

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Saul's Disobedience

1 Samuel 14:47 – 15:35 (*selected verses*)

Major Segments:

- Saul Conquers the Amalekites
- Samuel Condemns Saul
- Saul's Repentance

Segment Questions:

- Why do you believe God instructed Saul to kill all of the Amalekite people and all of their livestock? (As opposed to just defeating those people.)
- Why do you think that Saul and his army chose not to kill all of the quality livestock and spare the life of defeated King Agag? Could there have been other reasons?
- When Samuel comes to Saul, Saul immediately greets him by declaring "I've done what God asked me to do." Do you believe that Saul possibly did not recognize his disobedience at that time? Could he have believed that he actually had done what God asked of him?
- How do you imagine Saul felt, and what might he have been thinking, when Samuel came the next day, and told him that God was so angered by Saul's actions?
- Samuel not only tells Saul that he did not obey God, but also refers to "rebellion" and "stubbornness". Why do you feel that Samuel made those references, related to this situation regarding disobedience?
- What thoughts do you have regarding Saul's understanding of his disobedience and his repentance before Samuel?
- Why do you think Samuel granted Saul's request to come with him to bow down and worship before the Lord?

Action Questions:

- What thoughts come to mind about how this lesson has application in your own life, related to obedience and sacrifices that you make to serve God?

1 Samuel 14:47 – 15:35

From: www.btstories.com

One day Samuel went to Saul with instructions from God. “The Amalekites attacked my people when I brought them out of Egypt. Therefore, go to battle with them and destroy everything. Kill all the people and all of their livestock. Don’t leave anything alive.”

So Saul took his army and attacked the Amalekites. He defeated them, but didn’t kill everything. Saul’s men kept the best of the livestock for themselves. They also captured king Agag and didn’t kill him.

The Lord said to Samuel, “I regret that I made Saul king over Israel. He doesn’t follow me and he doesn’t do as I say.”

Samuel grieved in his spirit, and prayed all night. The next morning, he went and found Saul. As the prophet walked up, the king said, “The Lord bless you. I’ve done what God asked me to do.”

Samuel looked at him. “Then why do I hear the sounds of sheep and cattle?”

“Oh, the men saved the best livestock so we could sacrifice them to the Lord. But we destroyed the rest.”

Samuel said, “Stop talking! I’ll tell you what God thinks of what you’ve done. Why did you make him angry by not doing what he said?”

Saul said, “I did obey him. I killed everyone except Agag, their king. And then I killed all the animals except these few. We kept the best for a sacrifice.”

Samuel said, “Do you think the Lord wants sacrifice more than obedience? No! To obey is better than a sacrifice. Rebellion is like the sin of witchcraft. Stubbornness is as bad as worshiping idols. You rejected God’s command. Therefore, he’s rejected you as king over Israel.”

Saul said, “I’ve sinned! I can now see clearly that I ignored the Lord’s command, and didn’t listen to you. I was afraid of the people, and obeyed them rather than God. Please forgive my sin. Let’s worship the Lord together. All I ask is that you honor me in front of the people. Come, worship with me.”

So Samuel went with him and allowed him to bow down before the Lord. The prophet then said, “Bring me Agag, king of the Amalekites.” Agag came before Samuel, not knowing what to expect. Samuel took a sword and said, “You’ve made many women childless. Now your mother will be childless.” The prophet then killed Agag and cut him into pieces.

Then Samuel returned to his home. He never again visited Saul as long as he lived. Still, he grieved over him constantly.