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.
      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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