

Radical Obedience

The Apostles are Empowered to be Radically Obedient to Their Call
The Empowered Church Series - Part 10

Acts 5:17-42
March 18-19, 2023

Introduction

- **Obedience is only obedience if it's followed through to the end.**
 - Mt 21:28–31 - “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went.³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”
- **Stories of people going halfway for God**
 - **Adam & Eve** – didn’t eat the fruit a bunch of days. But then they did.
 - **Gehazi**¹ – was faithful until he wasn’t. turned to a leper.
 - **Saul’s grand failure** – Saul was told to destroy all of the Amalekites and their flocks and herds. He didn’t. He brought back the best allegedly to sacrifice to God. He blamed it on fearing the people’s popular vote who wanted to keep the best. “The Lord regretted that he made Saul king over Israel.”² The kingdom was removed.³
 - **Partial obedience isn’t obedience.** Those people aren’t remembered for the times they were obedient, but for the time they weren’t.

WE are called to FULL Obedience

- **The Reason I mention this:**
 1. The disciples are going to be living out a very difficult calling and assignment for God and they needed to be all in (e.g. in this story they are beaten and imprisoned just to get the gospel to the Jewish leadership...again).
 2. **We tend to be so used to grace that we don’t think that sin bothers God anymore.** But if my daughter slaps me, my forgiveness and committed to her with love doesn’t mean the slap doesn’t hurt.
- **Recap – After the Ananias & Sapphira portion**
 - *Ac 5:12–16 – “Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico. ¹³ None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴ And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵ so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶ The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”*
 - **An Exploding Miraculous Church** – Look at the radical things that were happening through the Christian church! Everyone was taking notice. People knew that there was a

¹ 2 Kings 5

² 1 Sam 15:34

³ **Many of the Kings of Israel** – they did good things but didn’t get rid of the main root problem. This includes Gideon and Solomon who were really great guys in so many ways. Their lack of full obedience meant bondage for others who followed their example.

solution to their pain. People came from everywhere to be healed and touched. God was moving through radical anointing that even Peter's shadow healed people.⁴

- **Revival, Power & Explosive Growth** – The influence and impact in Jerusalem was massive. It was impossible to ignore. When you have a power shift, the current power holders are going to be put on notice. Usually they aren't going to like it.
 - **Jesus Revolution Movie** – Notice what change, even God-change, even good change can do to unsettle people. The mess is real. The questioning of method and purity is real. The mixed motives and complex crowds are real.

Lesson

- **Power Shift**
 - **The Religious Leaders Put the Apostles in Prison**
 - *Acts 5:17-18 – “But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy ¹⁸ they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.”*
 - **But** = the counter movement to God's actions. Resistance in the world. It's tough to discern, right? Because depending on what side you are, you think that God is on your side. You assume that any movement against you is the enemy, but what if it's not? We are going to get into that in Acts 5:33-40 below.
 - **The High Priest** – Joseph Caiaphas, current reigning high priest (and therefore President of the Sanhedrin Council). Annas's son-in-law. He held the term of high priest for a long 18 years.
 - **The Sadducees** – This was the religious group that the high priestly family belonged. They believed in 'just the Torah', not all the rabbinic additions that the Pharisees added in. What that meant was that they were both stricter in one sense and less in another. They were stricter to adhere to the original writing, but less strict because they didn't have all the additional laws added in by the Pharisees. By this time, they were a bit more religious royalty than religious teachers (unlike the Pharisees who were the opposite). They were the power players.
 - **When you are the religious establishment – what happens when that's you?**
 - **Filled with jealousy** – we are not left to guess about motive. It was jealousy. Period. What were they jealous about? People following others and not them (thinking another way is right).
 - **How often is that our motivation for the things that we think and do?**
 - **Apostles are arrested** – how many were arrested? All 12 rounded up or just a couple of them?
 - **Did something go wrong or right?** - we think that if we do the right things we should have the right outcomes, but 'right' is determined by God not us. They may have seen that as a failure when God saw it as a plan.
 - **Have you seen a failure turn out to be a plan of God?**
 - **Public prison** – not the temple prison.
 - **I've Got to Break Free**

⁴ Scripture doesn't say that Peter told people to come under his shadow nor that it worked (descriptive vs. prescriptive). But the clear inference, and the reason that it is mentioned specifically gives me reason to believe that it absolutely had power. Just as God anointed Paul's work handkerchiefs and aprons to heal and cast out demons, He too moved through Peter's shadow.

