

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 Samuel 15:1-23

“A Partial Obedience”

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

21:16

Well, good morning. Will you pray with me? Lord you alone are our holy. Exalted high and lifted up. As we come to 1 Samuel chapter 15 today. God, I pray that you would speak. I pray that you would remove me.

21:44

Get me out of the way. And we would clearly hear what your spirit has to say to us today. We want to acknowledge that you are God and we are not. You are creator, we are creature. And there are texts that are hard for us to understand.

22:08

I pray that you would help us. Help us to think rightly. Help me to represent you rightly. And all that happens here this morning. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen. Church, will you turn to 1 Samuel chapter 15?

22:39

I've been born again for almost 27 years, been in full-time teaching pastoral ministry for almost 20 years, and the entire time I've had a deep conviction, and I've actually only been in churches that have done expository preaching, verse by verse preaching.

23:03

One verse to the next verse, one chapter to the next chapter, book to book. And the danger, if I could put it that way, of expository preaching is sometimes you run upon texts that if you were teaching topically, you'd be like, I'm going to skip that one.

23:22

And this morning we have an amazing, amazing passage before us, and some very complicated truths that we will need to wrestle with. And so my task this morning is to teach through 1 Samuel 15, 1 through 23.

23:44

And I've organized the message this morning on my notes. The vast majority of the conversation here this morning is only going to be on the first few verses, and then we're going to go through the second, two-thirds pretty quick.

24:05

But I did that intentionally. And as we read this, I think you'll see why. There's a text in here that if you've ever listened to a pastoral Q&A and asked Pastor John Piper or a K-Wave pastor's perspective, you're going to get the question that is relevant to this chapter.

24:29

And as we read it, I think we'll understand what that question is. So 1 Samuel chapter 15, starting in verse 1, and Samuel said to Saul, the Lord sent me to anoint you, king, over his people Israel. Now therefore listen to the word of the Lord.

24:50

Thus says the Lord of hosts, I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, kill, but kill both men and women, children and infants, ox and sheep camel and donkey.

25:16

So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 men on foot and 10,000 men of Judah. And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley. Then Saul said to the Kenites, go depart, go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them, for you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.

25:46

So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah and as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. And he took Agag, the king of the Amalekites, alive and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword.

26:06

But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fatted calves and the lambs, and all that was good and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction. The word of the Lord came to Samuel, I regret that I've made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me. And has not performed my commandments.

26:37

And Samuel was angry. And he cried to the lord all night. And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told to Samuel Saul came to Carmel and behold he sets up, he set up a monument for himself. And turned and passed on the and went down to Gilgal. And Samuel came to see and said to him, blessed be you to the

Lord. I have performed the commandments of the Lord. And Samuel said what then is the bleating of the sheep in my ears?

27:18

And the lowing of the oxen that I hear? And Saul said, they have brought them from the Amalekites for the people spared the best, those are the best of the sheep and the oxen and sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction. Then Samuel said to Saul, stop, I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night. And he said to him speak.

27:46

And Samuel said though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. And the Lord sent you on a mission and said go devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites and fight against them until they are consumed. Why then do you not obey the voice of the Lord?

28:13

And Saul said to Samuel, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of the Amalekites and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. But the people took the spoils sheep and oxen and the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.

28:39

And Samuel said Has the lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the lord Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has also rejected you from being king. This is the word of the Lord.

29:17

Pray with me one more time. Lord, as we open these passages. I pray that you would speak and help us to think rightly. I pray that your holy spirit would do its work in us today. In Jesus name we pray, amen. So we come to a complicated assignment. And what's that complicated assignment? Verse 1, And Samuel said to Saul, the Lord sent me to anoint you king over the people Israel. Now therefore listen to the words of the Lord, listen to the words of the Lord.

29:54

That's going to be a drumbeat through the passage. Listen to the words of the Lord, thus says the Lord of hosts the Lord of army's. I have noted Amalek what Amalek did to Israel and opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. So what's the mission?

30:27

Strike Amalek and devote to destruction and kill everything. Right? As I've been thinking about this text this week, that verse has sat heavy on on my heart, as I've been wrestling with them.

30:47

In verse 18, he says go devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites and fight against them until they are consumed. So what's the question we hear on Ask pastor John or those? The question goes like something like this.

