

GIVE YOURSELF AWAY

Part 6: Given to Obedience

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The Simplicity of Obedience

God's Instruction + Our Obedience = Peace

The Complexity of Disobedience from 1 Samuel 15

God's Instruction...

¹ Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD. ² This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. ³ Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.' "

Plus Saul's Disobedience...

⁹ But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

Equals:

Exposure

¹⁰ Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: ¹¹ "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

Deception

¹³ When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions."

Getting Caught

¹⁴ But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

Blame-shifting and Minimizing

¹⁵ Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

Confrontation

¹⁷ Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel.

¹⁸ And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' ¹⁹ Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

(Continues on back)

Whining

²⁰ “But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

Correction

²² But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.”

Admission

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.”

Consequences

²⁶ But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!”

**Will you give yourself away to the simplicity of obedience
or the complexity and heartbreak of disobedience?**

On Your Way Home

What is the most complex route home you can think of? (Don’t take that route today!) Why do you choose the simpler route? What are the spiritual implications for you when it comes to the simple route of obedience?

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) What did you do on Super Bowl Sunday?
- 2) In your experience, does obedience to God always result in peace?
- 3) Read I Samuel 15 out loud to the group. What sins followed Saul’s initial disobedience? What can we learn from that?
- 4) At what point(s) along his disobedient path could Saul have changed course? Why did he choose not to change his course?
- 5) Are there any areas of disobedience in your life that you need us (as a group) to pray for? (Go to Galatians 6:2 for encouragement.) How else can we pray for you?