

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL'S TEST OF OBEDIENCE
1 SAMUEL 15

Introduction

Scripture abounds with admonition to obey the LORD!

Ecclesiastes 12:13—“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

John 14:15—“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

John 15:14—“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”

*James 1:21-22—“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 **But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**”*

Yet, when we honestly examine our lives in relation to what the Lord has commanded us to do, more often than not we find that we fall short.

In 1 Samuel 15 a story unfolds with regard to this matter of obedience to the LORD in the life of the first king of Israel, King Saul.

1. The LORD sent Saul a message by the prophet Samuel: (Vs 1-3)

It was a very specific commandment!

The LORD was wanting to use Saul to fulfill a prophecy:

Exodus 17:14—“And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

2. Saul went to do that which the LORD commanded him to do, but he failed to fully obey the LORD. (Vs 7-9)

3. The LORD then appeared to Samuel the prophet and told him of Saul's poor performance. (Vs 10-11)

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL'S TEST OF OBEDIENCE
1 SAMUEL 15

4. Samuel was grieved about what he heard and went to meet with Saul. (Vs 12-24))

Let's examine closely some things regarding Saul's disobedience to the LORD:

I. SAUL LET THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD CROWD OUT OBEDIENCE. (Vs. 9, 12, 19)

He tried to enhance his personal prestige and his glory and tried to thicken his wallet!

Matthew 6:19-21—“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 6:24—“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Matthew 13:22—“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”

1 Timothy 6:9-10—“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

II. SAUL MISTOOK PARTIAL OBEDIENCE FOR OBEDIENCE. (Vs 13)

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL'S TEST OF OBEDIENCE
1 SAMUEL 15

III. SAUL LINKED HIS DISOBEDIENCE WITH A NOBLE PURPOSE. (Vs 20-22)

Isaiah 1:11—“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.”

Disobedience in the name of religion is one of the highest forms of wickedness.

IV. SAUL ALLOWED HIS OBEDIENCE TO BE INFLUENCED BY OTHER PEOPLE. (Vs. 15, 21, 24)

This is known as situation ethics. i.e. You change your convictions depending upon which crowd you are around.

Acts 5:29—“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

We should obey the LORD whether anyone else does or not!

1. **Adam followed Eve's disobedience** and plunged all of mankind into sin!
2. **Aaron followed Israel's disobedience** in Exodus 32 and became a partner in their idolatry!
3. **Noah obeyed the LORD** though others did not and so he and his family were spared from God's judgment!
4. **Joshua and Caleb** stood ready to obey the LORD though the other spies were not and so they were spared from God's judgment!

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BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL'S TEST OF OBEDIENCE
1 SAMUEL 15

V. SAUL DID NOT CONSIDER HIS DISOBEDIENCE A GREAT SIN. (Vs. 23)

i.e. He took sin lightly!

A. Rebellion Is As The Sin Of Witchcraft.

It's root is in demonic influence.

We don't tolerate witchcraft, but we tolerate **rebellion!**

How great of a sin was Adam and Eve's sin in the garden?

B. Stubbornness Is As Iniquity And Idolatry.

1. *Iniquity* – “To exert oneself in vain, to come to nothing.”

2. *Idolatry* – To not obey the LORD is to obey another god!

VI. SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE BROUGHT SOME SEVERE CONSEQUENCES IN HIS LIFE. (Verse 23, 26-31)

A. Sin Always Has Consequences.

1. Consequences May Involve Things Temporal.
2. Consequences May Involve Things Eternal.
3. Consequences May Involve Both Temporal and Eternal.
4. Examples:
Adam and Eve—Ground was cursed, sorrow in conception, death.

Cain—made a vagabond with the earth being cursed.

Abraham—Ishmaelites.

BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL
SAUL'S TEST OF OBEDIENCE
1 SAMUEL 15

Lot—Lost his wife. He and his daughters brought forth two wicked nations. (Ammonites and Moabites)

Moses—Could not enter the Promised Land.

Israelites—Wandered in the wilderness until those age 20 and over were dead.

David—Child died. Evil in his house.

Jonah—Saw the inside of the belly of a whale.

B. We Can Choose To Disobey, But We Can't Choose The Consequences.

C. As Hard As We May Try, We Cannot Escape The Consequences Of Sin.

Because Saul rejected the LORD, the LORD rejected him from being King over Israel.

Saul tried to kill David to keep him from coming to the throne, but God prevailed because God is sovereign!

Conclusion

Are you being obedient to what the LORD would have you to do?

1. Are you SAVED?
2. Have you been BAPTIZED since you were saved?
3. Are you FAITHFUL in the things the LORD would have you to do?
Bible Reading, Prayer, Church Attendance, Tithing, Witnessing.
4. Are you SERVING? (We have all been saved to serve!)