

Obadiah: He Got Right with God

➤ I. OBADIAH'S CONDITION.

- 1. He was living in a place of sin.
 - *"And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:)" (I Kings 18:3)*
 - Notice I Kings 16:30 and 33.
 - *"And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. . . And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."*
- 2. He was living in a cursed place.
 - Compare 1 Kings 17:1 and 18:1
 - *"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." (1 Kings 17:1)*
 - *"And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth." (I Kings 18:1)*
- 3. He was living in a place of fear with no joy.
 - *" And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, [Art] thou that my lord Elijah? And he answered him, I [am]: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah [is here]. And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?" (I Kings 18:7-9)*
- 4. He was helping the Devil's crowd to achieve wealth and their goals.
 - *"And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts." (I Kings 18:5)*

- **5. He had the opportunity to get out of this household.**
 - *"And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as set their hearts to seek the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers." (2 Chronicles 11:16)*
- **6. He had nearly made the break once before.**
 - *"For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water." (1 Kings 18:4)*
- **7. He feared to stand alone.**
 - *"And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth." (I Kings 18:12)*
- **8. He was living on past deeds.**
 - *"Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?" (I Kings 18:13)*

➤ **II. OBADIAH'S CHOICE.**

- Compare I Kings 18:5 and 8.
- *"And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts." (I Kings 18:5)*
- *"And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here." (I Kings 18:8)*
- Obadiah was in the business of helping Ahab and following Ahab's orders.
- He came to the choice whether he would follow the orders of the man of the Devil or whether he would follow the orders as transmitted to him by the man of God.
- As is often true, he had to chose between a hated man of God and a man who hated God.
- Ahab had Obadiah in the palm of his hand.
- Obadiah was doing all the things that Ahab wanted done.
- He excluded the things of God.

- There came an opportunity for him to have fellowship once again with God, to take his stand publicly, and to do the thing that was right and pleasing in the eyes of God.
- He had his choice to make--his choice to get out of sin and back to serving God or whether to continue not serving but living in sin.
- The choice here is the most difficult choice to make in the life of a Christian.
- This is the place where so many people choose the wrong way. So often, the individual in sin professes to be a Christian.
- Then the world looks at him, laughs at him, and says to him "
- You are no Christian; if you were, you would not be in this position."
- The man has to make up his mind that he will serve the Lord in spite of the laughter of the people surrounding him, that he will get out of the mud hole and serve the Lord or that he will continue to hide in the mud hole.

➤ **III. OBADIAH'S COMPANY.**

- There are other Bible characters who got back to serving God after getting involved in sin.
- Notice Hebrews 11, the great chapter on faith. In it are given the roll of faithful men and women from Abel through Samuel.
- Checking the lives of each one of these, we find that most of these great heroes of faith at some time or other were in deep sin, so deep that everyone about them would realize it.
- Yet their faith in the Lord and their and their desire to do that which was pleasing to Him caused them to get up, get off the floor, and get back to doing that which is right and pleasing in the eyes of God.
- Consider Noah, who drank; Abram, his wife in Pharaoh's harem; Jacob, A thief; Sarah, who laughed at God; Joseph, who stayed in Egypt when he could have left; Moses, who hit the rock twice; Gideon fearfully hiding from the enemy; Sampson, blinded and tied to the grindstone; Jephthah, who offered his daughter as a sacrifice wrongly; David, an adulterer and murderer; Samuel, who mourned for that which God rejected.
- All these were in deep sin, and yet all served God and were men and women of faith!

➤ **CONCLUSION:**

- The teaching from this lesson is that there comes a crucial time in every person's life when he either has to

endure the laughter of men who tell him that he has nothing and go back to the business of serving the lord, or he stays with the laughing crowd.