31:04

How could a loving God command such an act? How could a loving God command the killing of men, women, children, and all the animals? That's a tough question. And I put together 10 arguments, 10 reasons.

31:25

There's no, some of them logically flow from the previous, but these are just kind of 10 of my thoughts. In wrestling with this question as we come to this verse, and if you've ever gone through the book of Joshua, you're gonna deal with the exact same question, why God did you command this?

31:45

And my arguments, I have 10 of them, and most of them I'm just gonna just go through and not give a full defense, but just state them, and then some of them will expound on just a little bit. The first argument, or my first thesis, proposal, is one that I do not need to defend God.

32:07

I don't need to defend God. I don't get to stand up here and say, well, hey, the word of God says this, and now I need to come to God's defense and get him off the hook. I don't get to do that. I don't need to, God does not need me or you to defend him.

32:31

He's pretty good at doing that himself. Argument number two, I do not need to apologize for God. I don't need to apologize for God. So many people will come to texts like this and seek to get God off the hook, seek to twist it and compromise or reduce the intensity of the text and apologize for what God has done.

33:03

I'm not going to, that would be sinful of me. God doesn't need me to apologize for him. God doesn't need me to defend him. Number three, God sits in the heavens and He does whatever he pleases. God sits in the heavens and He does whatever He pleases, unless you think these are our mine.

33:29

Look at, I have it up on the projector, Psalm 115, verse 3, our God is in the heavens. He does all that He pleases, right? Straight from the text, our God is sovereign. We sang the song, Sovereign over us.

33:48

He dwells in the heavens. He sits upon the highest throne that could ever be even fathomed. He doesn't need our defense. He doesn't need our apology. He sits enthroned in the heavens and he does all of his good pleasures.

34:08

Paul answers it this way in Romans chapter 9, if you're familiar with that argument, verse 20. He calls back because they're questioning God and Paul says, but who are you, oh man, to answer back to God?

34:25

Wow, who are you to answer back to God? And ask, why have you made me this way? Will the, what is molded, say to the molder, why have you made me this way? So I don't need to defend God. I don't need to apologize to God.

34:44

God sits in the heavens and he does all that he pleases. For God always does what is right. God always does what is right. Isaiah, I have, there you go. I forgot to mark on the things. They're just, the slides are called answers.

35:06

He always does what is right. God operates according to the law of His own nature. God never acts in such a way that will contradict his own holiness, his own righteousness, his own justice, his own omnipotence, that's power, sovereignty, and so on.

35:23

God never compromises the perfections of his own being or character in what he does. God always, always, always does what is right. We call that the righteousness of God. Psalm 145 verse 17. The Lord is righteous in all His ways.

35:49

The Lord is righteous in all His ways. He is right in all His ways and kind in all His works, and kind in all His works. I, as I was thinking about that verse, I'm like, okay, Lord, there's kindness. If Psalm 145 verse 17 is true, which I'm assuming it is, when I look at 1 Samuel 15, I have to say the Lord is righteous in all of His ways and kind in all of His works.

36:28

Even though in my, you know, 2024 North American perspective, I look back and I struggle upon this text. Fifth, God is a righteous judge. So I don't need to defend Him. I don't need to apologize for Him.

36:48

He sits in the heavens and does whatever He pleases. God always does what is right. He always operates according to His own nature. He never violates His own nature. And five, God is a righteous judge.

37:03

Psalm 7 verse 11. God is a righteous judge. I'm not, I'm not making these up. God is a righteous judge and a God who feels indignation every day. Now that term feels indignation. We're going to talk about that this morning and Pastor Dave's going to talk about it next week.

37:24

How does that work? How does He feel things? God is a righteous judge, a God who feels indignation every day. He's a righteous judge. He's not like judges on this earth that look at evidence and try to come to the best possible outcome.

37:48

And there's always that, I hope we're right. No, God always does what is right. We've already said that. Therefore, His judgments are always based upon truth, perfect knowledge of all the facts. Right?

38:04

Don't think of Him like a man, like we are. He is God. He always judges righteously. Six, because He's a righteous judge, God always executes righteous judgments as He promises. Okay, you hear that? God always executes righteous judgments as He promises.

