



1 Samuel 15

Heart to Obey- Pt 2

Sunday, Feb 12th 2006



Feeling Good, but Doing Poorly

- Sometimes it happens in schools, w/teachers
 - Thought none of ours here ☺
- Sometimes it happens in jobs
- Sometimes it happens in families
- Sometimes it happens in the church

What am I referring to?

- Perhaps easy to understand
- **Situation – most in group doing poorly**
- **Solution? One of two things (being simple)**
 - One – challenge, raise them and push them to the standard
 - Two – lower the standard
- When lower standard – feel good, doing poor

Does this happen? **O Yes...sadly it does**

- My concern is not primarily for out there today
- But concern is in here – us, church
- See, strive for the standard

I. Series: A Man after God's heart

1. Started last week – a look at David – life

- a. Series (sec.) –Making of a man after God's own heart
- b. Open Bible's to 1 Sam 15 📖

2. Last week – looked at 1st ref. to David in Bible (1Sam 13)

- a. There it gave him this title – “after God's heart”
- b. Simple definition of that – Obedience
 - i) Saw in contrast to Saul's disobedience
 - ii) Saw in sentence—one who would be commanded
 - iii) Saw in Acts 13 – “do all my will”
- c. Call it what want– surrender, submission, obedience

d. Goal last week – to see that – understand

3. This week – come to 2nd ref. to David in Bible

- a. Seems to me – God is further laying backdrop
- b. Really wants us to see – what made David, David
- c. Really wants us to see – what He is looking for
- d. Really wants us to see – what obedience is

II. The Account

1. Saul sent – Commanded

- a. Notice – specifically addresses this – “heed”

2. Saul disobeys

- a. Gathers troops – goes to battle – good
- b. Attacks all the way to Egypt – good
- c. Utterly destroys – good
- d. Spares Agag and the best – bad
- e. Talk more about in a minute – this is disobedience
 - i) If don’t see it – I will try more in a minute
 - ii) Also talk more about why they do this...
- f. But key to understand– this is disobedience

3. God grieves

- a. Sadness... a grief in the heart of God
 - i) Didn’t God know before yes – but still sorrow
- b. Why – won’t follow commandments
 - i) Won’t be commanded...won’t obey

4. Samuel grieves

- a. Like this, like Samuel – is where God is in chapter

5. Saul – proclaims his obedience!

- a. Saul finishes battle – makes monument...to self
 - i) He is feeling good...
- b. Samuel meets Saul – notice what says
- c. Proclaims he did God’s will, proclaims obeyed
 - i) So key to see this – Saul thinks he is obedient
 - ii) Says so twice...v.20
- d. Saul is feeling good, doing poorly

6. Part of the point of this chapter – this study - ...understand what obedience really is

III. Partial Obedience is NOT Obedience

1. This is so key and so dangerous

- a. because does something, not totally rejecting

2. Understand is partial obedience is not obedience

- a. Danger is devalued when think of God, may not see
- b. Let's change the scenario

Imagine– you are a boss, at department store. Tell employee to move end cap of soft drinks and make a pallet in center isle. Later find employee, ask if did what you asked – yep, did all that you asked. Then walk by – only moved half soft drinks, non of the diet drinks – half end cap is a mess. Call employee – thought obeyed. I did, I just don't like diet – so I didn't move those. How would you respond? NOT OK! If such performance became normal – what would you do? Fire him. God does

- c. Partial obedience is not obedience

3. Why is Saul only partially obedient

- a. God rid of what they didn't want...kept what did want
- b. Even more powerful if see the type (not go into much)
- c. Amalikes are always a type of the flesh
- d. Called to do battle – utterly destroy
 - i) Fascinating word – used of sacrifices, of things that were to be totally God's – total devotion
- e. For many Christians – devote what don't want
 - i) Willing for God to subject areas of their flesh that they did not want – wanted rid of
 - ii) Not willing to devote all – parts they like

4. Partial obedience is not obedience. If only you would see it – feel it, believe it, know it

IV. Sacrifice Cannot Replace Obedience

1. As Samuel confronts Saul – his explanation is that they kept all the best for sacrificing to God

2. Now...that this was their reasoning is questionable

Kind of like our store illustration, employees left to clean store, set up Olympic display. Boss comes back – half clean, goes to break room, and they are. Take supplies set for display, have cokes, chips, popcorn set out.

As boss confronts, u...boss this is all for, set it up for you...right

- a. God shows – they were doing for self - Swooping down on the spoil, real motive

3. Then – deals with the excuse...reason – sacrifice

- a. The reality of taking for self – lower, worse, Saul knows
- b. But he feels that if it was for sacrifice – ok. Not

4. First thing - Sacrifice can't take place of obedience

- a. Again, maybe easiest to see in “real world”
- b. In business...what Saul is offering – called a bribe

Inspector goes to restaurant to see if there are obeying codes Not, falling short...but offer a “sacrifice” in its place. NOT ok.

- c. To think that God is ok with is...dishonoring

- i) Yet many do. Sin on Saturday and seek to counterbalance with church on Sunday

d. Don't misunderstand – sacrifice is good, of God

- i) God wants sacrifice ...but from obedience

Go again to store illustration. Employees do all the boss asked them to do, clean store. Boss comes looking for them, in break room – surprise. Boss, we think you are such a great boss, party of appreciation

- ii) Sacrifice from obedience – is wonderful

5. Second thing – rebellion is sin

a. Notice words-rebellion, stubbornness equates it will witchcraft, idolatry

b. Problem, not in what it is saying – but the impact.

- i) Biblically witchcraft, idolatry – horrible sins – capital punishment under the law
- ii) Today, so many dabbling, don't see as bad-is!
- iii) Point is – they knew it, Saul knew horrible sin

c. So – point driving home – rebellion is horrible sin

- i) Obviously taking lightly their rebellion

d. Within whole section – can see reality in Saul

- i) Notice how he refers to God – “Your God”
- ii) Not his...not in submission and knows it

V. Excuses don't Replace Obedience

1. Now that sin is exposed...Saul rolls more, same lie

a. Says did wrong...but then explains, gives reason

2. Saw this last week – felt had reasons to disobey

a. Explaining why...as if that makes it all ok

3. Simple – explanations don't counter disobedience

a. I have sinned because _____ is not repentance

4. Because of this – God looking elsewhere for vessel

a. Speaks of David – one better than you

b. Play on words with v.22

c. Obedience is better than sacrifice, and David is better than Saul

Conclusion

Saul...doesn't get it...even after all that

- In the end – really cares about appearances
- Doesn't care about reality – wants to feel good, look good....while doing poorly – ok with that
- Saul misses out on God...work, best
- Saul is rejected...because rejects God

God grieves...Samuel grieves

- See it, feel it

What about you? Where are you?

- In this study, in this series – calling to obedience
- Perfection...not what I am speaking about
- God's standard is what I am speaking about

Don't want us to feel good, while doing poorly

- Call you to be able to be commanded by God

This is what marked David, needs to mark us