

Day 3: The One-Seat Throne

The Passage: Deuteronomy 10:12–22

The Focus: *“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?” (Deut. 10:12–13)*

The Meditation: **“Walk in obedience to him . . . for your own good.”**

Empowering Truths: Bumper sticker theology is becoming less common but is still a real thing. Most of their declarations need more explanation. One of my least favorites is: “God is my co-pilot.” When I see it, I always think, if that’s true, shouldn’t you switch seats?

In fact, it suggests that the cockpit of your life is built for two—God and you. But the truth is there is only one set of controls in the plane of your life, and you decide daily who will sit in the pilot’s seat. Likewise, the throne of your life is built for one and only one.

Walking in the fear of the Lord means we are actually scared of steering. We “walk in obedience to him” because he alone knows what is best for us. “Observing the Lord’s commands” is “for your own good” (Deuteronomy 10:13).

This wholehearted, whole-souled obedience is what positions us for the flow of God’s power and goodness into and through our lives. Isaiah makes the issue clear: “These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word” (Isaiah 66:2).

One of the frightening and defining stories of the early church is recorded in Acts 5. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of property and decided to give some of the money to God’s work. That was all good, except, they conspired to lie to the church by claiming they had given it all when actually they had kept back a portion for themselves. They thought of it as a win/win approach, but it ended up a dead/dead approach. They both dropped dead, and great fear gripped the church.

Their serious sin was thinking they could lie to God and to his church claiming to be “all in” when actually they were in it for their own egos, comfort, and reputation. They thought they could “share the throne” with God. Instead they discovered it’s a one-seat throne.

The sad truth is we each have a little Ananias and Sapphira in us. We want to look better than we actually are. Obedience applies not only to our outward actions²⁹ Day 3: The One-Seat Throne but our inward motives. How often do we lie to God and his church and portray ourselves as being “all in” when actually we are still on the throne? We will take God’s advice and direction sometimes, as long as we don’t have to give up the steering wheel. We sing, “I surrender all” when we should sing “I surrender some.”

We are transformed by daily saying, “Jesus, take the wheel,” or, “Spirit, empower me to obey,” or “Father, yours alone is the throne.”

Power Truth: Surrender evidenced by obedience positions us for empowerment.

Our Prayer: *Jesus, you are my Savior, and you are my Lord, the daily leader of my life. Forgive me when I want to sit on the throne and direct my own life. Your total obedience to your Father is the example I want to live by. I trust you that my full obedience is for my own good and for the advancement of your kingdom through me.*