38:29

Okay, so Psalm 145 verse 20, the Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. The Lord perseveres all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. In our text in 1 Samuel, the Lord says, in 1 Samuel chapter 2, the Lord says, I have noted, I have noted, I've cataloged, I've kept the record, I've noted what Amalek did to Israel and opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt.

39:07

The Amalekites, a nomadic people of the desert and descendants of Esau from Genesis chapter 36, became a marked people when they attacked Israel in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. This is the story where Aaron and they're holding up Moses' arms.

39:29

That's this story. And God says, I've noted that. I've recorded that. I've marked that down. And what was that about? Exodus chapter 17, verse 14 and 16, through 16. Then

the Lord said to Moses, then the Lord said to Moses, write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.

40:05

And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, the Lord is my banner, saying a hand upon the throne of the Lord. The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation. Deuteronomy chapter 25, verse 19.

40:24

Therefore, when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.

40:38

You shall not forget. You shall not forget. The Lord always executes right judgments as he promises. So when we get to, when we get to 1 Samuel chapter 15, and we read these, we go, no, God is faithful to what he promised.

41:06

He's faithful to what He promised. This was foretold. This judgment upon these people was right. It was good. It was God wrought. Argument number seven, God never does anyone any wrong. God never does anyone any wrong.

41:30

Job's a great example of this. Job, in all that Job did, in all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong, right? We know the story of Job. He lost everything. God used the tool of Satan to strip Job of everything, right?

41:51

We get that story mixed up when we think Satan's the supreme one, far from it. God is the supreme one. And God stripped Job. And in the book of Job, it belabours the point that God did Job no wrong. Job 34, verse 10, therefore, hear me, you men of understanding.

42:21

Far be it from God that He should do wickedness and from the Almighty that He should do wrong. He doesn't do anything wrong. Even in this story, He never did Job any wrong. Job 121, and He said, Naked I came from my mother's womb and naked shall I return.

42:43

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Here's the result. Blessed be the name of the Lord. What's the end? Excuse me. What's the end result? Worship. Worship. Blessed be the name of the Lord. He's so high and lifted up, so not like Job, not like us, that He's to be worshiped.

43:08

God never does anything wrong. Number eight, the wages of sin is death. The wages of sin is death. Death entered the world. Sin entered the world. The death is the result of sin. Paul said that in Romans chapter 6:23.

43:29

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We're going to get to that free gift in just a moment. So hold that there, but I want to look at the first part.

43:44

Grace is coming. Grace is coming, but the wages of sin is death. What did it say? Devote these sinners to destruction. There's another point that I didn't put in that I

thought of this morning that I think oftentimes we look at it as good North American with innocent until proven guilty kind of default idea.

44:09

Well, these people, these men, women, and children, they were innocent. No, not one of them was innocent. We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and the wages of sin is death. It is death.

44:27

Nine or ten, or, you know, if you want to include that last one in there free of charge, that's for you. God's righteous anger is directed towards sinners. God's righteous anger is directed towards sinners.

44:40

We don't like this one. I often hear people try to get God off the hook by saying, well, God doesn't send the sinner to hell. He doesn't condemn the sinner. He condemns the sin. Well, then the answer is, well, God does doesn't just send sin to hell.

45:00

He sends the sinners to hell, right? We separate the person from the sin. We do that. Well, yeah, he's a murderer, but he has a good heart. I mean, that's not at all what the Bible does. Right? God's righteous anger is directed towards sinners.

45:22

Psalm 5, verse 4 through 5. For you are not a God who delights in wickedness. Evil may not dwell with you. Evil may not dwell with you. Wow. You are not a God who delights in wickedness. Evil may not dwell with you.

45:45

He is so supremely holy. Evil may not dwell with him. Psalm 11, verse 5. The Lord tests the righteous, but His soul hates the wicked and those who love violence. His soul hates the wicked and those who love violence.

46:05

Those verses we don't find in our precious moments Bibles, right? Like we want to eliminate that God hates all evildoers. What? He doesn't delight in the wickedness. Evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before you.

46:23

You hate all evildoers. Sorry, I didn't finish reading Psalm chapter 5. Right? You hate all evil, like, hear this. I don't say this with with happiness, right? Like, we often have built a God according to our own image.

46:45

And when we come to the Bible, we need to allow the Bible. We need to allow God to define who God is. And I go back to point one and two and I don't need to defend him and I don't need to apologize for him.

46:59

I just simply say this is who he is. God's righteous anger is directed towards sinners. Here's the tenth and final point. Because of all these things, God can execute capital punishment any time he pleases.

47:22

God can execute capital punishment any time he pleases. And I would add by any means he deems necessary. He alone is God and and he can do that. Remember back to Hannah's prayer way back in 1 Samuel chapter 2.

47:41

What is Hannah pray in verse 6? The Lord kills and brings to life and brings down to Sheol and raises up. Hannah had excellent theology. She had excellent theology. She recognized God is not a man like us.

48:02

He alone is God. He sits in the heavens and he does whatever he pleases. Deuteronomy chapter 32 verse 39 writes this. See now I even I am he. There is no God besides me. I kill and I make alive. I wound and I heal and there is none that can deliver out of my hand.

48:34

And I remind you, He sent a global flood to wipe out every living creature except for the ones he deemed necessary. He saved Noah and his family and some animals. God has the right to do that. He's God.

48:55

We are not. Daniel, I love this verse. Daniel chapter 5. This is the boldness of Daniel speaking to a king. Check this out. Daniel chapter 5 verse 23. But you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven.

49:13

Never a good place, position to take. Don't do that. Don't lift yourself up against the Lord of heaven. That's that's the definition of foolishness. You look it up in the dictionary. It's there, right? And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you and you and your lords your wives and your concubines have drunk wine from them and you have praised the gods of silver and gold and bronze and iron and wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know.

49:50

You're worshipping all these idols these things that are not God. Right? We often think ourselves removed from that list because we don't set up wood and silver like but we're we're no different.

50:07

Don't don't think of ourselves more highly as we ought to. We all have those idols. Now hear this. But the God in whose hand is your breath. The God in whose hand is your breath and whose are all your ways you have not honored.

50:37

Whoa! Daniel would be fired from most churches today. Guys says the God who holds your breath in his hand and who holds all your ways, have you honored him? Have you honored him? Have you recognized Him to be God and not you?

51:04

Your a creature? You're finite. He's infinite. He alone is God. We are not. And what's the appropriate response? Like, Job, blessed be the name of the Lord. So we come to these verses and we cry out, blessed be the name of the Lord.

51:29

There's things I don't understand, but here's what I do know. God is good and he always does what is right. He always executes perfect and righteous justice. He never does anyone wrong. The wages of sin is death and he holds the right at any moment to execute the judgment he deems necessary.

51:57

You see, the Bible presents a God as one who has total rights to govern as he pleases. He owes no one an answer or an apology and no one can ever or will ever be able to say to him, you did me wrong.

52:14

No one will ever look to God and say those words. You have people that say, when I get to heaven, I have a bone to pick with God. Good luck with that. The God in whom holds your breath and whom is all your ways, you have not honored.

52:33

When you get to heaven and if that's your attitude, your knees will buckle under the weight of glory and every tongue will confess, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

52:48

He is Lord. It's hard to make sense of these verses when we look at it in a strictly historical sense, historical lens through our modern eyes. God is often, because of these verses, put on trial and accused of being a war criminal in our day and age.

53:10

When modern eyes look at these texts and they don't think of them rightly, but there's a different level that we're supposed to look at these events. A few weeks ago, I gave you that big theological nerd sentence, right?

53:25

I'm sure all of you remember. Redemptive historical hermeneutics. You guys got that one? Write it on a flashcard. Redemptive historical hermeneutics. Sorry, I'm from the back. Hermeneutics is just the science of interpretation, right?

53:39

Hermeneutics is the science of interpretation. Redemptive, the story of redemption, historical story of redemption as it plays out in time. Hermeneutics, the science of interpretation. So the lens, I think we're supposed to look at these events.

53:55

The Bible doesn't just record history for history's sake. It's not just a book that gives us details about what life was like back then, but there's purpose. There's a redemptive purpose. There's a God-planned purpose in recording these history, this history.

54:20

And when we look at that, we look at what is God's plan of redemption in saving a people through Christ. Because we know that's his goal. He's going to save people through Christ. And we look through the lens of the cross.

54:32

We look through the lens of Christ backwards. And we start to see. We start to understand. God always punishes sin severely. God always punishes sin severely, through the entire Bible, right? The Bible calls it the first death and the second death, the physical death and the spiritual death.

54:57

Let me just go through a couple of verses real quick. Revelation chapter 21 verse 8. But as for you, sorry, as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

55:22

Revelation 2:11. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death. Revelation 20 verse 6, blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection over such the second death Right.

55:44

We have the first death. We have the second death. We have the physical death We have the eternal death. Matthew, Jesus says and do not fear, Matthew 10:28 do not fear who kills the body but cannot kill the soul, rather fear him who can destroy both body and soul in hell. So God always punishes sin severely.

56:04

Either through what the Bible calls the first and second death, physical and spiritual death or through the cross of Christ. Through the cross of Christ, where the death penalty was poured out upon His son for our sake for the sake of his elect. We read a few minutes ago for the wages of sin is death. But the free gift, the free gift of God is eternal life, life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

56:36

As we look back at these texts, we see God's sovereign hatred for sin. That's what he did and by the way, Samuel, the king Agag here, Samuel's gonna hack him to pieces. Spoiler alert, that's coming next week.

56:53

That'll be a sweet, sweet time, right? Pulls out the machete and and slices him up. Why? Because God's hatred, His indignation we read, it burns against sin. He hates sin. And the supreme example of his hatred for sin, as he poured sin on the back of his son on the cross. So don't for a moment belittle the intensity and God's hatred for sin. Don't, don't do what, spoiler, do what Saul does here and go well, I kind of obeyed.

57:34

Yeah, I heard the word of God. I heard the commandment of God. I Got a I got a 75 on the on the the the assignment Right? One of my points, in just a minute, is parents we've said this to our kids probably more than once, partial obedience is what?

57:54

Disobedience. Church, loved ones, we don't get to play little with, belittle sin. Let the Bible speak on God's hatred for sin. His righteous judgment for sin, right? These texts, why did God command Saul to do this, because they were sinners and they deserved death.

58:20

And praise God the story does not stop there. Somebody give it an amen. How terrifying would that be? Right, but we read the Bible as Christians, right? We read the Bible through the lens of the cross and say that should have been me But it's not because of the cross of Christ. Because of the cross of Christ, His blood was shed on my, He was hacked to pieces so I don't have to be.

58:53

And then we with Job sing blessed be the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord. That's where, that's where I, I don't I don't defend God. I don't try to apologize for God. That's, that's a fool's errand. But I cling to the cross of God for safety, because that's where my safety is found.

59:17

I don't presume upon Him that my sin is not that great. One sin is of monumental devastating weight. One sin. Through one sin, taking of the fruit of the tree, death entered the world, right? Like church, loved ones, don't belittle the weight that this passages is giving to sin. This passage, this week and pastor Dave's next week, points us to the cross. This is the punishment for sin. This is exactly what happened to Christ on the cross and unsaved people here today, heed the warning and look to the cross.

01:00:15

Heed the warning and look to the cross. Saved person today, never stop looking to the cross. Never stop looking to the cross. Never look to your own. Paul says, I put no confidence in my flesh. Why? Because that's who I am.

01:00:29

That's who I am. I'm those sinners that deserves God's wrath. I put no confidence. I cling to the cross. This passage teaches God's sovereign hatred for sin. And let me ask you this question. Do you hate sin like God hates sin?

01:00:50

Do you hate sin like God hates sin? Or do you tolerate it? Do you make excuses for it? Right, we have to have a right theology here. We have to have right understanding, the hatred for sin. I want to recommend two books for you.

01:01:11

The first book, this is a great, we have, I think, a few copies. This is a little pamphlet. I think you probably read it in 15 to 20 minutes by Dr. John MacArthur. Appropriately named, Hacking Agag to Pieces.

01:01:25

So a great name for a book, right? But he deals with that question. Why does Agag, why did this happen in 1 Samuel 15? And spoiler alert, it's because of sin. And what's the answer, the cross. So great little pamphlet.

01:01:45

John Owen, one of my favorite Puritans, if you've never wrestled or interacted with any of John Owen's thoughts and you've been saved for any period of time, it is time, right? The Mortification of Sin, one of the most important books ever written on the topic of sin for Christians.

