

# 1 Samuel 14:24-15:35 – “To Obey Is Always Better”

In last week's study we saw further erosion in Saul's life where he placed a greater dependency on himself than he did on the Lord. He took matters into his own hands rather than doing the right and obedient thing. Samuel announced that his reign would not be a lasting reign:

- **1 Samuel 13:13–14**, *"And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.'"*

Continuing on in our study tonight we'll see more flaws show up in Saul's life.

## 1. Foolish Leadership – 14:24-46

**14:24 - *And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, "Cursed is the man who eats any food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food.***

After Jonathan's great victory over the Philistines with just him and his armorbearer, the camp of the Philistines was thrown into confusion and the Philistines fled that day. The battle still continued however. But Saul made a very dumb decision. He wanted everyone to skip meals so they could focus on defeating the Philistines completely.

So nobody ate any food, and it became an issue.

Now there's a couple things wrong with all this. First of all, he's pronouncing a curse on people? Who gave him the right to do this. This was something for God alone to carry out. Secondly, notice Saul's attitude in this: ***before I have taken vengeance on my enemies***. Saul made this about him once again. He's making some bad decisions because he's often the focus of everything he's doing. This is the Lord's battle, and he's to be a servant of the Lord.

Look at the difference in how Jonathan responded to the battle in 1 Samuel 14:12, *"... for the Lord has delivered them into the hand of Israel."*

Jonathan made this about the Lord and gave credit to the Lord. Saul wanted to be the guy that was bringing victory and they wouldn't stop until it was evident he had conquered his enemies. He did what felt right for him without regard for the people.

**14:25-30 - *Now all the people of the land came to a forest; and there was honey on the ground. <sup>26</sup> And when the people had come into the woods, there was the honey, dripping; but no one put his hand to his mouth, for the people feared the oath. <sup>27</sup> But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; therefore he stretched out the end of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened. <sup>28</sup> Then one of the people said, “Your father strictly charged the people with an oath, saying, ‘Cursed is the man who eats food this day.’ ” And the people were faint. <sup>29</sup> But Jonathan said, “My father has troubled the land. Look now, how my countenance has brightened because I tasted a little of this honey. <sup>30</sup> How much better if the people had eaten freely today of the spoil of their enemies which they found! For now would there not have been a much greater slaughter among the Philistines?”***

Jonathan is not aware that his father made such an oath so when he comes to the forest and sees the honey, he's thinking jackpot. He's probably got low blood sugar levels, and he looks to get things regulated so he dips the end of his rod in and scoops some up. This is revitalizing. It's necessary when you're in the battle to be feeding yourself.

- There's a spiritual application for us in this. If we're not taking in of the sweetness of God's Word, we're going to have no energy or strength to resist the enemy. We're going to be weakened and vulnerable if we're always giving out without taking in. Feed yourself daily on God's Word. It's a significant sustenance and strength.

And Jonathan is a little critical of the decision his father made to deny them food. He's showing them the difference a little honey has made in his own countenance. You know what that's like when you are feeling really drained or foggy and you grab a quick snack, it just gives you a little boost or charge.

- Illustration: Snickers commercial.

Jonathan rightly comments that the results of the battle may have been even greater if they were not placed under such a foolish oath. Now though he was

correct to be critical of it, it may not have been the wisest thing to broadcast it among his fellow soldiers. Look at what happens next.

**14:31-33 - *Now they had driven back the Philistines that day from Michmash to Aijalon. So the people were very faint. <sup>32</sup> And the people rushed on the spoil, and took sheep, oxen, and calves, and slaughtered them on the ground; and the people ate them with the blood. <sup>33</sup> Then they told Saul, saying, “Look, the people are sinning against the Lord by eating with the blood!” So he said, “You have dealt treacherously; roll a large stone to me this day.”***

As the Israelites continued to drive the Philistines back, they began to see all the spoils of the animals. They're hungry and faint, so they're now feeling license to eat after hearing from Jonathan. So they begin to dive into their spoils, but they do so in a way that is going against God's Word.

