

The Faithful Recabites

READ: Summary of Jeremiah 35

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: ²“Invite the Recabite family to the house of the LORD and give them wine to drink.” ³ So Jeremiah invited the Recabites to the house of the LORD. ⁵ He set cups and bowls of wine before them and said, “Drink some wine.” ⁶ They replied, “We do not drink wine, because our forefather Jehonadab son of Recab gave us this command: ‘Neither you nor your descendants must ever drink wine, then you will live a long time in the land.’” ⁸ We have obeyed everything he commanded us. ¹² Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying: ¹³ “Go and tell the people of Judah, ‘Will you not learn a lesson and obey my words? Jehonadab, son of Recab, ordered his descendants not to drink wine and this command has been kept. ¹⁴They obey this command to this day. I have spoken to you again and again, yet you have not obeyed me. ¹⁵ I sent my servants the prophets to you. They said, “Turn from your wicked ways and do what is right; do not serve other gods.” But you have not listened. ¹⁶ The Recabites have obeyed their forefather, but you have not obeyed me.’” ¹⁷ “Therefore I am going to bring disaster on Judah and Jerusalem since I spoke, but they did not listen; I called to them, but they did not answer.”” ¹⁸ Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Recabites, “You have obeyed the commands of your forefather and have done everything he ordered.’” ¹⁹ Therefore, the God of Israel, says: ‘The Recabites will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.’”

REFLECT: Why did the Lord praise the Recabites? (vv. 13-14)

How well were the people of Judah following God’s commands? (vv. 15-16)

The Recabites followed all the commands their forefather gave them. Even when Jeremiah offered them wine they followed his command, showing themselves faithful. For this obedience God rewarded them. The people of Judah on the other hand were faithless to God. He warned them repeatedly to follow His law, yet they refused to listen. Because of their disobedience God told them they would be disciplined.

Each day we are faced with a choice, follow His commands, or go our own path. Jesus tells us in John 14:23 that if we love Him then we will obey His commands. When we are faithful and follow God’s commands, the Lord often blesses us, as He did the Recabites, but when we follow our own path it will always end up leading to destruction (Matthew 7:13). Make it your goal to follow the Lord’s commands in all you do.

RESPOND: When do you find it hard to follow God’s commands? Why?

If we say we love God, then we need to obey his commands. When you pray today thank God for his word and ask Him to help you follow His commands.

Thank God for _____

Pray for _____