about a time when you disobeyed and saw that the payment wasn't worth the cost. Also, share a moment when you OBEYED God and were glad you did.
5. Take a few moments to begin to **READ PSALM 119** together and share what stands out to you.
6. What has most impacted you during this 7-week study?
7. **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**