



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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SUNDAY SERMON

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

20th November, 2022

Obedience that Honors God

Text: 1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT)

1 Samuel 15:1 Saul Spares King Agag

Samuel also said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord.

1 Samuel 15:2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt.

1 Samuel 15:3 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

1 Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

1 Samuel 15:10 Saul Rejected as King

Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying,

1 Samuel 15:11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night.

1 Samuel 15:12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."

1 Samuel 15:13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord."

NKJV: So 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 heed 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 you have rejected the word of the Lord,

He also has rejected you from being king."



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First Samuel 15 records the story of King Saul's "partial obedience" to a direct command that God gave to him.

If you read the story in this chapter, you'll find the King making excuses as to why he didn't completely obey the Lord.

He was supposed to destroy everything in the battle, and yet he spared the enemy King and the best of all the animals. In verses 13 to 15, the Bible says, "When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. 'what May the LORD bless you,' he said. 'I have carried out the LORD's command!'"

In verse 22, Samuel replies, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to His voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams."

He goes on to compare Saul's rebellion to the sin of witchcraft and his stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols.

Samuel tells him in verse 23, "So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, He has rejected you as king."

I find Saul's response all too common. He makes excuses and blames his troops and the people for his failure.

In verse 24, King Saul tells Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the LORD's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded." Nowhere do you read that the King repented. He was too proud. Finally, in verse 35, you read the sad conclusion, "Samuel never went to meet with Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him. And the LORD was sorry he had ever made Saul king of Israel."

If obedience honors God, disobedience dishonors Him, and partial obedience is really disobedience.

Often, like King Saul, we try to justify our actions or inactions with excuses and blame. God isn't interested in our excuses. In Psalm 51:17 (NLT), the bible says, "The sacrifice You desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." Because Saul dishonored God, God dishonored him and withdrew from his proud heart, leaving him troubled and alone.

There is no record that Saul ever repented.

It didn't have to end this way.



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What is it in your own life that you have disobeyed or only partially obeyed?

The reason obedience honors God is because obedience is motivated by love, not constraint.

In John 14:21 (NKJV), Jesus said, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." In verse 15, He said, "If you love Me, obey My commandments."

This is the highest expression of honor.

When we obey what God tells us in His Word, we are expressing our love to Him.

It elevates Him above us and creates a deeper intimacy with God that goes beyond rituals and religion to a personal relationship that honors and pleases Him.

