SERMON-BASED STUDY: BAD KING REJECTED, PART 3

1 Samuel 15:17-34, ESV – And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. 16 And the LORD sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ 17 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?’” 20 And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.” 22 And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.”

24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD.” 26 And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.” 27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. 28 And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 29 And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.” 30 Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God.” 31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the LORD.

32 Then Samuel said, “Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.” And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.” 33 And Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Notes:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 In verse 23, Samuel equates rebellion with the sin of divination and presumption with iniquity and idolatry. Why does Samuel make these comparisons? Why is this so significant?

2 What is repentance? How is it different from being ‘sorry’?

3 How is obedience an act of worship?

DIGGING DEEPER

Psalm 36:5-9, ESV – Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Isaiah 5:16, ESV – But the LORD of hosts is exalted in justice, and the Holy God shows himself holy in righteousness.

4 Looking at Psalm 36:5-9, what are the different images of God’s love? What do these images tell us about His love?

5 How is God “exalted in justice” and how does He “show himself holy in righteousness”?

6 Why should we trust God in all situations? How can we trust Him in times of uncertainty?
Luke 6:46-49, ESV – “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”

1 John 3:24, ESV – Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

How is obedience the foundation that will withstand the tests of time and tribulations?

What does it mean to abide in God? How does the Holy Spirit help us to abide in God?

Why must all obedience begin on the heart level? Does this mean that we should not obey outwardly if our heart is not in it? How can we become obedient from the heart?

TAKING IT HOME
This week, we were reminded of the importance of trusting and obeying God. What is God speaking to you this week? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Encourage one another to live a life of gratitude and obedience toward God.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

→

→

→

→

→
FOR FURTHER STUDY
Psalm 40:6-8
Proverbs 21:3
Matthew 5:4
Romans 1:21-22
1 Peter 1:14