**“Obedience & The Crowd”**

Going deeper in Jeremiah 35:1-2, 5-17

**INTRODUCTION** – As Jeremiah has responded to the LORD he has used examples from daily life to get people’s attention and communicate the LORD’s message. In Jerusalem at this time there were a group of nomads called Recabites who would have stood out. What Jeremiah does with them becomes a living example of God’s message to Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and us. Here is what happens:

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD during the days of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah. 2 Go and visit the Recabite community and invite them to come to the LORD’s house and meet you in one of the side rooms and give them wine to drink.

5 Then I set out chalices and pitchers of wine for the Recabites and said, “Let’s drink up!” 6 But they said, “We don’t drink wine. Our ancestor Jonadab the son of Recab commanded us, ‘You are not to drink wine, you, or your children, ever. 7 You also will not build a house, sow seeds, or plant a vineyard. For all your days you will live in tents in the land so that you will live well and prosper wherever you live as nomads. 8 We heard and obeyed everything Jonadab son of Recab commanded. Neither we nor our wives nor our sons and daughters have ever drunk wine. 9 We don’t build houses to live in. We don’t have vineyards or fields or crops. 10 We live in tents as nomads. We listened and obeyed everything Jonadab our forefather commanded us. 11 But when Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, invaded the land we said, ‘Let’s go to Jerusalem and get out of the path of the Chaldean and Aramean armies. That’s why we are living in Jerusalem today.” 12 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, 13 “This is what the LORD of angel armies, the God of Israel says, ‘Go tell the people of Judah and the citizens of Jerusalem, ‘Why won’t you learn your lesson and do what I tell you?’ declares the LORD. 14 The commands of Jonadab son of Recab to his family have been carried out to this day. He told them not to drink wine and they drank none. They honored and obeyed their father. But you, even though I have done my best to get your attention, you’ve ignored me. 15 Again and again, I have sent my servants the prophets to tell you from morning to night to turn from your evil ways and break from your past and do what is right. Don’t follow other gods and serve them. Then you will dwell in the land I gave you and your ancestors. But you have not listened or obeyed me. 16 The descendants of Jonadab son of Recab have carried out to the letter what their ancestor commanded them, but you ignore me.” 17 So this is what the LORD, the God of angel armies says is going to happen, ‘Look out! I will bring on Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem the calamity which I told you was coming because you turned a deaf ear when I spoke and you refused to answer or turn to me.’”

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. The Recabites would have stood out in Jerusalem as strangers. What do you think people were thinking when Jeremiah invited them into one of the side rooms of the temple?

2. What does their response to Jeremiah’s offer of wine tell you about them?

3. In what ways did the Recabites not go along with the crowd?

4. Why do you think the Israelites don’t listen or obey their heavenly father as the Recabites listened and obeyed their earthly father?

5. How hard had the LORD been trying to get their attention? What does that say about the nature of our God? What has the LORD been trying to get your attention about?

6. In what areas of life today are Christians called to not go along with the crowd? When in your life has the LORD called you to not go along with the crowd? What happened?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Spend some time in silence just being with the LORD

\*Ask the LORD Jesus to give you open ears to hear his voice.

\*Ask the LORD Jesus to show you any areas of your life that need to change so you can be more Christ-like.

\*Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to follow through on this.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Listening and obeying the LORD Jesus is central to being a disciple. What higher standard than those around is the LORD Jesus calling you to? Will you start this week? Will you ask another follower of Jesus to hold you accountable in this area?