- **An Angel Releases the Apostles from Jail & Sends Them Back Out**
 - *Acts 5:19-21a – “But during the night an angel of the Lord⁵ opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, ²⁰“Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” ²¹ And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.”*
 - **During the night** – I don’t know at what time this occurred.
 - **An Angel of the Lord** – There is the possibility the original reading was THE Angel of the Lord, which would make it Jesus, but I think that it was merely an angel of the Lord (regular).
 - **Opening locked doors and leading out** – quick question: was the jail empty except for them? Did other guys get out?
 - **Locked doors are nothing for the Lord.** Trouble in the midst of doing God’s work is not a barrier for God. **What limits us doesn’t limit God.**
 - **Strange instructions: go do it again** – it didn’t work great the first time (at least in the minds of the Apostles), but here we go again. Okay.
 - **The Temple** – this is where the community gathered.
 - **Speaking words of this LIFE** – what a beautiful description of the message of the gospel and beyond. **If we aren’t speaking life we probably have our gospel wrong.**
 - **Back at it early** – they went back to the temple at daybreak. Getting an early start.
 - **Preaching** – what’s the point of preaching? Sharing God’s truth.
- **Mindbender**
 - **The Council Finds the Apostles Gone from Prison**
 - *Acts 5:21b-24 – “Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. ²² But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, ²³“We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” ²⁴ Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to.”*
 - **The Religious Council Gathers**
 - **High priest** – see above
 - **The Council** – likely the Sanhedrin – the very same group that arrested Peter and John prior and the council that condemned Jesus Christ not that long ago.
 - **The Senate of the Jews** – The Sanhedrin was kind of like the Supreme Court of the Jews. It was the highest regulating body of the Jews. It was made up of various leaders, the high priests family, all the temple leaders, etc. It originally had 70 members. It was disbanded and redesigned after the fall of the Temple in AD70 (About 40 years after this story). They could make things happen. If we look back, it was this council that determined all the stuff against

⁵ “Luke ascribes the apostles’ escape to divine agency. It was “the angel of the Lord” (or “an angel of the Lord”), he says, that opened the prison doors by night and freed them. The idiom is drawn from the Old Testament, where “the angel of the Lord” is an extension of the divine personality—Yahweh himself in his manifestation to human beings. Even if this is scarcely the sense in which Luke uses the expression, he does mean that the hand of God was at work in the apostles’ release.” New International Commentary of the New Testament, F.F. Bruce.

Jesus.⁶ Some were for Him and some were against Him, but the majority won and they ordered Him to be handed over to the Roman authorities to be crucified.

- **Captain of the Temple** – He was like a more influential and powerful head of security. He led the security team, but himself was part of the high priestly family and was more spiritual in nature. He had a lot of influence and power (next to the High Priest).
 - **Chief priests** - I believe this is a reference to the high-priestly family and the influential leaders of the temple. It's a broad term.
 - **They call for the prisoners** – as they convene they ask for the guards to go get the prisoners from the local jail.
 - **No one there** – the apostles were gone, so they reported back.
 - **The strange prison scene** – the guards were still standing guard. The doors were still locked. No one there. Were other people still there who weren't part of the story? That would be awkward.
 - **Super confused** – they Council was super confused. What in the world is going on? Is there a plot against them? Is there an inside person?⁷ Surely this isn't a miracle thing, right? We are on the right side. What's happening?
- **How Dare You**
 - **The High Priest Lays into the Apostles**
 - *Acts 5:25-28 – “And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.”²⁶ Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them,²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.”*
 - **The fresh report** – someone comes and tells them that the apostles are back in the Temple preaching.
 - **The temple captain & officers⁸ go get them** – it says this time they are gentler because there is a huge crowd that is pro-Apostles. They don't want any more trouble and they are confused anyway. So, they come in more gently and the Apostles go with them.
 - **Afraid of being stoned by the people** – tough crowd.
 - **The apostles stand before the Council...again** – this seems to be a thing. And indeed it is. It's a plan of God, one that they were set up for by Jesus.
 - Jesus told them that they would stand before leaders and not to worry about what to say.
 - *Mk 13:9-13 - “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before*

⁶ “Not many weeks had passed since these two men had taken a part in the arrest and condemnation of Jesus. If they hoped that they had got rid of him, their hope was short-lived; it looked now as if they were going to have as much trouble on his account as they had had before his death.” NICNT

⁷ “The authorities drew the disquieting conclusion that the apostles had even more support than they had imagined: they had sympathizers, it appeared, in the ranks of the temple police, if not indeed among some members of the Sanhedrin itself. How otherwise could they have been so unobtrusively released from prison? Where was all this going to end?” NICNT

⁸ “Gk. ὑπηρέται, used similarly of the temple police in John 7:32, 45, 46; 18:3, 12.” NICNT

governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. ¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. ¹² And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. ¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.⁹

- **The high priest speaks** – he is the big dog in the Council so he's going to take the mic and speak what the others are thinking.
 - **We strictly charge you not to teach in Jesus Name** – It appears that they are saying: you defied our power and authority.
 - **You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching** – It appears that they are saying: you have subverted our teaching and influence.
 - **You intend to bring this man's blood upon us** – It appears that they are saying: you are trying to turn the people against us and even anger God against us.

