

SAMUEL, SAUL, & GOD 1 SAMUEL 15

Looking at Saul:

I. Saul was called to obey!

1 Samuel 15:1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: **now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.**

1 Samuel 15:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. **1 Samuel 15:3** Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. **1 Samuel 15:4** And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. **1 Samuel 15:5** And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

Regardless of our particular calling, we are called to obey!

➤ Obey God's Word

➤ Obey in that we actually hear & do!

1 Samuel 15:1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: **now therefore hearken (שמע) thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.**

1 Samuel 15:14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen **which I hear (שמע)?**

1 Samuel 15:19 Wherefore then **didst thou not obey (לֹא-שָׁמַעְתָּ)** the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

1 Samuel 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, **Yea, I have obeyed (שמעתי) the voice of the LORD**, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, **as in obeying (שמע) the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey (שמע) is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.**

1 Samuel 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, **and obeyed (שמעתי) their voice.**

➤ Obey for God's reasons & not our own

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. **Exodus 17:15** And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: **Exodus 17:16** For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.

Numbers 24:20 And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever.

Deuteronomy 25:17 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; **Deuteronomy 25:18** How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. **Deuteronomy 25:19** Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.

➤ Obey God utterly – **without** reservations

חָרַף (hā-rām): to ban, devote, destroy utterly / completely, or to consecrate, dedicate, devote...

1 Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, **and utterly destroy (וְהָרַחַתְּם)** all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

1 Samuel 15:8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed (הָרַחַתְּ) all the people with the edge of the sword.

1 Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not **utterly destroy** (הִחַרְיִמוּ) them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

1 Samuel 15:15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest **we have utterly destroyed** (הִחַרְמֵנוּ).

1 Samuel 15:18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy (וְהִחַרְמָתָהּ) the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

1 Samuel 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and **have utterly destroyed** (הִחַרְמָתִי) the Amalekites.

II. Saul more than obeyed – at first!

1 Samuel 15:5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. **1 Samuel 15:6** And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

Numbers 10:29 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses' father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel. **Numbers 10:30** And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred. **Numbers 10:31** And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes. **Numbers 10:32** And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee.

See also: Ex. 2:15-22; 3:1; 4:18-20; 18:1-5

III. Saul then obeyed in his own way!

1 Samuel 15:7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. **1 Samuel 15:8** And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. **1 Samuel 15:9** **But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.**

It's at this point we all get nervous:

- **We have all disobeyed**
- **Disobeyed many times**
- **Partially obeyed at best!**

James 3:1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

Acts 5:1 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, **Acts 5:2** **And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.** **Acts 5:3** But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? **Acts 5:4** **Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?** why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. **Acts 5:5** And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. **Acts 5:6** And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. **Acts 5:7** And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. **Acts 5:8** And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. **Acts 5:9** Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. **Acts 5:10** Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. **Acts 5:11** And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

IV. Saul defended his “obedience” till the end!

- **With religious language**

1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, **Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.**

➤ **By blaming others and finding religious justification!**

1 Samuel 15:14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? **1 Samuel 15:15** And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

1 Samuel 15:18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. **1 Samuel 15:19** Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

1 Samuel 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **1 Samuel 15:21** But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

1 Samuel 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

1 Samuel 15:25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. **1 Samuel 15:26** And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

V. Saul's "obedience" and defense cost him his kingdom!

1 Samuel 15:12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

1 Samuel 15:16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. **1 Samuel 15:17** And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath 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 hearken than the fat of rams. **1 Samuel 15:23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

1 Samuel 15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. **1 Samuel 15:25** Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

1 Samuel 15:27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. **1 Samuel 15:28** And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

1 Samuel 15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God. **1 Samuel 15:31** So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

1 Samuel 15:34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; **and** Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.