- It said in **Leviticus 17:10–11**, *“And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. <sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”*
- So these guys are not only going against the oath Saul made, but they're going against the Word of the Lord.
- An animal was to be prepared properly. Blood was to be drained out. God was revealing the significance of the blood, that it was the source of life. And blood would be shed to give us life.

Instead of Saul reacting ruthlessly, he now reacts rationally. He recognized they need to eat, so instead of denying them food, he decided to prepare the food for them properly.

**14:34-35 - *Then Saul said, “Disperse yourselves among the people, and say to them, ‘Bring me here every man’s ox and every man’s sheep, slaughter them here, and eat; and do not sin against the Lord by eating with the blood.’ ” So every one of the people brought his ox with him that night, and slaughtered it there. <sup>35</sup> Then Saul built an altar to the Lord. This was the first altar that he built to the Lord.***

Interestingly, this is the first altar that he built to the Lord. Saul has not been exercising a life that is dedicated to the Lord. He's quick to make decisions

without bringing the Lord into it. And his is a life of wasted potential because he did not first of all yield his life to the Lord and bring every decision upon the altar.

- How important it is for us to maintain that altar before the Lord where we not only bring our decisions and concerns and surrender them to God, but where we lay our entire lives down in consecration to The Lord and His will.

Once again, we see Saul acting hastily...

**14:36 - *Now Saul said, "Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and plunder them until the morning light; and let us not leave a man of them." And they said, "Do whatever seems good to you." Then the priest said, "Let us draw near to God here."***

Saul's ready to move ahead, but the priest (Ahijah) said, *Why don't we consult the Lord first?* Now that's some good counsel. And how we need to be reminded to do this. It's so easy to slip into autopilot where we feel like we know the way this has got to go, to where we're just moving along without a real thought or care. But in all things we need to be seeking the Lord and be guided by God. Too often we do what seems good to us, but have we prayed about it? Let's start there and give the Lord opportunity to direct us according to His ways.

**14:37-40 - *So Saul asked counsel of God, "Shall I go down after the Philistines? Will You deliver them into the hand of Israel?" But He did not answer him that day. <sup>38</sup> And Saul said, "Come over here, all you chiefs of the people, and know and see what this sin was today. <sup>39</sup> For as the Lord lives, who saves Israel, though it be in Jonathan my son, he shall surely die." But not a man among all the people answered him. <sup>40</sup> Then he said to all Israel, "You be on one side, and my son Jonathan and I will be on the other side." And the people said to Saul, "Do what seems good to you."***

After asking God for direction, Saul gets no response. God did not answer. Saul immediately suspects that there is sin in the camp. He's ready to look at all the potential guilty candidates but he fails to see the biggest issue is him.

- He's even ready to kill his own son over this.
- How tragic when we are so quick to point out the faults in others and yet ignore or overlook the sin in our own lives.
- And it's true, sin will hinder your relationship with God. Saul is not hearing from God. Thankfully our salvation is not canceled, but your fellowship with God will be on hold until that sin is dealt with.
- **Psalm 66:18, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear."**

**14:41-45 - Therefore Saul said to the Lord God of Israel, “Give a perfect lot.” So Saul and Jonathan were taken, but the people escaped. <sup>42</sup> And Saul said, “Cast lots between my son Jonathan and me.” So Jonathan was taken. <sup>43</sup> Then Saul said to Jonathan, “Tell me what you have done.” And Jonathan told him, and said, “I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that was in my hand. So now I must die!” <sup>44</sup> Saul answered, “God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan.” <sup>45</sup> But the people said to Saul, “Shall Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the Lord lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day.” So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.**

They went through the Urim and Thummim, this black and white stone in the priest's breastplate that was used to determine the Lord's will. They'd pull out a stone and if it was the black one it would be an answer in the negative, if white, a positive answer.

This process indicated Jonathan was the guilty party. And Saul was ready to kill him. He was probably more than happy to have him gone since Saul was such an egomaniac, he didn't want anyone else getting any of the accolades.