- **Confrontation**
 - **Peter Lays the Truth on the Line**
 - *Acts 5:29-32 – “But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus¹⁰, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*
 - **Peter** – the spokesman of the Apostles responds for them.
 - **We must obey God rather than men** – what do you want us to do? God told us and we are going to be true to Him regardless of consequence. Wouldn't you do the same thing? God is our ultimate authority. He gets to call the shots.
 - **Obey God rather than man nationalism view** – rebellion. Don't put God's name on something He didn't authorize. How do you determine what to sign His name to?
 - **Our Truth** – Peter lays out what they know to be true to explain why they are doing what they are doing.
 - **Jesus was from our great God** – It appears that they are saying: we are following and promoting the One that all of us Jews worship. We are not on a separate team. We are on the team that you say that you lead. We are not bringing up a different religion, we are locked firmly in the tradition of our forefathers. This isn't new. It's the only way that our leaders have always taught us to be true to. That means that Jesus was who He said He was. He is the Son of God. He is God. That means you were against God.
 - **You killed Jesus** – It appears that they are saying: there's no excuses. You killed Jesus. We all saw it and know it. You were so public about it. You have

⁹ Cf. Matt. 10:17–22; Luke 12:11, 12

¹⁰ ““The God of our fathers raised up Jesus” (v. 30) refers probably to the inauguration of Jesus’ ministry: as God had once raised up David to be their king (13:22), so he had more recently raised up Jesus to be their Messiah (cf. 3:26).” NICNT

been against Him from day one. But now you have a problem because you killed an innocent man, but even more so you killed the Son of God. You say that we are bringing His blood back on you, absolutely we are! You did it. You killed Him. You killed what God loved.

- **God raised Him = resurrection** – It appears that they are saying: Leaders, you know as well as I do, that you don't have the body. We have seen Him again and again. Hundreds of us have. He is alive. You need to figure that out for yourselves because God, the God whom you say you serve, raised Him from the dead as evidence that He is legitimate.
- **God lifted Him back up to Heaven** – It appears that they are saying: God didn't just raise Him back to life to walk around here. He was restored back to His rightful place in heaven, at the right hand¹¹ of the Father, leading the armies of heaven for God. He takes back His rightful titles including those that He earned while down here.
 - **Leader**¹² – the term can also be Prince or master.
 - **Savior** – The Son of God, the 2nd Person of the Trinity only took on the full title of Savior when He followed through on dying for the sins of the world. Prior to that He was the planned Savior. But now He carries the full title of Savior of people.
- **To save Israel** – It appears that they are saying: Remember, we are not arguing about a man who was trying to overturn Rome or trying to lead a physical revolution. He was so peaceful. All He wanted was to save His people, the very same people that you say that you serve and love. He came as the Messiah to save Israel first. He proclaimed that He was here to bring repentance to a nation that you have been railing against for years saying that we needed to repent and return to God. But when He says it, you get mad. But Jesus came to make it a reality. He came to bring forgiveness and cleansing of the sin that we can't seem to shake. Here we stand in the Temple that sacrifices animals for sins continually, but we all know that it's just covering over the problem. The problem still remains. But Jesus came to fix that. He came to make it right. He came to cleanse us.
- **We know it's True** – It appears that they are saying: we are witnesses of all of it. It's not just that we saw it with our own eyes. It's not just that I can go out there in town and gather together hundreds who saw Him alive but look at the miracles we are doing. Look at what has been happening. The Holy Spirit is saying that Jesus is alive. He let us out of prison miraculously last night. This is so much bigger than us. The Holy Spirit is calling out its legitimacy. You aren't stopping men; you are stopping God.
 - **2 Witnesses** – In Israel court two witnesses made something legitimate. So Peter calls out that the Apostles were one witness, and the Holy Spirit of God was the other witness¹³.

¹¹ The right hand of a monarch was known to be the highest position to give influence and to exert authority on behalf of the king. It was the place of power.

