

1 Samuel Lesson 23 Saul Rejects The Word of the Lord and the Lord Rejects Saul as King

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Rebellion is as the sin of divination and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry: : a rebellious, stubborn heart rejects God just as certainly as someone rejects God by occult practices or idol worship.

Samuel's Hem: Samuel's robe would have had a distinctive design marking him as a prophet and priest. It symbolized his power and authority. Grasping the hem of someone's garment was a gesture of supplication and submission.

Key Words:

obey: Strong's H8085 "shama" give heed, listen intently, obey. The basic meaning is "to hear", but often the meaning is extended to mean "to hear with the intent to obey". God expects us to not just hear his commands but to hear with the intent to obey them.

Read I Samuel 15: 13-35

In the last lesson Saul and his men attacked and conquered the Amalekites as commanded by the Lord. However, in direct disobedience to the command of the Lord Saul allowed Agag the Amalekite king to live. In addition Saul kept the best of the spoil for himself and the people after the Lord had ordered him to destroy them all.. The Lord informed Samuel of Saul's disobedience and now Samuel is about to rebuke Saul.

1. In 1 Samuel 15:13-15 Samuel begins to confront Saul. What does Saul say to justify his actions? What character flaws do we see in Saul that are revealed in his answers?

2. When Saul does not respond in repentance to Samuel's rebuke, Samuel informs Saul of what the Lord himself said about Saul's disobedience. According to 15:20-21 how did Saul answer? How does his answer reveal his regard for the Lord?

Application: As Christians, we are accountable both to God and to those whom God has placed in authority over us. How are we to respond when either God or those in authority over us confront us with disobedience in some area of our lives? Using Saul as an example how are we not to respond?

3. What does Samuel tell Saul in 15:22 and 23? To what does Samuel liken Saul's sin? What does this tell us about what is important to God and what is not as important to God? According to 15:23 what was the immediate consequence of Saul's sin?

4. After the pronouncement by Samuel in 15:23, Saul seems to repent. Give evidences from the rest of the chapter that indicate this repentance was insincere.

Application: What is involved in true repentance? When you truly repent of a sin in your life what is required of you? See Acts 3:19 , Acts 26:20, and Psalm 51:17 How can the sin of pride keep you from repentance?

5. We read in 15:27 that Saul grasped the hem of Samuel's robe and it tore? In 15:28-29 what did Samuel say this meant and why was it irrevocable?

6. According to 15:30-35 how did Samuel in obedience complete the mission the Lord had given Saul?

