

RISK

IS RIGHT

Elements Class - 10.45a - Choir Room - 7.20.14

LAST WEEK...

'Obedience' is **what we do** or **what our lives look like** when we are satisfied with all that God promises to be for us in Jesus.

Obedience is:
the correlating action that outwardly displays this deep inner confidence and assuring hope of God's goodness.

Obedience
is the submission to
the design and
instruction of God.

Obedience often,
if not always,
involves risk.

Our obedience to God will often mean loss, disadvantage, harm, scrutiny and less comfort in this life.

“Everyone who wants to live **a godly life** in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**”
(2 Timothy 3:12)

But it is the allegiance to God through this **risk** that makes the world sit up and take notice.

LET'S DEFINE Risk

An action
that **exposes** someone
to the **possibility** of loss
or injury.

Risk is possible
because we don't know how
things will turn out.



This means that God can take no risks.

He knows the outcome of all his choices (*and ours*) before they happen.

If you take a **risk**, you can lose money, you can lose face, you can lose your life.



Our society tells us that a wise & loving person should never take unwarranted risks.



...and that a wise & loving person would never ask someone else to take unwarranted risks.



We are taught that wise people **avoid**, **reduce** and **eliminate** risk!

But what if the circumstances are such that not taking a risk will result in **greater** loss and injury?



What if a successful risk would bring great benefit to many people?



What if the Creator of the universe demands risk in obedience and guarantees its success?



Our obedience to God will **often** mean risk...
loss, disadvantage,
harm, scrutiny and **less**
comfort in this life.

If safety, security and risk avoidance is our goal...
**disobedience may be our
only option.**

OUR GOAL IS
Core
Repetitive
BIBLICAL
TRUTHS

**‘God asking his people to
risk, in faith led obedience’**
is a crucial, repetitive
theme all throughout
the Bible.

Noah risked ridicule, harassment and his family's safety for decades...



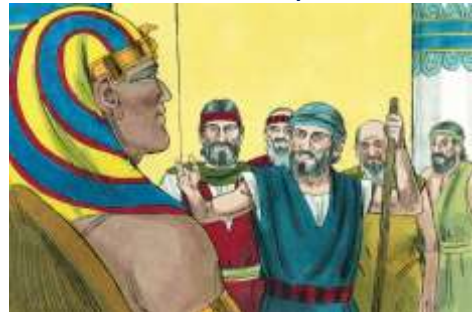
Abraham risked the life and well being of his son.



Joseph risked being thrown in prison in saying no to adultery.



Moses risked his life & a future of riches to lead a lowly slave nation.



Rahab risked her life to save the spies sent into Jericho.



With just these few examples, it is **foolish** to think that one of God's primary goals is for us to be **secure, safe, luxurious** and **comfortable**.

Quite the opposite:

One of God's primary goals
is for our security, safety,
luxury and ease
to be challenged
and even destroyed.

In this way:

We will learn to find our
security, safety and luxury
in God
and God alone.

Esther risked her life & went before
the king to spare the Hebrews.



"Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do." **Est 14:15-16**



"When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." **Est 14:15-16**



"If I perish, I perish..."

Esther risked...because
she did not know what
the result would be.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
risked their lives by refusing to bow to
the golden idol.



"As soon as you hear the sound of the horn...you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up." **Dan 3:5-6**



"Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace." **Dan 3:5-6**



"There are some Jews—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up." **Dan 3:12**



"Nebuchadnezzar...if it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand.

But if not, be it known to you that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

Dan 3:16-18

"But if not..."

These men risked...because they did not know what the result would be.

Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. And when the believers heard a prophecy about the dangers in store for Paul...they beg Paul not to go. **Acts 21**



Paul said to them: "What are you doing weeping? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." **Acts 21**



"I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."

Paul (Acts 20:24)

"And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said,

'The will of the Lord be done.'" **Acts 21**



'The will of the Lord be done.'

Paul & the Church risked...because they did not know what the result would be.

In each of these situations
 God's people only knew
God's desire,
 not **God's outcome.**

They all had two choices:
To risk...
or to run...

In each these situations:
Risk was right.

In each these situations:
*It would have been
 wrong **not to take risks**
 for the cause of God.*

There is no promise that
 every obedient effort for the
 cause of God will succeed
in the short run.

(As in the case of John the Baptist and Herod)

But there are many promise
 that every obedient effort
 for the cause of God will be
 worth it and rewarded
in the long run.

After telling a rich man to:

"...go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Peter asked:

"We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?"

Jesus answered:

"everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake..."

Jesus answered:

*"...will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life."
(Matt 19:29)*

Jesus is telling Peter that:

No one will really be able to say to God that they sacrificed and gave up all they had for God...

Jesus is telling Peter that:

because God will reward, replenish, refill all those sacrifices in the end a hundred fold.

1 Thess 1:4-7

*“Among God’s churches we
boast about your
perseverance and faith in all
the persecutions and trials
you are enduring.”*

1 Thess 1:4-7

*“...as a result you will be
counted worthy of the
kingdom of God, for which
you are suffering.”*

1 Thess 1:4-7

*“God is just: He will pay back
trouble to those who trouble
you and give relief to you
who are troubled, and to us
as well.”*

1 Thess 1:4-7

*“This will happen when the
Lord Jesus is revealed from
heaven in blazing fire with his
powerful angels.”*

4 RISKS
GOD
wants us to
take

Risk in
Obedience to his
commands and
revealed will.

For obedience...

*"If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." **Matt 5:29***

*"The apostles were made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching." Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!" When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death." **Acts 5:27-33***

For others...

*"Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." **James 5:16***

*"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently." **Galatians 6:1***

*"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." **Galatians 6:10***

Risk in
Pursuit of personal
and corporate
ministry ventures.

Risk in

Love for the sake
of others.

Risk in

Commitment to the
accomplishment of
the great commission.



*"How many of us
have been
sentenced just to
wander through life
in boring circles
because we refuse
to take a risk for the
cause of God?"*

John Piper