Yet the people all stood up for Jonathan and questioned Saul, *‘Why would you kill Jonathan? He just accomplished a great victory for us all!’*

They stood up for what was right and they spared a life.

- Many of these people may have feared the repercussions of standing up to Saul. But they recognized that Jonathan did not deserve death, and they put their own necks on the line.
- May we not be ruled by potential repercussions in doing what is right. May we take a stand for truth and righteousness no matter what the outcome.

**14:46-52 - Then Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, and the Philistines went to their own place. <sup>47</sup> So Saul established his sovereignty over Israel, and fought against all his enemies on every side, against Moab, against the people of Ammon, against Edom, against the kings of Zobah, and against the Philistines. Wherever he turned, he harassed them. <sup>48</sup> And he gathered an army and attacked the Amalekites, and delivered Israel from the hands of those who plundered them. <sup>49</sup> The sons of Saul were Jonathan, Jishui, and Malchishua. And the names of his two daughters**

***were these: the name of the firstborn Merab, and the name of the younger Michal. <sup>50</sup> The name of Saul's wife was Ahinoam the daughter of Ahimaaz. And the name of the commander of his army was Abner the son of Ner, Saul's uncle. <sup>51</sup> Kish was the father of Saul, and Ner the father of Abner was the son of Abiel. <sup>52</sup> Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul. And when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.***

To finish up chapter 14, we see that God still worked through Saul in subduing their enemies all around them. We see Saul's family, but we also see another troubling comment: ***when Saul saw any strong man or any valiant man, he took him for himself.***

- It seems that Saul is looking to bolster his army and make himself look good. It's not about what the Lord desired but about what Saul desired.
- And the language here is fulfilling Samuel's own prediction of what Israel's king would do: **1 Samuel 8:11**, *"And he said, 'This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots.'"*

Saul has been clearly declining in his behaviour. He started off in humility and strength but then began to get proud. His pride led to apathy where he just didn't care about doing what was right for him or for his own army. And now this apathy will become blatant disobedience. Not just in the way we'll see it play out in the next chapter, but in how he would later go on with the intention to murder David. This guy completely loses the plot. It doesn't happen overnight but slowly and persistently by drifting off course from what God has for you.

- Be aware of the drift, because the further you get, the less you realize how far down you are.

But the Lord is always giving you a chance to correct your course. Saul is given an opportunity in Chapter 15 to do what is right and make up for his previous bad decisions.

## 2. Failed Obedience – 15:1-9

***15:1-4 - Samuel also said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he***

***did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’ ” <sup>4</sup> So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah.***

Saul – ***heed the voice of the words of the Lord***. Here’s your chance Saul. Just heed the word of the Lord. To heed is to hear and obey. It’s simple Saul! You can do it. In this case it was to take out the Amalekites – no survivors. This was in retribution for how they treated Israel when they were but a young nation coming out of Egypt.

Amalek was one of the grandsons of Esau. They were a nomadic group known to be ruthless and attack unprovoked for personal gain. They were a wicked bunch sacrificing their children to their false gods. So after the way they treated Israel, God had this to say:

- **Deuteronomy 25:17–19**, *“Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, <sup>18</sup> how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. <sup>19</sup> Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.”*

Because of this ruthless attack against Israel, God was going to totally annihilate the Amalekites. Some people have a real hard time with this. How could a loving God do this? First of all, we cannot attempt to explain the actions of an infinite God whose ways are so much higher than our ways. And what people fail to see is that God gave them hundreds of years to repent and turn to the Lord. But they never did.

- Time does not forgive or erase sin. This was a wicked and depraved nation who not only were infecting themselves but infecting others.
- If you had a rabid dog walking around your yard you wouldn’t just let it be because you wanted to be kind. You would get rid of that thing so it wouldn’t hurt you or others.
- The practices of the Amalekites were vile and they needed to be put down, lest they poison and pollute others.

Now this certainly was common place in the Old Testament as God was looking to preserve a nation in holiness and remove any pollutants that would sabotage them.