¹² Prince = "Gk. ἀρχηγός, as in 3:15 (see p. 82, 30)." NICNT

¹³ "We also mark a noteworthy agreement with one of the paraclete passages in the Fourth Gospel: "when the Counselor comes," said Jesus to the disciples in the upper room, "whom I shall send to you from the Father, he will bear witness to me; and you also are witnesses, because you have been with me from the beginning" (John 15:26–27)." NICNT

and possibly occupation). He was really respected by the Council. He was very influential. Paul the Apostle studied under him.

- **He put the Apostles out for a moment** – he was smart enough to clear the room for what he was about to say. If the Apostles were bad guys, what he was about to say would only fuel the fire. He needed to be clear to his Council that he was not saying it for the benefit of the Apostles, but that he really meant it. Smart man.
- **Be very careful on your next move** – It appears that he was saying: what you do with these men is a big deal. Don't do this lightly. Don't lead with your emotions. Something much larger is happening right now and if you react too swiftly without thinking it through it can go very badly for Jerusalem. I'm cautioning you right now to slow it down and consider a few things.
- **2 examples of recent revolutions** – Gamaliel reminds them of recent history and how big movements and revolutions went in the past. We need to learn from history or we are going to repeat our mistakes.
 - **The Theudas Revolution**¹⁸ – he claimed to be a big deal and got about 400 people to follow him. But in the end someone killed him and all of his followers dispersed. It ultimately came to nothing.
 - **The Judas the Galilean Revolution**¹⁹ – remember the big movement during the census, right? He gathered quite a following, but in the end he died and it came to nothing.
- **What to do here** – In this present case I lay out some wisdom for you.
 - **Leave these guys alone** – It appears that he was saying: if it's a man-made revolution, which is allegedly based on a spiritual principle, which means they aren't going to rile up Rome and get us in trouble. This is a movement of ideals. So we don't have to immediately shut it down. We can see it out.
 - **If it's man-made it will fail** – It appears that he was saying: if this is just a bunch of guys rallying people behind their bogus ideas, it will fail. How do we know that? Well, there's at least two reasons: 1.) lies aren't going to last very long. People will either find out the truth or they will grow bored and go to the next thing. 2.) God will shut it down. We killed Jesus in protection of the name of God, right? Isn't that what we all told each other? Right. So, if this is a man-movement and they are going to blaspheme the name of God, they have Him to deal with right? If we truly believe we are on the right side, then this will blow over.

particularly the heirs of the school of Hillel, who proved best able to survive the disaster and preserve the continuity of national life. For some of their distinctive beliefs see 23:6–8 (pp. 428–30, nn. 21, 22, and 25). See L. Finkelstein, *The Pharisees* (Philadelphia, 1946); A. Finkel, *The Pharisees and the Teacher of Nazareth* (Leiden, 1946); J. Neusner, *The Rabbinical Traditions about the Pharisees before 70*, I-III (Leiden, 1971); J. Bowker, *Jesus and the Pharisees* (Cambridge, 1973); E. Rivkin, *A Hidden Revolution* (Nashville, 1978); Schürer II, pp. 388–403. We have contemporary accounts of the Pharisees from Josephus, who claims to have been one of them (*BJ* 2.162–63; *Ant.* 18.12–15).” NICNT

¹⁸ “We have no other information about this Theudas, but since he is said to have flourished before the rising of Judas the Galilaeen (A.D. 6), he may have been one of the many insurgent leaders who arose in Palestine after the death of Herod the Great (4 B.C.).” NICNT

¹⁹ “Next, he reminded them of Judas the Galilaeen. When Judaea was reduced to the status of a Roman province in A.D. 6, after the deposition of Archelaus, a census was held under the direction of the legate of Syria, P. Sulpicius Quirinius, to determine the amount of tribute to be paid by the new province to the imperial exchequer. Judas, a man from Gamala in Gaulanitis (Golan), inaugurated a religious and nationalist revolt, contending that it was high treason against God, Israel's one true king, for his people in his land to pay tribute to a pagan ruler. The revolt was crushed by Rome, but the spirit which animated it lived on, and emboldened the party of the Zealots to take the lead in the Jewish revolt of A.D. 66.⁶⁰ Judas's movement proved not to be so ineffective as Gamaliel supposed it was.” NICNT

