

*LENT 2021 AT GETHSEMANE: THIS IS A TEST! PART 3:*

*"THE TEST OF OBEYING"*

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

*TODAY'S FOCUS*

Our Lenten 2021 theme is "This Is A TEST!" God says our faith, which is worth more than gold, will be tested. It is not because God is trying to "fail us out" of Heaven, but in fact strengthen our faith in Him. We will note twelve tests that God's people and even Jesus Himself faced. **Today our focus is "The Test Of Obeying."** It is one thing to follow Jesus, but the next test is if we will DO what God tells us to do.

**LSB 804 O WORSHIP THE KING**

*sts. 1–2, 5*

- 1 O worship the King,  
all-glorious above.  
O gratefully sing  
His pow'r and His love;  
Our shield and defender,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor  
and girded with praise.
- 2 O tell of His might,  
O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light,  
whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath  
the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path  
on the wings of the storm.

5 Frail children of dust  
and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust,  
nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender,  
how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender,  
redeemer, and friend!

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### *INVOCATION*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

### *OPENING SENTENCES*

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.**

6 O measureless Might,  
 ineffable Love,  
 While angels delight  
 to hymn Thee above,  
 Thy humbler creation,  
 though feeble their lays,  
 With true adoration  
 shall sing to Thy praise.

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## + READINGS +

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 15:1–22 NIV

**15** Samuel said to Saul, “I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. <sup>2</sup> This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy<sup>[a]</sup> all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”

<sup>4</sup> So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand from Judah. <sup>5</sup> Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. <sup>6</sup> Then he said to the Kenites, “Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up

out of Egypt.” So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

<sup>7</sup> Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. <sup>9</sup> But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves<sup>[b]</sup> and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup> “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

<sup>12</sup> Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup> Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

<sup>16</sup> “Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.”

“Tell me,” Saul replied.

<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ <sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”

<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.”

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord?

To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

**Thanks be to God.**

*THE EPISTLE READING*

Philippians 2:5–9 NIV

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature<sup>[a]</sup> God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature<sup>[b]</sup> of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*THE GOSPEL READING*

John 15:9–14 NIV

<sup>9</sup> “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be

complete. <sup>12</sup> My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*RESPONSORY*

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

**P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

**C** **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

*SAVIOR, THY DYING LOVE*

sts. 1–3

- 1 Savior, Thy dying love  
Thou gavest me;  
Nor should I aught withhold,  
Dear Lord, from Thee.  
In love my soul would bow,  
My heart fulfill its vow,  
Some off'ring bring Thee now,  
Something for Thee.
  
- 2 O'er the blest mercy seat,  
Pleading for me,  
My feeble faith looks up,  
Jesus, to Thee.  
Help me the cross to bear,  
Thy wondrous love declare,  
Some song to raise or prayer,  
Something for Thee.
  
- 3 Give me a faithful heart,  
Likeness to Thee,  
That each departing day  
Henceforth may see  
Some work of love begun,  
Some deed of kindness done,  
Some wand'rer sought and won,  
Something for Thee.



*MESSAGE: THIS IS A TEST! PART 3: "THE TEST OF OBEYING"*

**+ PRAYER +**

*LORD'S PRAYER*

**☐ Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*HWC 447 FREELY, FREELY*

1 God forgave my sin in Jesus' name  
I've been born again in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His love as He told me to. **CHORUS**

## **CHORUS:**

**He said freely freely**

**You have received**

**Freely freely give**

**Go in My name**

**And because you believe**

**Others will know that I live.**

- 2 All pow'r is giv'n in Jesus' name  
In earth and heav'n in Jesus' name  
And in Jesus' name I come to you  
To share His pow'r as He told me to. **CHORUS**

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## *BENEDICTION*

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **Amen.**

## *HWC 349 TRUST AND OBEY*

- 1 When we walk with the Lord  
In the light of His Word  
What a glory He sheds on our way  
While we do His good will  
He abides with us still  
And with all who will trust and obey. **CHORUS**

**CHORUS: Trust and obey  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
But to trust and obey**

2 Not a shadow can rise  
Not a cloud in the skies  
But His smile quickly drives it away  
Not a doubt nor a fear  
Not a sigh nor a tear  
Can abide while we trust and obey. **CHORUS**

3 Then in fellowship sweet  
We will sit at His feet  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way  
What He says we will do  
Where He sends we will go  
Never fear only trust and obey. **CHORUS**

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