Now what we see in the Old Testament physically, we often see in the New Testament spiritually. The Old Testament types reveal a New Testament reality. The Amalekites are seen as a type of the flesh. And God tells Saul to utterly destroy them. What are we to do? We're to crucify the flesh – put it to death.

- **Romans 6:6**, *"knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."*
- **Romans 8:13**, *"For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."*
- **Romans 13:14**, *"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."*

We need to deal seriously with sin. If we don't destroy it, it will destroy you. This is how serious it is. It's not something to play around with or hold on to. It must not be given any room. That's why we're called to reckon ourselves dead to sin.

Well, let's see how this goes for Saul...

**15:5-6 - *And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. <sup>6</sup> Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.***

The Kenites were descendants of Moses' father-in-law Jethro. Here Saul practices an act of mercy that other pagan nations would not have done. He was quick to show mercy, but not quick on obedience, as we will see.

**15:7-9 - *And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. <sup>9</sup> But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.***

Saul failed to do that which the Word of the Lord said, to **utterly destroy** all that they have (15:3).

Typically armies would go in and plunder the spoils of their defeated enemies. But God commanded that everything be destroyed because this was His judgment upon them and nothing was worth keeping, it was all polluted. Yet it says that **Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep...** What God labels as condemned, how can we declare it to be the best? Saul started off on the right foot but finished flat. He only walked in partial obedience, which amounts to complete disobedience.

Again, the dangers of not carrying out all that God has for us is that it can come back to hurt us. Saul had a chance to finish the work, but he failed, and we will see later in Scripture of a remnant of Amalekites that posed problems:

- David had to fight against them.
- Haman in the story of Esther was a descendant, and he wanted to exterminate the Jews.
- Saul will eventually be killed by an Amalekite.

All of these problems, and almost the extermination of the Jews generations later, because of Saul's disobedience.

### 3. Fallen King – 15:10-35

**15:10-12 - Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, <sup>11</sup> “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. <sup>12</sup> So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.”**

God was upset that Saul did not follow Him obediently. Now this language can almost sound like God made a mistake – **I greatly regret**... But this is not God thinking I should have made a different choice. He knew this would be the outcome. It's a way of showing in anthropomorphic terms that this grieved God. He knew it would happen, but He's hurt by Saul's choice to disobey.

- God is not some calloused God that is quick to remove and replace people. This shows God's heart is one that is caring and affected by man's choice.

We also see that Samuel was affected by Saul's actions. He ***cried out to the Lord all night.***

- One way to see that you are walking close with the Lord is to be grieved by the things that grieve God but also to take joy in the things that God joys in.

In vs. 12 we see once again the increasing pride of Saul. He went from hiding in amongst the luggage to setting up monuments in his honor. He's having a little publicity tour.

- Pride is something that God hates and is really what our sin is typically rooted in. Beware of pride.

**15:13 - *Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord."***

Here's Saul really trying to butter up Samuel. He's putting on a good front – a spiritual front. ***Blessed are you of the Lord!***

It just seems so phony.

- Chuck Smith tells the story of a man on the Mount of Olives that is there to greet all the Christian tours. He will come up to you saying, *Praise the Lord, you're a Christian? I'm a brother!* And he will go in for a hug saying, *God bless you.* Next thing you know, your wallet is gone.
- Beware of those who hide their sinfulness with a cloak of spirituality.

And Saul even says, I have performed the commandment of the Lord. He's not just trying to deceive others. It's as though he's deceived himself.

**15:14-15 - *But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" <sup>15</sup> And Saul said, "They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."***

Samuel nonchalantly asks, what's with all this livestock around here then? And notice Saul's response: *The people have done this.* Saul is looking to blame others so as to displace the responsibility. He's not confessing up to his part in this.

- God would have loved to hear a heart that owned up to his mistakes, confessing them and repenting of them. But with Saul it's all about excuses.

Areas that bring a man down: 1) Disobedience, 2) Pride, 3) Hypocrisy, 4) Denial, 5) Not taking Responsibility

**15:16-21 - Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” <sup>17</sup> So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? <sup>18</sup> Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ <sup>19</sup> Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?” <sup>20</sup> And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. <sup>21</sup> But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”**

Again, Saul just can't seem to see that he did not carry out the Word of the Lord. He did things his way but not the Lord's way.

