

Saul Disobeys the Lord

1 Samuel

January 25, 2015

In 1 Samuel, chapter 12 (verses 12-15) the Israelites are told by Samuel that they did wrong in asking for a king but we see that God gave them what they wanted. Then he tells them to obey and follow God because if they don't, the hand of the Lord would be against them!

In chapter 13 Saul does not obey and follow the Lord and he is told that his kingdom will not continue and that God has sought out a man who will be over His people, a man after His own heart (verses 12-14) which will in time, be David. The reason for this was because of God's plan and because of the Saul's disobedience. God's ultimate plan always prevails.

In chapter 14 Jonathan (Saul's son) defeats the Philistines

In chapter 15 Saul experiences his last straw.

Instructions given: *Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. 1 Samuel 15:3*

Deuteronomy 20:16-18, laws on war! They were evil and against the Lord.

Failed Instructions: *But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed. 1 Samuel 15:9*

I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. 1 Samuel 15:11- God didn't make a mistake, but it grieved Him that Saul and the people were not following Him.

In 1 Samuel 15:12 Saul builds a monument for himself.

In comparing 1 Samuel 9:21 with 1 Samuel 15:12, Saul goes from humility to pridefulness

Saul's major issue was failing to obey and follow the Lord. Saul substituted:

1) **Saying for doing**

Saul was told to destroy all people and cattle. He destroyed all people but king Agag and destroyed all cattle but the best cattle.

Partial obedience is always disobedience

God desires truth and for our words to match our actions!

2) **Excuses for confessions (15:15 and 21)**

Saul blamed the people for keeping some of the cattle and then he said part of the reason he kept the cattle was for sacrifices.

He should have been confessing his sins, instead he is not acknowledging them and he is making excuses.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

3) **Sacrifice** (disobedience) instead of **obedience** (21 and 22)

God wants obedience

Obedience always flows from a love relationship with God

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Why did Saul do these things and make these choices?

1) **Rebelliousness**- “I did it my way, the way I wanted, when I wanted, and no one can tell me otherwise.” This cost him and the Israelites.

Rebellion will cost us and those around us.

Remember God’s plan will prevail through David and ultimately Jesus. His plan always prevails, but in the process Saul and the Israelites pay for their disobedience and rebelliousness

2) **Stubbornness**- I know all there is to know

3) **Rejecting the Lord**- If we reject the Lord we will spend eternity apart from Him!

If we reject the Lord in disobedience we will pay a high price for ourselves and those in our lives!

This morning do you:

Know God?

Obey God?

Choose saying over doing, excuses over confession and sacrifice instead of obedience?

This morning God desires to know you and He desires for you to walk with Him, obey Him and follow Him!