

## Jeremiah 35:14

***The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment. But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me.***

In today's devotional verse, it speaks of "***Jonadab the son of Rechab***" and how he instructed his sons, and their sons, and all their future generations not to drink wine or alcohol. And if you read the entire story in Jeremiah, it tells how God called Jeremiah to get all the Rechabite men together and give them wine to drink, and their response was:

† ***Jeremiah 35:6 But they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever.'"***

And today's verse was God comparing the Rechabites and the children of Israel to each other, and how these men were obedient to what their father told them to do, and how the children of Israel were disobedient to God, their Father.

† ***for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment. But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me.***

As kids we obeyed our parents and we expect our kids to obey us. At work we obey our bosses. Driving the streets we obey the laws of the land and the police when they tell us to do something. Yet how often do we disobey the Lord when He tells us to do something. Being disobedient is sin, which is missing the mark that God has set for us to hit, or simply what He has told us to do and we don't do it, or not to do yet we do it anyway.

We make excuses to the police officer why we were speeding or ran that stop sign. When something isn't completed that the boss asks us to do, we have an excuse for that to. Kids make excuses for why they did something wrong. The best excuse I've heard when a child is asked why they took a cookie from the cookie jar when they were told not to, is that they took the cookie for you (their parent).

Yet how often do we give the Lord excuses for our sins, and sometimes use the cookie example I gave, when it's really a lie that we are telling God? Nowhere in the bible do I read that we are to give God an excuse for our sins, instead it simply says to confess our sins. When we give excuses, we are actually adding to the word of God, doing something He didn't tell us to do and even trying to justify our sin.

† **1 John 1:9-10** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

I included verse 10 here as well, because if you think about it, when you are giving God excuses along with your confession, you are trying to say, in a sense, is that you really didn't sin, but that something else caused you to sin. And when you do that, what you are doing is fulfilling verse 10, but not only verse 10 ***"If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us"***, but 8 as well, ***"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."*** **1 John 1:8** because with our excuses we deceive ourselves of the truth that we sinned and no one made us, or caused us to sin or be disobedient to the Lord. It was our own choice to do so.

We tend to forget what the children of Israel were blessed once they got to the Promised Land, and how God blessed them and the land because of their obedience to Him. But once they started to turn from the Lord and being disobedient, the blessings started to go away as well.

God is not telling us to do things or not to do things because He is a kill joy, but rather for our safety. And not only for our safety only, but because He loves us and He will cause us to prosper. The Rechabites were obedient to their father, and God blessed them. How much more will God bless us when we are obedient to Him.

† **Jeremiah 35:18-19** *And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he commanded you, therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever." ' ' "*