



A Family's Example

Be Faithful to God's Ways, even more than Human Traditions

Core Scriptures: Jeremiah 35:5–11

Introduction

God calls His people to follow His ways above all else. While traditions may feel familiar or even honorable, they must never outweigh obedience to His Word. Faithfulness to God means choosing His instruction—even when it challenges what we've always known.

In Jeremiah 35, the descendants of Jonadab refused to drink wine—not because of personal conviction, but because of a command from their ancestor. God honored their loyalty to human tradition to highlight a deeper truth: if they could be so faithful to a man's word, how much more should His people be faithful to Him. This study invites us to reflect on that question.

1. Faithfulness Over Convenience (Jeremiah 35:5–6; James 1:22; Luke 16:10)

The Rechabites had every reason to compromise. They were displaced. They were in Jerusalem and they were invited by a prophet, but they did NOT bend. Faithfulness to God isn't proven in comforts – it's proven in pressure.

Where do we compromise when obedience becomes inconvenient?

2. Legacy of Obedience (Jeremiah 35:6–10; Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6–7)

Jonadab's command wasn't divine – but it was honored for generations. The Rechabites didn't just obey – they preserved a legacy.

What legacy are we building in our families and church? Are we passing down obedience – or just tradition?

3. God Honors Faithfulness (Jeremiah 35:14, 18–19; 1 Sam. 15:22; Matthew 25:21)

God uses the Rechabites as a living sermon. He contrasts their obedience with Israel's rebellion. Then He promises blessings. Faithfulness to God's ways – even in small things – leads to lasting reward.

Are we living in a way that God would use as an example?

For Reflection

- What traditions have I inherited that align with God's ways?
- Where have I allowed culture or convenience to override obedience?
- How can I model faithfulness in my family, church, or community?

Challenge Statement

Let your life be a living sermon. Let your obedience speak louder than your opinions. Let your legacy be marked by faithfulness – not just traditions.