Why Don't People Just Do What God Says?

Greg Kline · Jeremiah 3:6–14

INTRODUCTION

- Today, in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, why don't people just do what God says?
- Why don't people just obey? Why don't I do what God says? If I know it's there, I see what he expects of me, why don't I just obey him?

1 Treacherous Judah Did Not Fear and Took Sin Lightly

Jeremiah 3:6–11

- Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore.
- It didn't matter that God had punished Israel. They saw it and they kept on doing it anyway. They did not fear.
- They were not afraid of God. They took sin lightly.
- They were done just to do it, just to cover their bases, just to return to God in name, but not in deed, and not in heart.

2 They Had the Clear Law and Choices

Deuteronomy 30:11–18

- For this commandment that I command to you today is not too hard for you. Neither is it far off.
- See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.
- You know what the law is. This is not impossible for you. You can keep it.
- They knew what the law was, they knew what the stakes were. So it can't be that they did not know.

3 Without Excuse Because They Had Seen Israel Fall

Jeremiah 3:7; Jeremiah 2:34–35; Jeremiah 3:12–13

- They had the temple, they had the Levitical priesthood, they had the law found, they had seen Israel fall. There was no excuses.
- Behold, I will bring you to judgment for saying, I have not sinned.
- They thought surely God was going to be okay with it.
- Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God, and that you have not obeyed my voice.

4 The Jews Loved Their Worldly Standing

John 9:18–22; John 12:42–43

- His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.
- For they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

- They would not confess him because they were more concerned with the Jews, more afraid of the Jews than afraid of God.

5 His Disciples Didn't Fully Believe His Claims

Matthew 26:30–35; Matthew 26:56

- And Peter said to him, Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you. And the disciples said the same.
- Then all the disciples left him and fled.
- They certainly knew Jesus. They certainly believed in Jesus. They obviously didn't fully believe his claims.

6 We Try to Muddy the Two Choices

2 Thessalonians 1:7–10; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3; 2 Peter 3:10–14

- One of the ways that we avoid this is we try to muddy the two choices God has given us.
- Inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- There is the narrow way and there is the broad way. There is eternal life and eternal damnation. Those are the choices.
- If I think about myself, it's because I don't really take it that seriously. I don't believe fully what Jesus had said.
- If we believe Jesus is coming, we will be ready, living lives of godliness, hastening, waiting for the coming of the day of the Lord.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Choose God first. Trust in the one who sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Trust in the one who made his will known.**

MY NOTES