

## **SCCC – OBEYING NO MATTER WHAT**

### **S – Scriptures**

“The old prophet answered, “I too am a prophet, as you are. And an angel said to me by the word of the Lord: ‘Bring him back with you to your house so that he may eat bread and drink water.’” (But he was lying to him.)” I Kings 13: 18

### **C – Consideration**

The Lord had sent a prophet from Judah to warn the king of Israel for his evil behavior, as he was sinning greatly against God. This man had gotten very detailed divine instructions for his assignment. Part of it was, “I cannot turn back and go with you, nor can I eat bread or drink water with you in this place.” After confronting and warning the Israeli monarch, and heading back to Judah, a man from Israel, mentioned in the narrative as “Old prophet,” after hearing about the signs and the prophetic words the younger prophet had spoken, he went after him. Claiming that he had received a new revelation from the Lord, he brought the man back, feeding him; however “While they were sitting at the table, the word of the Lord came to the old prophet who had brought him back. He cried out to the man of God who had come from Judah, “This is what the Lord says: ‘You have defied the word of the Lord and have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. As he went on his way, a lion met him on the road and killed him, and his body was left lying on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it.”

### **C – Commitment**

Whenever I read this story, I have some questions. What could have taken the young prophet to believe in the lies of the old prophet? I ponder if it was not intimidation as the old prophet knew all prophetic jargon and voice intonation. This might persuade the man to believe in his lies. Another question I thought of: Why would the old man deceive the man of God? I thought that maybe he was jealous, for even though he lived near the pagan altar where the king was rebuked, God didn't call him. Why not? It wasn't because of his age, for the Lord used many aged prophets before, but probably because of his character. The sadness is that the deception and disobedience brought judgment and death. The lesson for us is that the way people act or say, if it is not according to God's words we should reject them. Many religious professionals are very imposing when they speak, quoting some portion of the Scriptures (most of the times out of context) as if they are the best theologians you could ever encounter. Yet, like the old prophet they are deceiving millions with their lies. Paul wrote to the Galatians, “But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!” Therefore, we should be firm in our faith, and strong in our knowledge of the true gospel.

## **C – Call**

Lord, give me a discerning and wise heart that I may not be intimidated by people or by lack of knowledge. Help me and my brethren grow and grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, obeying Your word exactly as we are instructed to do, with no words added to it and no words taken from it. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen!