

How Not to Deal With Sin

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1 Samuel 15:1-35

Oak Community Church (PCA)

A Transitional Chapter

- Last week we saw Saul's sin 1 Sam 15:1-23
- God didn't change, He responded to rebellious sin

What is the Sin?

- Saul took it upon himself to decide right or wrong
- God's Word is what matters in deciding right or wrong!
- Saul's sin was blasphemy
- Saul seems to think his way was better than God's
- Saul even set up a monument to himself¹²

The Excuses of Sin - how we deceive ourselves...

- Saul appears to think he obeyed God¹³
- Saul seems to think sacrifice to 'your God' was better
- Saul feared the people²⁴
- Saul rejected the word of the Lord²⁶, a serious sin

A Graphic Illustration

- Saul grabs Samuel's robe and it tore²⁷
- Picture of what God does to Saul - tear kingdom from you²⁸

What is Repentance?

- Repentance turns from sin and looks to God for a solution
- Saying the right words without action is useless

Excuses We Often Use (Saul used them):

- **We Look at our Good Efforts**²⁰
 - Saul did much right in fighting the battle
 - Partial obedience is not obedience
- **Everyone Else Does It**^{15,21}
 - The people did it¹⁵ so Saul felt 'safe'
 - Often we show how others are worse^{God doesn't grade on a curve}
- **It Seemed Like a Sensible Thing to Do**
 - Why kill good animals that were so desirable?
 - God's Word is what matters
- **I Did It For God**²¹
 - But my motives were good, I did it for God²¹
 - We don't have to break His commands to do His will
 - Anger-doesn't produce the righteousness of God^{Jms1:20}
- **I Was Afraid of Others**²⁴
 - Saul was afraid of their opinions of him
 - We must fear God alone^{Mt10:28}

We Are Too Often Excuse Makers

- Excuses pass the blame
- Confession and repentance brings freedom^{1Jn1:9}
- "confess" = same mind as God, not just telling Him

The Danger of Making God Small

- Saul feared the people²⁴ rather than God
- The Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom^{Prv9:10}

Wrapping It Up

- Samuel finished the job by hacking Agag to pieces³³
- Saul had a sad ending
- We must look to God who is Faithful to Forgive if we ask!