
STEPPINGSTONES
SCHOLARSHIP



ROXY
2026 RUNNER-UP

The Shot Heard in Heaven

Faith and Civil Disobedience; The Battle of Lexington and Concord

The Battle of Lexington and Concord was the first step toward America's freedom from Britain. The American colonies were rebelling against the British government because of the unfairness and indifference the British showed toward the colonists. The British had recently been involved in a war and, to revive their economy, they taxed the American colonies instead of their homeland. As soon as the Americans began to rebel, they were punished, which only strengthened their passion for freedom. Around 1775, a royal governor named Thomas Gage was placed in Massachusetts, tasked with suppressing the Rebels. The people were angry, which only caused them to increase pressure on Great Britain. Gage chose to seize all firearms from the colonies unexpectedly. On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere saw the British troops moving toward Concord. With incredible courage, he rode his horse to warn the Minutemen and militias that Early on the morning of April 19th, the colonists confronted the British. No one knows who fired the first shot, but it sparked one of the most extraordinary stories of bravery and strength. This shot started what we now know as the Revolutionary War. It was also where America won its first victory, killing around 300 British soldiers. The war would continue for another eight years and end with America gaining independence and becoming one of the most influential countries in the world.

What would America be today if we had never fought against our rulers? As a country, we may say that it was the right decision, but what about Christians? How can we determine when disobedience is the correct course of action? Whenever I am considering questions like these, I like to ask God to speak to me through His Word, the Bible. One of the first stories that comes to mind is the story of Moses. If you know your Bible, you would know that his entire life was marked by opposition to his higher authorities.

Some context at the beginning of Exodus is that the Israelites were enslaved by Egypt. The Israelites were God's people and the descendants of Abraham, whom God had promised would have many descendants. The Israelites grew in number, and the Pharaoh began to fear that they would overpower him. He decreed that all newborn Hebrew boys were to be killed. After this command from Pharaoh, it is mentioned that some of Pharaoh's midwives helped hide Hebrew children. There was even a part where Pharaoh asked them if they were helping, and they lied straight to his face! God then blessed them for the rest of their lives for lying (Exodus 1:15-20). Although the entire book is about the people disobeying Pharaoh and escaping his control, this part stands out to me the most.

As a Christian, I believe that everything in the Bible has meaning, and this particular passage has spoken to me throughout my journey as a follower. It has helped me conclude that all of God's people have done is rebel!

This is how the Christian faith has spread so widely. As Christians, we are disciples of Jesus Christ, and our goal is to be like Him. Jesus often rebelled against the government; He preached when He was told not to and continued to bring glory to God despite opposition from the authorities. The only reasonable conclusion is that, of course, we are subjects of our earthly authorities, but we ultimately serve someone else—God. As God’s people, we are called to glorify Him in all things. If our government does not support our beliefs, we as Christians must stand firm in our truths and, if necessary, rebel, because nothing is worth eternal separation from the God who loves us. In God’s eyes, disobedience is wrong only if it is directed toward Him. The world is full of temptations and people who seek to steal God’s glory from our hearts. Therefore, as His people, we must disobey the world or risk disobeying God. Remember, God will give you His Spirit—the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead—to strengthen us so that we may bring Him glory as a community. Stay strong in your faith and follow God’s path for you, not the world’s!