Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary Chapel Chris Dawson

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**Stubborn Disobedience**

***Jeremiah 39–44***

**Topic:** Obedience

**Subject:** How does God respond when we refuse to repent?

**Complement:** He warns us and then consistently motivates us to obedience.

**Purpose:** The listeners will obey the Lord.

# Introduction

### Preview: Today we will first look at the text—and then see its application.

### Text: Jeremiah 39–44

### Background: Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and exiled the people but left some of the poor there.

#### Jeremiah remained with this group from Israel and Ammon.

#### But some of them killed Gedaliah and the representatives of the Babylonians and then decided to run to Egypt out of fear: “They took them all to the village of Geruth-kimham near Bethlehem, where they prepared to leave for Egypt” (Jer 41:17 NLT).

#### But near Bethlehem, they asked Jeremiah’s guidance of God’s will in this regard.

##### Jer. 42:1    Then all the military leaders, including Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah son of Hoshaiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, approached 2 Jeremiah the prophet. They said, “Please pray to the LORD your God for us. As you can see, we are only a tiny remnant compared to what we were before. 3 Pray that the LORD your God will show us what to do and where to go.”

##### Ten days later God answered Jeremiah to have them stay there in Israel—but they claimed that he was lying!

#### So they all went to Egypt, where they longed to return to the land (44:14).

# I. Obedience brings blessing but disobedience brings a curse.

## God promised blessing if they returned to the Lord (44:11-14).

## Yet the Israelites in judgment in Egypt remained defiant (Jer. 44:15–19 NLT-SE):

### Jer. 44:15    Then all the women present and all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to idols—a great crowd of all the Judeans living in northern Egypt and southern Egypt—answered Jeremiah, 16 “We will not listen to your messages from the LORD! 17 We will do whatever we want. We will burn incense and pour out liquid offerings to the Queen of Heaven just as much as we like—just as we, and our ancestors, and our kings and officials have always done in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For in those days we had plenty to eat, and we were well off and had no troubles! 18 But ever since we quit burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and stopped worshiping her with liquid offerings, we have been in great trouble and have been dying from war and famine.”

### Jer. 44:19    “Besides,” the women added, “do you suppose that we were burning incense and pouring out liquid offerings to the Queen of Heaven, and making cakes marked with her image, without our husbands knowing it and helping us? Of course not!”

# II. Press into the struggle against sin.

## As believers, we continually struggle with idols throughout our lives.

### If you still struggle with idols, this is a good sign of life since you are struggling with sin instead of capitulating to them.

### But, while idols will tempt us, idols should not control us. The struggle is good—but don’t give in to the darkness!

## Jesus said that his food was to do the will of the One who sent him. It should be ours as well.

# Conclusion

### We have hope against temptation and idolatry when we do not harden our hearts (Main Idea).

### Application: Worship the Lord so you don’t become an idolater.

### Psalm 95

1    Come, let us sing to the LORD!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving.

Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

3 For the LORD is a great God,

a great King above all gods.

4 He holds in his hands the depths of the earth

and the mightiest mountains.

5 The sea belongs to him, for he made it.

His hands formed the dry land, too.

6    Come, let us worship and bow down.

Let us kneel before the LORD our maker,

7 for he is our God.

We are the people he watches over,

the flock under his care.

If only you would listen to his voice today!

8 The LORD says, “Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah,

as they did at Massah in the wilderness.

9 For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience,

even though they saw everything I did.

10 For forty years I was angry with them, and I said,

‘They are a people whose hearts turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.’

11 So in my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”