

=LITTLE-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS=

Lesson 7

Obadiah, the Man Who Got Right with God

SCRIPTURES: I Kings 16:28-34, 17:1, 18:1-16.

AIM: to encourage my students to get back to serving after sinning.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the question, “What do you consider to be the hardest job in the life of a Christian?”

I. OBADIAH’S CONDITION.

1. He was living in a place of sin. Read I Kings 18:3. Notice also I Kings 16:30 and 33.
2. He was living in a place of curse. Compare I Kings 17:1 and 18:1.
3. He was living in a joyless place. I Kings 18:3.
4. He was helping the Devil’s crowd to achieve wealth. I Kings 18:5.
5. He had the opportunity to get out of this household. II Chronicles 11:14-17.
6. He had nearly made the break once before. I Kings 18:4.
7. He feared to stand alone. I Kings 18:12.
8. He was living on past deeds. I Kings 18:13.

- II. OBADIAH’S CHOICE. Compare I Kings 18:5 and 8. Obadiah was in the business of helping Ahab and following Ahab’s orders. He came to a 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 choose 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 and 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 of whether he would get out of sin and back to serving or 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, the reason being that here is the individual in sin who 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 mudhole and serve the Lord **or** that he will continue to hide in the mudhole.

- III. OBADIAH’S COMPANY. There are other Bible characters who got back to serving God after sinning. Notice Hebrews 11, the great chapter on faith. In it we are given the roll of faithful men 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—and yet their faith in the Lord and their desire to do that which was pleasing to Him caused them to get up, get “off the mat” and get back to doing that which was right and pleasing in the eyes of God. Consider Noah, who drank; Abraham, whose wife was in a 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, who fearfully hid from the enemy; Samson, who was tied to the grindstone; Jephthah, who offered his daughter as a sacrifice wrongly; David, who was an adulterer, murderer; Samuel, who mourned for that which God rejected.

CONCLUSION: The teaching from this lesson is that there comes a crucial time in every man’s life when he either has to endure the laughter of those who tell him that he has nothing and go back to the business of serving the Lord, or he stays with the laughing crowd.