Again, it was the people that took the best things. But they did it with the right intentions. That's what Saul is thinking.

- Sometimes we can make excuses to do the wrong thing because we think it's going to be a better thing. But obedience to God is always going to be the better thing, no matter how difficult it may be.

Here the Lord gives Samuel such a key passage that needs to be underlined in your bibles.

**15:22-23 - So Samuel said: “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.”**

God is not interested in our religious acts, He's interested in our heart.

Jesus said to the Pharisees in Matthew 9:13 (quoting from Hosea 6:6), “*I desire mercy and not sacrifice.*” In other words, don't just be routinely following religious practices, be following Jesus' example. It's all about the heart.

And Samuel goes onto to talk about issues relating to the heart and the severity of them.

- **Rebellion** is an issue of the heart. It's saying you have a better way than God's way; you don't want to accept His way for you. It's likened to witchcraft or divination, where through occultic practices you look for direction apart from God's ways.
- **Stubbornness** is another issue of the heart. It's likened to idolatry because with stubbornness you're placing yourself in a position of priority. You're first and you want your needs met first. Idolatry is placing something ahead of God and making that the priority or object of worship.

Then the hammer really drops: ***Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.***

This is not an easy thing for a prideful man to hear.

***15:24-26 - Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice." 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord." 26 But Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel."***

"On the surface this looks like repentance. We should pat Saul on the back and raise him up as a model for this ... right? Unfortunately, what looks like repentance is actually a fraud. This is evident in two ways. First, for the rest of Saul's life, he will repeat this same rebellious attitude. Repentance entails a change, but Saul never displays one. Second, the phrase in verse 25 indicates that Saul is still thinking of the whole situation incorrectly. Saul wants to "worship the Lord," and he is not thinking of singing some God songs together or washing someone else's feet. Saul wants to have a national thanksgiving sacrifice on behalf of the victory. He wants a big ceremony.

The problem with this is that Samuel is the only one who can offer an official worship ceremony. If Samuel refuses, this will be a major loss of face for Saul. Sadly, this is what Saul is so worried about. His main concern is still how he looks in the eyes of the people. He is still concerned about his status.

Again, far too many people in our pews think along the same lines. Too many of us are more worried about being caught in our sin than about the flagrance of the offense before God. We would be embarrassed if our sin was exposed, but we

completely ignore the fact that the person most offended, most involved—God Himself—sees and knows our sin completely.”<sup>1</sup>

**15:27-29 - *And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup> So Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. <sup>29</sup> And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.”***

The kingdom will not remain in Saul’s family. It will be given to a neighbor – that will be David. We’ll see him next time in Chapter 16.

Notice in vs. 29 – God is called the ***Strength of Israel***. This is a unique title of God. It could also be translated the glory of Israel.

What a great way to see God – He is indeed our strength and help.

And His word will remain. It is unchanging.

**15:30-31 - *Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.” <sup>31</sup> So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.***

Notice Saul is all about saving face. ***Honor me now; return with me***. Let me be seen in a good light. That’s his idea here. Saul is more concerned with his image than he is with how God thinks of him.

- And notice he now refers to the Lord as Samuel’s God. We see a spiritual decline here in Saul which will only get worse.

And yet Samuel turned back with Saul. Why? Perhaps for the sake of the nation. Though there’s a new king being raised up Saul will continue in this position for another 24 years. Lots of time for the new king to be trained. Samuel will ensure that Israel has some godly leadership during this time.

**15:32-35 - *Then Samuel said, “Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.” So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.” <sup>33</sup> But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. <sup>34</sup> Then Samuel***

<sup>1</sup> Greear, J. D., & Thomas, H. A. (2016). *Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel* (p. 113). Holman Reference.

***went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup> And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.***

Points to Ponder:

1. Small acts of pride can set us on a path of great downfall.
2. Partial obedience is still disobedience.
3. God values submission more than success.
4. You can save face before men and still lose favor before God.