

## Who You Gonna Listen To?

### A Quick Look Back:

Acts 5:12-26

### Today's Passage:

Acts 5:27-32

## Who You Gonna Listen To - And Why?

Start with a clear understanding of who's in **CHARGE**, who we've **BECOME** and why we're **HERE**.

- God is in **CONTROL** of who is in **CONTROL**.  
Daniel 1:1-2, 2:20-21/ Romans 13:1-2
- We are citizens of **HEAVEN**.  
Philippians 3:20/ Colossians 1:12-14
- We're here to be ambassadors for **JESUS**.  
2 Corinthians 5:20/ Colossians 3:17

Understand the difference between what God **FORBIDS** and **COMMANDS**, and what we don't **LIKE** or **AGREE** with.

Daniel 1-6/ Mark 7:1-23/ Matthew 5:17

Do what Jesus asks us to do.

- **PRAY** for those in **AUTHORITY**.  
1 Timothy 2:1-4
- **OBEY** those in **AUTHORITY**.  
Romans 13:1-2/ 1 Peter 2:11-18
- Biblical submission is neither **BLIND**, nor **ABSOLUTE**.  
Acts 4:18 & 5:29/ Exodus 1:15-21/ James 2:25
- But it's always **RESPECTFUL**.  
Daniel 3:16-18 & 4:19/ 2 Timothy 2:24-26



## Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 19, 2020

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### MY STORY

1. We have all experienced the angst of dealing with a difficult boss, teacher or public official at some point in our lives. What's your first impulse when you encounter an unreasonable authority figure (circle any that apply)?

Run

Fight

Get defensive

Listen

Freeze

Argue

Stubbornness

Passive aggressive

Problem solver

Panic

Other

2. When you were growing up, how was authority and submission to authority lived out in your household? What was good? Is there anything you wish was different?

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend that we are free to express our opinions, but we need to be careful to do so in a way that is respectful and loving. How could the following verses help shape the way we communicate with those we disagree with in authority... and also those we live and work closely with?

1. **Circle / highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention.
2. **Underline** the portions that can be a challenge for you to live out (keep it to four or less).
3. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

#### Romans 12:10-21

*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.*

<sup>14</sup> *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.*

<sup>16</sup> *Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

<sup>17</sup> *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," <sup>20</sup> says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>*

<sup>21</sup> *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

As you look back at what you highlighted and/or underlined, which items would you like to prioritize putting into action as you live out your love and respect toward authority?

## The key question we need to ask is, “What are we known for as followers of Jesus?”

If you asked a friend or family member the following questions based on the passage above, what do you think they might say?

- What two things do I reflect the most?
- What one or two things could I use some work on?

How might authority figures in your life respond to the two questions above (including those you struggle with)?

2. Daniel is a great example of someone who lived his life in such a way that people noticed a difference in him. He was a foreigner in a land where the society, government and ruler were completely opposed to God. As you read part of Daniel’s story in Daniel 6:1-5, what stands out to you about the way he lived his life in this hostile environment?

**Daniel 6:1-5** – *New International Version (NIV)* – *It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, <sup>2</sup>with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup>Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup>At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup>Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”*

What would be most challenging to you if you found yourself in a situation similar to Daniel’s?

Can you think of what it would look like for a person to have influence like Daniel in a workplace, school or home that is closed off to God and His plan?

Are there any significant character-building lessons you’ve learned in the past when having to deal with a difficult authority figure?

## TAKING IT HOME

### Respecting and Praying for Authority:

Is there anything you need to change regarding the way you talk about, or respond to, people in authority that you disagree with?

**Pray for our Governing Leaders** - Pray for wisdom, insight and teamwork as they navigate our state, country and world in dealing with the Coronavirus.

**Pray for Followers of Jesus** - That we will represent Christ in all we do.

**You as an ambassador** - Looking back at Digging Deeper #2, is there anything you specifically would like your group to pray for you to stop, start or change in your home environment during our “stay-at-home” quarantine?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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**RESOURCES DURING QUARANTINE:** Check out these links, also available on our homepage: [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com).

- Need some extra help or are you looking to serve in the midst of this crisis? Visit the [COVID-19 Resources](#) page for a variety of options.
- Also, check out our [Daily Doses](#) to help encourage you while dealing with the potential health, financial and relational challenges COVID-19 may cause.