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Groups Sermon Study Questions

The Palace Test

May 20, 2018

Message Summary

God has a dream and a destiny for every person, but there are some tests we must pass to develop our character so that we can fulfill our destiny. The 3rd test Joseph learned was to live in the presence of God. Obedience is the key to living in God's presence and the key to obedience is faith. Faith is developed by hearing, reading, memorizing and meditating on the Word of God. Salvation comes by grace, but prosperity in every area of our lives depends on obedience. The converse is also true, we can't expect God's blessing when we refuse to obey and walk away from Him.

Consider This

Could you share a time when you felt close to God?

Why do you think you felt close to God at that particular time? Did it have to do with circumstances, or something else?

We live in a fallen world, and the rain falls on both the righteous and the unrighteous. But God's presence shields those who walk with Him; they receive the power to persevere. Obedience is the key to God's presence and faith is the key to obedience.

Study Questions

- 1. According to Deuteronomy 10:13, why does God want us to obey Him and for whose benefit?
- 2. What is the foundation of disobedience according to Hebrews 3:18–19. What do we tell ourselves when we decide to disobey?
- 3. Read Luke 16:10–12. What does this passage have to do with "The Palace Test"? What is the relationship between stewardship and God's favor?
- 4. Prosperity is not a bad word. In the original language, it means to push forward or advance. God pushes us forward. Read Deuteronomy 11:26–28, 29:9, Job 36:11–12 and Galatians 6:7. According to these verses, what is the relationship between prosperity and obedience? What is the relationship between disobedience and prosperity?
- 5. What does Proverbs 28:13 say we are to do when we make mistakes? What will happen if we do not?
- 6. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Why is the key to faith hearing the Word of God and not obeying the Word of God?
- 7. Consider Psalm 1:2-3, 119:9, 11, John 8:31-32 and Romans 15:4. What are practical ways to "hear" the Word of God? What ways have been the most effective or beneficial for you?

8. How can you encourage one another to "increase your intake" of the Word?

Moving Forward

- 1. In what area of your life do you need to obey God—to do things His way— even though it may be difficult this week?
- 2. Daily, thank God for His goodness and for wanting to prosper you. Ask Him to reveal areas of unbelief in your heart. Repent for areas of unbelief and disobedience. Pray that the Lord will give you the "heart" to hear and receive the truth of His Word that you may walk with Him daily