

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

To Obey is Better than to Sacrifice

1 Samuel 12-15

Main Idea

We should be suspicious of our own inclinations and trust the Word of the Lord.

Overview

- In Samuel 12 Samuel is “remembering” them into obedience not guiltning them obedience
 - He does this by reminding them of all the times God had been faithful/gracious to them
 - He also reminds them that they have been the ones that are quick to forget Him (v 9)
 - Their Trusting God (not themselves) will have things to go well, if they don't, things will go poorly as it has (v 14-15)
- 1 Samuel 13 shows that Saul was unfaithful to obey the word of the Lord as told by the prophet Samuel
 - 1 Samuel 10.8 shows us that Saul was supposed to wait seven days and then get direction from Samuel
 - In the face of the enemy and a disparaging Israelite army, Saul circumvents Gods word and disobeys Samuels direction
 - God tears away His kingdom because of His disobedience (v 14)
- 1 Samuel 14 shows the faithfulness of Jonathan up against the foolishness of Saul
 - Jonathan trusts God to defeat their enemy (v 6)
 - Saul adds rules to Gods army though the spoils had been given them (v 24)
 - Jonathan disobeys the rule unknowingly (v 27)
 - Israelites are so famished they eat food in an inappropriate manner (with blood) (v 33)
- 1 Samuel 15 God decrees the Amalekites be destroyed in light of their behavior towards Gods people (Deut. 25.17-19, Exodus 17.14-15, Numbers 24.20)
 - Saul does not obey the word of the Lord and saves King Agag and cattle as a religious offering to the Lord (v 9)
 - He thinks he did a good thing (v 14-16)
 - Samuel rebukes Saul and tells him that it is better to obey than to sacrifice (v 22-23)
 - Samuel finishes the job by killing Agag (v 33)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Why is it easier to try and pay off a wrong instead of actually just doing right to begin with?*

1. Read 1 Samuel 12. Describe the warning of Samuel to the Israelites. How is he motivating them towards obedience?
2. Do you feel like when you read the Bible or try and live a faithful Christian life that God is “guilting” you into obedience because He sent His Son? In what way is this not the case? How does God motivate our obedience?
3. Read 1 Samuel 13:8-15. What was wrong with Saul’s behavior in advance of the fight? Why would God not be happy about Saul’s sacrifice and impending action?
4. In what ways do we do ‘religious things’ instead of actually trusting what God has made clear? Why do we do this?
5. How did Saul illustrate exactly what Samuel’s history lesson taught back in chapter 12?

6. Read 1 Samuel 14:6-15. Describe the faith of Jonathan in chapter 14. Describe the faith of Saul in 13-15. How are they similar? How are they different? How can you relate?
7. Why does God want to destroy the Amalekites and be peaceful towards the Kenites (cf. Dt. 25:17-19)?
8. What is it about the holiness of God that calls for Him to take such aggressive behavior?
9. Read 1 Samuel 15:7-26. How did Saul interpret his own behavior? How did God & Samuel interpret Saul's behavior? What was the difference between the two?
10. What are ways that we 'sacrifice' instead of simply obeying?
11. Read 1 Samuel 15:27-33. How does the Gospel speak into this portion of the story?

Accountability question: What are some ways you are sacrificing instead of actually obeying what God has made clear?