

JAMES – PRACTICAL LESSONS IN SPIRITUAL MATURITY

ATTITUDES TOWARDS GOD’S WILL – JAMES 4:13-17

1. REVIEW

A.

2. **DISOBEYING GOD’S WILL: THE SECOND OF THREE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WILL OF GOD.**

A. **James 4:17 (NLT2)** “Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.”

B. **THESE PEOPLE KNOW THE WILL OF GOD... BUT CHOOSE TO DISOBEY IT.**

1. **DISOBEYING THE WILL OF GOD EXPRESSES EVEN MORE PRIDE THAN IGNORING THE WILL OF GOD.**

2. **2 Peter 2:20-21 (NASB)** “For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.”

C. **POSSIBLE REASONS: WHY BELIEVERS WHO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD DELIBERATELY DISOBEY IT.**

1. **PRIDE**

2. **IGNORANCE OF THE NATURE OF GOD’S WILL.**

a. **BELIEVERS OFTEN ACT AS THOUGH THE WILL OF GOD IS SOMETHING WE CAN ACCEPT OR REJECT.**

1) **IN REALITY, THE WILL OF GOD IS NOT AN OPTION... IT IS AN OBLIGATION.**

2) **THE REASON THAT WE CAN’T “TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT” IS BECAUSE GOD IS THE CREATOR AND WE ARE THE CREATURES. THEREFORE, WE MUST OBEY HIM.**

3. **THE MISTAKEN IDEA THAT THE WILL OF GOD IS A FORMULA FOR MISERY.**

a. **BUT... JUST THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE... IT IS DISOBEYING GOD’S WILL THAT LEADS TO OUR MISERY.**

D. **QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS TO BELIEVERS WHO DELIBERATELY DISOBEY THE KNOWN WILL OF GOD?**

1. **ANSWER: THEY ARE DISCIPLINED (GK. = CHASTENED = “HUMBLED” AND “SUBDUED”) BY THEIR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER UNTIL THEY SUBMIT.**

a. **Hebrews 12:5-11 (NLT2)** “And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the LORD’s

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discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. **Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father?** If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. **But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness.** No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! **But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.**

2. **CONSIDER: IF A PROFESSED BELIEVER IS NOT DISCIPLINED** (GK. = **CHASTENED** = “**HUMBLED**” AND “**SUBDUED**”) **BY GOD FOR THEIR DELIBERATE DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF GOD ... IT MAY BE EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE NEVER TRULY BEEN BORN AGAIN.**
 - a. **Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT2)** “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. **Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.** On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”
3. **TRUTH: GOD’S DISCIPLINE IS AN EVIDENCE OF HIS LOVE... NOT HIS HATRED.**
 - a. **JUST AS EARTHLY FATHERS/MOTHERS GIVE OUR CHILDREN CONSEQUENCES TO HELP THEM RESPECT OUR WILL AND OBEY... SO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER DISCIPLINES HIS OWN CHILDREN.**
 - b. **HAIR SPLITTING: THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRIALS AND DISCIPLINE** (GK. = **CHASTENED** = “**HUMBLED**” AND “**SUBDUED**”).
 - 1) **DISCUSS:**
3. **OBEYING GODS WILL: THE THIRD OF THREE ATTITUDES TOWARD THE WILL OF GOD.**
- 4.