

THE FALL OF SAUL

(1 Samuel 15:1-25)

I. Disobedience is misplaced honor.

- a. Notice 1 Samuel 15:12.
 - i. I have read this passage numerous times, but in the KJV, you don't really notice it.
 - ii. The word "place" in the text is translated "monument" in all newer translations and the Hebrew word is said to mean that in the Hebrew lexicon I read.
- b. Saul, after conquering the Amalekites, took the time to make himself a monument.
- c. God had given him the command to go and the position of strength from which to do it, but he didn't honor God, but himself.
- d. Compare that with the view he had of himself when Samuel first told him he would be king (1 Samuel 9:21).
 - i. Samuel reminded Saul of this attitude that he had once possessed.
 - ii. 1 Samuel 15:17-18.
- e. God gave him all the honor he should have ever wanted.
- f. He should have been satisfied with that and Samuel pointed that out to him.
- g. Saul wasn't content with God's honor and he sought his own.
- h. Obedience to God brings Him honor but can bring dishonor from man.
 - i. That shouldn't matter to us.
 - ii. Our role in life is to bring glory to God (Romans 6:20).
- i. Disobedience manifests itself in a desire to honor the man and not the Master.

II. Disobedience is misplaced desire.

- a. 1 Samuel 15:21 – Saul attempted to persuade Samuel that it was with noble intentions that he had disobeyed God by keeping the best of the flocks.
 - i. His answer was that the people wanted to sacrifice to God.
 - ii. God knew the true intentions and Samuel had already pointed them out (1 Samuel 15:19 – fly upon the spoil; also translated pounce on the spoil and plunder).
 - iii. It's the same phrase seen in 1 Samuel 14:32.
- b. Samuel knew that the animals were not for sacrificing but for enriching the people.
- c. The desire of Saul and people was to get more goods, not pleasing God.
- d. Our desire should be to be pleasing to God in all that we do, not seek more of what this world offers.
- e. When we place money and things over God, we are guilty of greed and covetousness, which Paul referred to as idolatry (Colossians 3:5).
- f. Disobedience manifests itself in a desire that is greedy over a desire for God.

III. Disobedience is misplaced fear.

- a. Listen to Saul's words of repentance (1 Samuel 15:24).
 - i. I feared the people.
 - ii. He feared the people more than he feared God.
- b. Saul was more concerned about the consequences of obedience to God than the consequences of disobedience to God.
- c. Samuel had encouraged Saul and the people to be obedient to God and not fearful of what might happen (1 Samuel 12:14, 24).
- d. Sadly, even today, there are those who are more fearful of what people outside of Christ may think than of what Christ thinks.
 - i. They pay no attention to the words of Jesus (Matthew 5:10).
 - ii. They pay no attention to the inspired words of the Hebrews writer (Hebrews 13:6).
 - iii. They pay no attention to the inspired words of Peter (1 Peter 4:16).
- e. Disobedience manifests itself in fear of man instead of fear of our Master.

IV. Disobedience is witchcraft.

- a. Notice 1 Samuel 15:23.
 - i. Witchcraft is translated divination in the ESV, as well as in every other time this Hebrew word is found in the Old Testament.
 - ii. This is one of the things God hates (Deuteronomy 18:10).
- b. Why did Samuel equate rebellion with witchcraft?
 - i. The word carries the idea of seeking answers through mystical means.
 - ii. What it is, is a search for knowledge that ignores God and His word.
 - iii. This is exactly what disobedience is: we look for answer in some other source – ourselves.
- c. What we are doing when we disobey God is putting our will on the same level as God's will.
- d. God knows what is best and right for us and any time we go against that, we are saying we know better.
- e. Disobedience manifests itself in placing our will above the will of God.

V. Disobedience is idolatry.

- a. Again, notice the end of 1 Samuel 15:23.
- b. When we disobey and choose our own will, we are placing our confidence in ourselves and not God.
- c. We might as well bow down and worship ourselves.
- d. You and I can't serve God how we want to serve Him, but how He has commanded we do so.
 - i. He has that right.
 - ii. He is our Creator.
- e. We are placing our will before the will of God when we are disobedient and anything that takes the place of God in our lives is idolatrous.

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