

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

4/29/2018 · Week 15

1. Read 1 Samuel 15 as a group with each member reading 2-3 verses at a time. What immediately sticks out to you about this chapter? What questions does it prompt in your mind?
2. The opening of Chapter 15 makes reference of Exodus 17 when the Israelites first defeated the Amalekites under Moses's leadership. Look at Exodus 17:15-16 and compare it to 1 Samuel 15:12. How did Moses and Saul differ in their post-victory celebrations? What do their respective actions say about the moral state of their hearts?
3. Because Saul disobeyed God's command, the Amalekites continued to plague the Jewish people. Later in 1 Samuel 30, this wicked nation captured many Israelite women and children, including David's wives. Nevertheless, perhaps the most far-reaching implication of Saul's disobedience took place over five centuries later. Turn momentarily to Esther 3:1. Notice how Haman--an evil man who tried to exterminate the Jews from Persia--was a descendant of the old Amalekite king (1 Sam. 15:8). Think about the implications your disobedience against God can have on the future. How might this understanding deepen your view of the seriousness of sin?
4. 1 Sam. 15:9 tells us exactly how Saul disobeyed God. In truth, Saul obeyed the easy part of God's command (destroying what was "worthless" and keeping what was "good"). How are we guilty of partial obedience today?
5. Twice in this chapter, we read that God "regretted" that He made Saul king (15:11, 35). But verse 29 reminds us that God does not regret as man does. Unlike man, God is never surprised. But Scripture does say that our sin grieves God. In this light, look up Ephesians 4:30. How can we take the Apostle Paul's command in Ephesians seriously so that we do not behave like Saul? How are we guilty today of grieving God by treating His grace as a license to sin?
6. Notice how Saul tries numerous times to divert attention away from himself and his disobedience. Twice he says "the Lord your God" to Samuel (15:15, 30). Then in verse 21, Saul blames "the people" for taking the spoils. What do these actions say about Saul's heart? How do we behave similarly today?
7. Verses 22 and 23 are incredibly rich in displaying the true heart of God. Why is obedience greater than sacrifice? What is God personally teaching you through these verses?
8. This chapter makes clear that Saul cared more about the people's' view of him than of God's. Verse 24 says that Saul "feared the people." And in verse 30, Saul is worried that the people will think less of him if Samuel does not return with him. How does our concern over people's view cause us to stumble in following God's law today? How can you intentionally make God's reputation the highest priority rather than worrying about your reputation?
9. In view of this chapter, spend some time in prayer that God would strengthen you in your pursuit of holiness. Pray that God would keep you from the very human faults committed by Saul and make your heart more like the Lord's.