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STEPPINGSTONES  
SCHOLARSHIP



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2026 WINNER

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The Boston Tea Party

In 1 Samuel 15: 22, Prophet Samuel said, “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams”. This verse was about king Saul when he purposely did not listen to God’s instructions. Saul then made sacrifices to God in an attempt to justify his wrong actions. It is the right thing to obey instructions given by authority. But when laws passed by authority oppresses the people, it’s important that the people must repeal such laws. America once had an authority, that was oppressing; they did not back down and they fought for their independence from Great Britain.

The Boston Tea Party was a major event that helped America gain independence. On the night of December 16, 1773, a group of American colonists went on some British boats by the harbor that held chests of tea and dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor. The reason why this was done was because the colonists wanted to protest against Britain for passing the Tea Act in the 13 Colonies. The Tea Act allowed the British to sell tea cheaply, but still tax the people. Colonists had no say in this because they had no representation in parliament; many thought Britain was being unfair. The aftermath was that Britain got angry and decided to pass the Intolerable Acts, punishing Boston by closing their harbor. That provoked many colonists, which in turn helped lead to the Revolutionary War.

America disobeyed Britain’s authority not because they were unheeding or adamant, but because Britain was a terrible authority that was unfair. As Christians, it is wrong to disobey authority. Whether it’s God, your parents, teachers, or the government, you must always obey them. The only time that it is right to disobey authority is when that authority tells you to disobey God either directly or indirectly.

To respond to unjust laws as a Christian, you must first go to God and ask Him for guidance. You should always go to God when you are faced with good or bad times. Ask God what you should do according to what you are facing. After that, you stand up for what is right. If you know that the laws you are being given are wrong and unjust, you do the right thing and not try to blend in with the crowd. Be like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who stood up to the king and told him that they would not bow down to the golden image that the king made everyone bow down to. They stood up for what was right because they knew God would not be pleased with them if they bowed to the image.

If I were alive during the time of the Revolution, specifically during the Boston Tea Party, I would have definitely joined the protest against Great Britain. The reason why is because Britain was oppressing all of America, and even if I was not affected by all that Britain was doing, I would still fight for it. The Bible says in Proverbs 31: 8-9, “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” This verse means that God expects us to be a voice and advocate for those who are defenseless and cannot speak for themselves.