01:02:04

It's not an easy read because he was a Puritan. He uses lengthy sentences that often we struggle with, but you can get through it. Great book, we got them right next door in the bookstore. So what is this?

01:02:19

This passage teaches us. This passage teaches us to fear God. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones says, there is a right fear of God and we neglect and ignore that at our own peril. There is a right fear of God. And we neglect that at our own peril.

01:02:40

Church, do you have a holy respect and fear of God, the God of the Bible? He is not a man like we are. Should not be thought like we are. He alone is God. So verse 4, so I said, massive portion of the message was just gonna be on the first few verses.

01:03:01

So here's Saul's partial obedience. So Saul summoned the people and numbered the people, numbered them in Telaim, 200,000 men on foot and 10,000 men of Judah. And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley.

01:03:20

Then Saul said to the king of the Kenites, go depart, go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.

01:03:32

So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites and Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah, as far as Shur, which is in the east of Egypt. And he took Agag, king of the Amalekites alive and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword.

01:03:51

But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and the oxen and of the fattened calves and lambs. And all that was good and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless,

01:04:06

they devoted to destruction. Saul kept Agag alive. He didn't fully obey, right? And again, partial obedience is disobedience. And sin, sin blinds us, right? I'm sure they were justifying this as much as they could.

01:04:24

Well, look, these are good things. We're gonna take the, I know what God said, but we're gonna take these and we're gonna use them for the offering, right? I got a sleazy boss. So I'm gonna steal from the company so I could put it in the tithe box, right?

01:04:39

Like that's kind of probably the justification of what's happening. And here this, here's a Godly man's response. Verse 10, the word of the Lord came to Samuel. I regret that I have made Saul king for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.

01:04:57

And Samuel was angry and cried to the Lord all night. Two things. Regret. God says I regret that I made Saul king. Pastor Dave's going to talk about this this next week. Don't think of God's regretting.

01:05:15

Like we when we regret we're like well if I had to do it over again I would do it differently because we learn things and therefore if I you know at 2020 hindsight I go back that's not how God operates.

01:05:28

God has perfect knowledge of all things and in fact decrees all things whatsoever comes to pass. God is not like us. So when we think of regret we don't think of regret as we would regret. Here's two words and you can take a picture I'm just going to pass these.

01:05:45

Immutability and impassibility. Immutability and impassibility and the definitions are there. Very important. Very very important. So take a picture of those and and put them to, memorize them. But here this here's the pastoral response of Samuel.

01:06:06

He got angry. Godly anger. This isn't he punched a hole in the wall anger. There was a godly anger. He prayed. He interceded all night and then he went and confronted. He was angry. When he saw sin and disobedience what was Saul's godly response?

01:06:29

Anger. He was angry. What did he do? He went and told everybody about it. Nope. He stayed up all night pacing in his room back and forth back and forth wrestling with God. God why did you tell me to make this guy king?

01:06:46

Right? Like he's wrestling with God. This was the outcome I knew was going to happen. Why did you do this? What do you do? Like he's wrestling with God and when he's done with that what does he do? He waits weeks months to finally confront the sin.

01:07:02

No he rises up early in the morning and he sets his sights on Saul and he goes and he confronts him for his sin. That's, that's the right response. And Samuel rose early and met Saul in the morning and it was told Samuel, Saul came to Carmel and behold he set he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on.

01:07:33

Saul set up a monument to himself? Weird. And he went to Gilgal and Samuel came to Saul and Saul said to him, blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandments of the Lord. That's Saul's perspective.

01:07:50

I've performed the commandments of the Lord. I've done it. What is Samuel reply? Verse 14. What then is this bleating of the sheep? Right? Do you hear what I hear? Right? Like okay. I'm hearing sheep.

01:08:09

I'm hearing oxen. He calls him out. You're telling me one thing but I'm hearing the spoils of war bleating. You did not obey. What does Saul do? They have brought them from the Amalekites for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen and sacrifice, to sacrifice to the Lord your God and the rest we've devoted to.

01:08:39

We brought these back here to place in the offering place. Aren't we great? That's his attitude. He first blames the people. What a leader, right? He's king. The sin stops at his doorstep. No, you're supposed to carry out the commandments of the Lord and you blame the people just like Aaron did.