- **BUT, if it's God** – It appears that he was saying: we all think we are on the right side, but what if we aren't? What if God IS doing something here? That also means at least two things: 1.) our attempts will consistently fail to shut it down – because it's a God thing and He will make sure it succeeds. 2.) We may be found to be opposing the very God to whom we have dedicated our lives! – that to me is the greater problem here. Let's be honest guys, we don't know what's happening here. The miracles are undeniable. We may not like these guys or agree with these guys, but God's doing something. So why don't we let it play out and see what God does?
 - **Who's side are we on?** – What happens when someone comes up against your team? How do you handle it? Especially in the area of spirituality? What do you do when someone believes something different than you, and it has a moral component? How do you act toward them? What if their side starts to gain traction, what do you do? When do you know if a movement is legit or not? Could it be that God is doing something that He didn't let you in on yet? Or is this new movement from the enemy and the new group is deluded? It's tough to discern, right? Because **no matter what side you are, you think that God is on your side. You assume that any movement against you is the enemy, but what if it's not?**
- **They took Gamaliel's advice** – This was God steering the situation.
 - **They beat the Apostles²⁰** – ouch! You'd think after that moving talk from Gamaliel they would want to steer clear of the Apostles, but they were still angry, and they were going to take it out on them. They wanted a clear message sent to not mess with them, so they had them beaten anyway.
 - **Why didn't God stop the beating?** – this will sound harsh, but it ultimately didn't matter. I know it matters when it hurts, but in the long run, it will turn out for their blessing, the Church's blessing, and the glory to God.
 - **They charged them not to speak in Jesus' name** – they repeated the mandate not to preach or teach in Jesus' name anymore.
 - **They let them go** – in the end the Apostles were released. Beaten but released. The other outcome was likely death.
- **The Bigger Picture** – if we look through a localized lens it seems that the Apostles dodged a bullet. But that would be incorrect. This was all a set up. Jesus told the Apostles at His ascension that they WOULD BE HIS WITNESSES. That's what this is. God set up a meeting with the highest leaders of the land to hear the gospel. **How was God going to gather the whole Council together to hear the gospel that they said they hated?** Bring in prisoners and get the Council to think that they were in control. But they weren't.
 - **The cost of God's plans** – Sometimes God's plans cost a lot. Sometimes they don't. But **until we are able to see the big picture and willing to pay the cost we are going to struggle with how things go in our lives.** God is doing something so much larger than us. We are part players in the grand drama.

²⁰ "The court was content to inflict the minor penalty of flogging on the apostles—whether with the full tale of "forty stripes save one" or something more lenient is not said—for disobeying its previous order, which was now reimposed: they must speak no more in the name of Jesus." NICNT

Sometimes our parts are to stand with Him in victory (Elijah & Joseph) and sometimes we are the blood of the martyrs calling out from the ground (John the Baptist). Yes, the Council heard the gospel, but the Apostles were beaten. Is that a fair trade? God thought so.

- **Another Day, Another...Dollar?**
 - **The Apostles go Back to Business**
 - *Acts 5:41-42 – “Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.”*
 - **The Apostles left rejoicing** – they weren’t just rejoicing that they were alive, they were rejoicing that they suffered for Jesus. What?
 - **Counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name** – what in the world does this mean? Why is this a good thing?
 - **Counted worthy** – counted worthy by who? God. To be counted worthy means that God looked down and chose them to be a part of His grand plan. They got to be used by God. They saw it through the lens of God examining hearts and looking for people who would be faithful to Him, and He picked THEM!
 - **Suffering dishonor for the name** – being beaten like a criminal is dishonoring. It’s not cool. It’s not glamorous. It’s terrible. You are stripped down (shirt) and beaten like an animal. They suffered dishonor. But for what? The name. What name? The name of Jesus. The name of Christianity. The name Church. The name – The Way. They were seen as so close to Jesus Christ that they were beaten because of it. All that they wanted was to be that close to Him.
 - **Right back to work** – they went right back to the ministry. They didn’t miss a beat. They didn’t stew about how God let them get beaten. They didn’t let fear stop them (what if it happened again and this time worse?). They didn’t get derailed by all the noise. They were on mission and focused.
 - **Every day in the temple** – this was public ministry to the society and world around them. In the temple means that they were talking to the religious initially, but most Jews would go there simply due to cultural expectations whether or not they loved God or not. So it was their place of public discourse. This was primarily evangelism.
 - **Every day house to house** – this was the ministry to one another and sharing the gospel personally. They were still salt and light but they were also encouraging and building one another up. It was part discipleship and part evangelism.
 - **Never stopped preaching/teaching that Jesus was the Messiah** – that was the heart of their message. To the Jewish people who had been waiting for the messiah, this was the key message they desperately wanted and needed to hear.

Conclusion

- **The Bigger Picture** – we must **continually remind one another that there is a bigger picture.** When we get tunnel vision on our lives, nothing seems to make sense. We need to blow up the

picture and look at it afresh. What is God doing on a larger scale and what is our part in that?

- **Full obedience** – **how do we play our part well?** We follow through on what God tells us to do. We commit to full obedience, not partial.