

Saul's Disobedience

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1 Samuel 15:1-23

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A Sad Summary

- Last week summary of Saul's life 1 Sam 14:47-52
- Saul's life defined by fighting the enemies of the world
- What would his life have looked like if Saul had been obedient?

Saul Called to Holy War

- Saul called to obey God^{15:1-3} to judge the Amalekites
- Not revenge, but judgment for sin
- Amalek attacked Israelites^{Ex17:8} after crossing Red Sea^{Ex14}
- After that battle God declared *I will utterly blot out*^{Ex17:14-16}
- Not genocide. Foretaste of what is to come^{Rev19:14-21}
- God is holy and just^{2Peter3:9-10} He will judge
- Judgment came for the Amalekites, it will for you^{Acts17:30-31}

Saul Goes to Battle

- Saul seems to respond in obedience^{15:4-5}
- Shows kindness to Kenites^{15:6;Ex18:10,19}

Saul Does It His Way

- Saul defeated the Amalekites⁷ - good!
- But, took king alive⁸ and kept the good stuff⁹

God Communicates with Samuel

- God told Samuel *I regret that I have made Saul king*¹¹
- 2nd time failure for Saul^{13:10;15:9}

Understanding God's Character: Did He Change His Mind?

- How can God be said to *regret* or *repent* if He is unchanging?
- Isaiah^{46:9-10} declares God is sovereign, all-knowing
- God has ordained history^{Eph1:11}
- God is not a man and so His regret is not like our regret
- God appointed Saul knowing he would disobey and rebel
- Who changed in this narrative? Saul did, not God
- Saul changed, not God therefore God in relationship responded consistent with His character to Saul
- Not just "anthropopathism" - attribute human feelings to a divine being so we understand.
- God does 'regret' when responding to man's sin^{Gen6:5-6}
- God responds consistent with His character - He always responds in mercy to those who repent^{Jonah3:10}
- That should give us GREAT COMFORT, God is not capricious
- God is consistent & faithful!
- God is the Glory of His People^{15:29}
- God shows mercy to all those who repent because of His character^{Psa86:5} and His promises!^{Isa55:11}

Not A Word is Wasted

- Saul's story recorded to teach us and warn us
- Saul called to lead and guide people in obedience
- Saul chose his own way
- With Jesus God not only regretted sin, He bore sin^{1Pet1:3-7}
- God's character is to redeem His people for His glory so we now get to obey!