

~Obedience; the Ultimate Sacrifice~

(READ) 1 Samuel 15:1-3

In this passage, Samuel reminded Saul that the Lord anointed him King over Israel. He told him that he came to give him a message from the Lord. This message came with clear instructions and Samuel told Saul to “Hearken to the voice of the words of the Lord.”

What were God’s commanded instructions to Saul in Verse 3:

1. Smite Amalek
2. Utterly destroy all that they have
3. Spare them not
4. Slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, oxen and sheep, camel and ass

How did Saul disobey God’s instructions in Verse 9? (But Saul and the people...)

1. Spared A’-gag
2. Spared the best of the sheep and oxen, and of he fatlings, and the lambs; all that was good
3. Would not utterly destroy them

There are times when the Lord will speak through others to bring you a word. In that word, God will give clear instructions and demand that you obey them. Sometimes when you don’t understand God’s way of doing something or his way of thinking, you try to justify his thoughts. When his instructions don’t make sense to you, you try to turn them around to make you comfortable in carrying them out. You have to remember (Isaiah 55:8-9) “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God always has the master plan. He can see the beginning of a thing as well as the ending. Therefore, his ways are not subject to your emotions or feelings. His ways are based on the end result of the matter that’s before him. You can’t see what God sees and can never measure up to his wisdom. You just have to trust him in the decisions that he makes even when you don’t quite understand.

It’s very important that you listen to the word of God exactly as it has been spoken. You cannot do everything your way. This will only lead to disobedience and the ultimate wrath of God. God’s commandments are always specific. They are not meant to make you happy, they are meant to save you from destruction. One of God’s promises is to protect you and in order to protect you he makes decisions and choices that won’t always be pleasant and pleasing. But, in the end, you will be saved.

(READ) 1 Samuel 15: 13-23

Where did Saul go wrong?

Verse 13- Saul really believed that he had performed the commandments of the Lord

Verse 15 & 21- Saul blames the people for taken the spoil and sparing the best of the sheep and oxen; he refused to take responsibility for his actions

Verse 21- Said that he spared this all for a sacrifice unto the Lord

What was Samuel’s response to Saul’s excuses?

Verse 22- “...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of the rams.”

Verse 23- “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou has rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being King.”

When you fail God by not obeying his word, you must own up to it. You can’t blame all of the people around you the way Saul did. You have to take responsibility for your downfalls. Remember, God already knows what you did, he just wants you to repent and get it right. God doesn’t want to hear your excuses about why you don’t want to obey his word. He demands that you walk in obedience at all times. It’s not for you to pick and choose which commandments to obey, obey them all. It’s time you Harken to the voice of the Lord and stop listening to those around you that have no

power to save your life. There is no reason that you should be in fear of man. Man has no heaven or hell to put you in. It is the Lord God that you should fear and reverence. He makes the ultimate decisions for your life. He is the one that must be pleased with your works. The God that we serve loves you and he is jealous of anything or anyone that tries to come between the relationship that you have with him. Therefore, because he loves you, you must trust him in all aspects of this christian journey even when it doesn't make sense.

(READ) 1 Sam 15:24-35 [Saul repented and asked Samuel to pardon his sin, but Samuel would not]

If you have disobeyed God in anything, it is time to repent. Whether it was because of selfishness or not agreeing with what he said, whatever the reason, now is the time to get back in order. Don't make the Lord regret putting you in a position of Kingship as he did Saul. Don't make him have to rip your anointing away and give it to another that's better suited than you are. Get it right with God so that you can continue serving God in what he has called you to do. Ask him to forgive you and humble yourself to receive his chastisement and forgiveness. In the end, the Lord will decide if you are still worthy of the assignment and the call.

(READ) 1 Sam 16:1;

What happens when you disobey and displease God?

Verse 1- God will reject you and replace you

The Lord asked Samuel how long will he mourn for Saul seeing that *God has rejected him*;

He commands him to go to Jesse's house to find the next king

(READ) 1 Sam 16:13-14

Verse 13-14- God will remove his Spirit (Anointing) and give to another

Samuel anoints Jesse's youngest son David; The Spirit of the Lord *came upon David*

The Spirit of the Lord *departed from Saul*

In closing:

God chose and anointed you to serve him. He anointed you for a specific assignment and therefore hopes to trust you to carry it out. When you disobey God and fail to yield to what he has commanded, you will find yourself in the ultimate wrath and punishment from the Lord. God is not always going to let you slide by. He will make a decision as to whether or not you are right for the job. Don't get God to the point of regretting that he selected you. Make sure that you listen and obey his instructions. We can't worry about what people say or do to us. This is called being people pleasers. People or things should never take precedence over God. God is the ultimate power and authority that we must heed to. So remember, your anointing is on the line, so stop making excuses and carry out the instructions of the Lord exactly as he has commanded. For obeying God's words is your ultimate sacrifice.