

Fierce 2
Obedience Makes Good Things Happen

SESSION 1 SUMMARY
THREE REASONS PEOPLE STOP SHORT

1) OUR PERSPECTIVE GETS BLOCKED.
(Worship Fellowship Stand)

2) OUR PROGRESS ISN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUS.
(Any obedience is progress)

3) THE PROCESS IS OPEN-ENDED.
(What God wants to do in us must come before what He wants to do for us)

Another lap?

To go at the process again?

To not stop short?

To stand on the fact that when we can not see God working around us He is most assuredly working within you?

This may be the last lap around the walls, but you wont know if you stop!

You have come too far!...

Pray when you don't see answers
Show up when you think no one will miss you
Give when you don't see the provision

Jeremiah 20:11

But God, a most **fierce** warrior, is at my side.

Hebrews 10:36

"You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised."

OBEDIENCE MAKES GOOD THINGS HAPPEN (THEME)

PAULS STORY

Paul - the great lengths he went to do what he did.
Going great lengths to press on and get things done not give up
and recoil in defeat.

End of Acts - Paul is in transition and he is in trouble
If you are in transition or you are in trouble, its when God does
His greatest transformation.

Paul on a boat to Rome... not going to get Italian takeout
Not going to try the fine wines
Not cruising the Mediterranean on a Princess of the Seas

Prisoner with 275 other prisoners

Encounters and **unexpected problem** that was not his fault...

Acts 27:9

*Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because ^athe Fast was already over, **Paul advised them,***

Conditions not ideal...
Storms out of our control

Paul advises...

Acts 27:10

...saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."

We sometimes even know the best course out...
(Frustrated Righteousness)

PERSUADED

Acts 27:11

¹¹ Nevertheless the centurion was more **persuaded** by the helmsman and the owner of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul.

Preacher vs. Owner and Captain

The preacher vs nautical school and the bank roller

Paul was there because he was being obedient.
Paul was there because he was walking in is God ordained purpose

Paul was there because he listened to the voice of God
(Damascus road)

We listen to logic
We listen to all the indicators
We listen to other peoples ideas
We listen to law makers who dabble in the realms of God
(Authority in some areas belongs to God)

God has given man authority over some things and held on to **authority** in others.

He is not asking....

Persuasion away from His authority is looking for trouble

The items that are in His authority are the ones that cause the greatest storms in our lives if we are disobedient.

Will you obey? Will you be persuaded?

Will I sail with His wind in my sails, **His Spirit or my senses?**

JUST LIKE THE CENTURION...

Instead of listening to what the voice of God says, because a lot of times that doesn't make sense, we're listening to what our senses say, because **that's something we can understand.**

1. IT DOES NOT HAVE TO MAKE SENSE

Living life by what makes sense stops you from becoming a person of strong faith...

Joshua - Jericho

Moses - Red Sea

Daniel - Lions Den

Jesus - Cross - Forgive them

No sense resurrection when they had slaughtered Him

No sense persecution of apostles - "Obey God rather than man"

If you stop every time it doesn't make sense you will never get anywhere by faith.

The path to faithful obedience is to stop trying to make sense of it all.

The way forward is non-sensical obedience...

**The end of it all, the outcome is God's responsibility.
Obedience is yours.**

You don't have to understand to obey. You don't have to know where it's going to end up to take the next step.

Acts 27:13-14

When a **light wind** began blowing from the south, **the sailors thought they could make it**. So they pulled up anchor and sailed close to the shore of Crete. ¹⁴But the weather changed abruptly, and a wind of typhoon strength (called a “northeaster”) burst across the island and blew us out to sea.

Obedience when its small is easier than when it blows up

Even when you think you are making progress on your own strength, if its not obedience to God, its going to end in disaster...

Build a business but have to cut corners to do it
Have a relationship but break the covenants that God asks of us
Enjoy the life that God has created but with addictions

“I can stop anytime I want...”

Acts 27:13-14

The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and we were **driven along** by the gale."

2. OBEY THE GENTLE PROMPTINGS

Obey the gentle prompting immediately because storms have a tendency to come up quickly.

Light winds...

The small warnings are His way of protecting us from the storms.

WARNINGS IGNORED

Spirit of God does not threaten you.

"You need to pay more attention here. You need to put your heart back into this. You need to get back over there and do it like you used to do it. You've lost your passion. You've lost your intensity. You've lost your focus. You've lost your first love.

ACTS 27:13-17

¹⁵ The sailors couldn't turn the ship into the wind, so they gave up and let it run before the gale.¹⁶ We sailed along the sheltered side of a small island named Cauda,^[d] where with great difficulty we hoisted aboard the lifeboat being towed behind us. ¹⁷ Then the sailors bound ropes around the hull of the ship to strengthen it. They were **afraid** of being driven across to the sandbars of Syrtis off the African coast, so they lowered the sea anchor to slow the ship and were **driven before the wind.**

Just floating through life = driven before the wind

Making course corrections through gentle direction is so much easier than trying to hang on in the storm.

3. OBEY DON'T TRY TO MAKE A PLAN

ACTS 27:18-20

The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. ¹⁹The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard. ²⁰The terrible **storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone.**

The storm just wont stop...

Its a terrible thing when the storm keeps raging...

In distress we make a plan. But when our plan fails our distress turns to despair. All hope is gone.

Thats just how it is
Thats all I will ever be
Driven along with no hope.

When we have no hope, no light to guide us.
As long as there was something to guide us - your own plan -
you had hope, but promo need distress causes despair.

4. OBEDIENCE RESTORES

You might have lost some money. You might have lost some moments. You might have lost some people. You might have lost some peace. You might have lost some brain cells. - but here's what the word of the Lord says. Lean into this. Lean into this.

Paul stood up before them and said,

ACTS 27:21-25

“Men, you should have listened to me in the first place...

But now take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. ²³ For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, ²⁴ and he said, ‘**Don’t be afraid**, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What’s more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.’ ²⁵ So **take courage!** For I believe God. It will be just as he said.

Not one of you will be lost...

God wants all to be saved - even the previously disobedient ones
(1 Tim 2:4)

Don't worry about your past inability to hear and obey - right now in this moment its time to start the cycle of obedience.

The only way to combat the cycle of disappointment is the cycle of obedience.

5. ITS NOT ABOUT THE BOAT

ACTS 27:26

²⁶ But we will be **shipwrecked** on an island.”

Sometimes our hope is too much in how we want God to do something. Sometimes our hope is in our plan for how we want to get where we think God wants to take us.

If your hope is in your ability, your own plan, when your plan is interrupted, your faith fails.

A shipwrecked plan is the perfect place to start being obedient to God!

Your hope was in your circumstance, so God said, "Sometimes I got to break your boat apart so I can teach you how to let your hope float to the surface without it."

COURAGEOUS OBEDIENCE

“**But now** take courage!”

There are some things that are outside of your control, but your courage is in your control. It depends on what you're focused on.

Some of you have lost your courage, and you've lost your confidence, and you've lost your hope, and you've lost your joy. You want to know why? Because all your hope was in the boat.

It takes courage to be obedient to something that makes no sense.

It takes courage to stand up and say your faith has been in the boat and not in the promises of God!

Just because I haven't been listening to fierce warrior does not
man he has left me!

He who began a good work in you ... He who began a good work
in you will be faithful to complete it."

God finishes what He starts

CLOSE