

## Daily Devotional, January 26, 2021 Obedience to God's Will

***On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Mark 2:17 (NIV)***

Although we have been given clear direction on what the right path is to take, sometimes we just don't obey. Sometimes we talk ourselves into going in a direction that just can't end well. We know better, but the rebel in us moves us toward choosing our own way. It's a lot like the character Elsa in the Indiana Jones movie, "The Last Crusade." Harrison Ford (Indiana Jones) holds onto Elsa by one arm to keep her from falling into the abyss, yet she's bound and determined to grab the "Holy Grail" from a ledge that is just out of reach. She seems not at all unconcerned about the imminent danger she's in and continues to stretch to reach the cup until their feeble grasp slips and she falls deep into the dark of the abyss below. Such a foolish choice!

Why would anyone risk one's very life for a selfish choice that was so tenuous it was doomed to go nowhere? But isn't that what we see day in and day out in our world? Someone tries to get as close to the edge of the cliff as possible to take a picture and they end up falling off. Intelligent college students try to see how much alcohol they can drink, and they never wake up. People try to outrun the police and end up dead or seriously injured in a heap of twisted metal. We have a habit of trusting our own reactions and feelings even if it means we are fighting against God Himself, ignoring God's direction. That never ends well.

Human reasoning is a wonderful attribute we have been given. It is one of the things that sets us above all other life on earth. But if we depend on our own reasoning without including our obedience to God, we are misusing a gift God has given us and we essentially overrule God. How wise a decision can that be? Is humankind so smart that we can create a universe? Redirect a hurricane or a tornado? Can we find our own way into Heaven without God's grace?

As Christians we have been charged with an important task. We are to spread the Gospel to the world. We tell the story of Jesus by our words and how we live our life, and God works in our hearts to direct us. Jonah was a man of God. He knew God. He worshipped God. He was close enough to God that he clearly understood God's direction. He was commanded to preach salvation to the heathen, the wicked, the people of Nineveh. His initial decision to say 'no' forced God's hand to help him realize that God cannot be more serious when it comes to saving sinners.

Jesus loves all people. And we are accountable to Him and to those He has put in our path. Let us pay closer attention.

***Prayer: Gracious God, I have been following my own desires in certain areas of my life instead of being obedient to You. I am sorry, Lord. I am feeling the consequences of my poor choices and now I come to You with sorrow in my heart. Father, Your desires are what matter. I want to follow Your desires for me. Please forgive me for bad choices and draw me close to You again. I praise and thank You, Lord for Your forgiveness. Amen.***