01:09:03

Just like Adam. And Saul, then Samuel said to Saul, stop. I will tell you what the Lord said to me tonight. This night. He said speak. The sin was he didn't listen to the words of God. Verses 1 and 2.

01:09:21

Verses 11. Verse 19. Verses 22 and 23. He didn't obey the voice of the Lord. That's the sin. That's the sin. Same old sin. Did God really say you may not eat? Same thing. Church, God regards obedience to his word in the highest way possible.

01:09:47

To disobey God is a sin with devastating consequences. Devastating consequences. Verse 17 and Samuel said, though you are little in your eyes, which is kind of a funny thing because he just set up a monument for himself.

01:10:04

Right? Like, you know, it's a funny reply. I think there's maybe a little tongue-in-cheek going on there. Are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. The Lord sent you on a mission and said, go devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, to fight against them until they are consumed.

01:10:24

And they did not obey the voice of the Lord. And did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoils? Why did you pounce on the spoils? Like, listen to the language. And do what is evil in the sight of the Lord?

01:10:39

He's not belittling the sin. This is what Saul did. You violated the commandments of God. Why did you do that? And Saul said to Samuel, I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me.

01:10:55

I have brought Agag, the king of the Amalekites, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. And even in the middle of it, he's saying, I obeyed, but then I didn't obey, but I obeyed. That's his logic.

01:11:07

That's what sin does. Puts the blinders there. But the people took the spoil, the sheep, the oxens, and the best of the things, things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice the Lord, your God, at Gilgal.

01:11:20

And Samuel said. Hear this, church. And I want you to go home with this in your mind. Has the Lord, this choppy English, but I want you to see this. Has the Lord, as great delight in burnt offering, he's building a comparison.

01:11:41

Has the Lord, as great delight in burnt and offering and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord. Are those on equal terms? Obeying the voice of the Lord is better. That's the start. Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to listen than the fat of rams.

01:12:03

For rebellion is the sin of divination. Saul is going to commit the sin of divination later in the book. And presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. You're pursuing upon the the grace of God. Don't do that.

01:12:19

Because you have rejected the word of the Lord. He has rejected you from being king. And that's where Pastor Dave will pick up the story next week. Saul is rejected as being king. Why? Because he disobeyed the voice of the Lord, the commandment of the Lord.

01:12:38

He presumed upon God. He said, yeah, I heard what God said, but I thought this way was better. No, no, no, no, no, no. We do not get to do that. He alone is God. We are not. He alone is God. We are not.

01:12:59

Church. Here's the exhortation. Heed the word of the Lord. Always. We have it printed on our shirts. We're Bible people. That means we're people with our noses in the book saying, thus says the Lord our God.

01:13:19

And we do it. And we obey it. And it's going to be hard. It's going to be times where we're confused by it. There's going to be times where it's uncomfortable. And and there's going to be times where it doesn't make sense to us.

01:13:36

But what do we do? We trust in the goodness and the perfection of our God that he knows better than we know. And I lean upon faith in him. And church, I hope you feel the weight of God's hatred towards sin.

01:13:55

Sin is not to be played with, not to be coddled. It's to be as John Owen says, the mortification, it's to be John Owen says be killing sin or it will be killing you. Kill your sin or it's going to kill you.

01:14:15

It's not a friend, it's a foe. And look to the cross where sin was dealt with. Let's pray.

01:14:26

Lord, we're so grateful for this passage. I pray that your people here saw it clearly, despite me. Help us to understand, help us to obey what you wrote here, help us to have a vision of the God that was portrayed in this text. The God who sits upon the highest throne of heaven, who executes righteous judgment always with perfect knowledge,

01:14:59

perfect holiness, with perfect everything. You are God. We are a creature. We, like Job, come and said, bless be the name of the Lord. We come and we end with worship. We come to the end of ourselves and we're humbled because we, like the Amalekites, we, like Agag, we deserve the wages of sin is death.

01:15:27

That's what we deserve. But the free gift of God, the gospel, is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Let us never, ever, ever forget that. Let us preach that to ourselves every single day. If anybody in here doesn't know that, I pray that you would do a supernatural work of salvation in them and that you would save them.

01:15:54

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.