Pastor Doug Kilchenman November 15, 2026

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 15:1-35 – the danger of disobedience to God

Today's Message:

"A Fatal Compromise"



The Weekly Bulletin

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we watched Jonathan trust God by faith to overcome impossible odds to bring a victory over the enemy. His faith in God helped others to step out in faith and participate in the victory. Today, we will see Saul make a fatal compromise. Now Saul is not an atheist. He is not openly rejecting God. In fact, he is still talking about the LORD, offering sacrifices, and maintaining the appearance of spiritual leadership. But underneath the religious appearance is a heart that has decided to do things his own way. There is a recurring problem in his life. He is increasingly concerned with maintaining his position, controlling circumstances, and pleasing people rather than submitting himself to God's authority.

This is God's message to you…

LEARNING TOGETHER

THE CONTEXT
Remember the context from the end of Ch 14 – there sore war and conflict with the enemies of Israel all the days of Saul!

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 15:1-35

A. The Danger of Partial Obedience 15:1-9

1. When we choose to obey God partially or selectively, we disobey Him **COMPLETELY**.

Important Note
Saul was in a privileged position over God's people. However, God was still in charge, and Saul was to obey God's Word completely.

1Samuel 15:1 *– … hearken thou unto* ***the voice of the words of the LORD****.*
1Samuel 15:2-3 *– Thus saith the LORD of hosts…* ***utterly destroy all that they have****…*
1Samuel 15:4-7 *– And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah… over against Egypt.*
1Samuel 15:8-9 *– …* ***BUT*** *Saul and… people* ***spared Agag****, and the best of the sheep,* ***and*** *of the oxen,* ***and*** *of the fatlings,* ***and*** *the lambs,* ***and*** *all that was good, and* ***WOULD NOT utterly destroy them****:* ***BUT*** *every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.*

"**Hearken** thou" – to listen attentively, give heed, and respond obediently – the first time!
"Voice of **the words** of the LORD" – Samuel spoke, but they were God's words to obey!
"Go… smite Amalek…**utterly destroy all**" – patient, judicial judgment upon *sinners* **(vs 18)**

A Key Point
This is not about an ***ethnic*** *decision (kill the people just because) but about an* ***ethical*** *decision (God's judgment on sin).*

The Clear Command
Destroy *the Amalekites*
Destroy *their possessions*
Spare them not
Slay *both man* ***and*** *woman*
Infant and suckling
Ox and sheep
Camel and ass

History Lesson

Exodus 17:8-16	Amalek attacked Israel just after the Exodus
Numbers 24:20	Balaam prophesies concerning Amalek
Deut 25:17-19	Moses reminds Israel how Amalek attacked the feeble rear
Judges 6:3-5	Amalek joins the Midianites in attacking Israel
1 Samuel 14:48	Saul had previously fought against Amalek

"But Saul and the people **spared Agag**…" – this is flat out disobedience to God's words!

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES **Deuteronomy 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 4:4**

- **Moses' sin** ***Numbers 20:7-12*** God said speak to the rock; he struck the rock!
- **Old prophet** ***1 Kings 13:7-24*** The man of God was deceived to disobey God!

Personal Application – Partial Obedience is *not* obedience to God
In your personal life? In your relationships? In your workplace?
In your family? In your service to God? In your giving to God?
In your lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life? ***1 John 2:15-17***

B. The Deception of a Blinded Heart 15:10-23

2. Sin can **BLIND** us to the reality of our disobedience to God.

Self-Justification
"I had a good reason."
Defending what I did
Making excuses for sin
Shifting responsibility
Protecting reputation
Self-Deception
"I have not done wrong."
Believing I did right
Failing to see sinful actions
Being blinded by sin
Protecting perception of self

1Samuel 15:10-11 *– … **It repenteth me** that I have set up Saul to be king …*
*… **And it grieved Samuel**; and he cried unto the LORD all night.*
1Samuel 15:12 *– … Saul came to Carmel… **he set him up A PLACE**… to Gilgal.*
1Samuel 15:13 *– …Blessed… **I have performed** the commandment of the LORD.*
1Samuel 15:14 *– …What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep… **which I hear?***
1Samuel 15:15 *– …THEY have brought them… THE PEOPLE spared the best…*
1Samuel 15:16-19 *– …Wherefore then didst thou **not obey the voice of the LORD**…*
1Samuel 15:20-21 *– …YEA, **I have obeyed the voice of the LORD**… brought Agag…*
1Samuel 15:22 *– … **to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to hearken… fat of rams.*
1Samuel 15:23 *– For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft**, and stubbornness…*

"It **repenteth** me… it **grieved** Samuel" – God's grief/displeasure; Samuel's sick + tears!
"He set him up **a place**" – same word as ***2 Sam 18:18*** – Absalom's *place* (monument or arch?)
"I have **performed**…Yea, I have **obeyed**" – self deception; sin's blinding effects; beware!
"To **obey** is better than sacrifice" – serious rebuke; stop the madness + obey His words!

A Great Contrast
*While Saul was busy **celebrating himself**, God and Samuel were grieved and sick about his sin against God.*

The Intervention
*Saul says he obeyed. **But the evidence says otherwise.** The sheep and cattle say otherwise. The evidence is literally surrounding him!*

COMPARING SCRIPTURES ***Eph 4:18*** *(understanding darkened);* **Jas 1:22** *(deceiving own selves)*

- **A deceitful heart** ***Jer 17:9*** "The heart is deceitful above all things… desperately wicked…"
- **An evil heart** ***Heb 3:12*** "… an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."
- **A hard heart** ***Heb 3:13*** "… lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- We can say: "I am doing well spiritually… faithful to God… obeying His words…"
  But… eventually, the evidence of our lives speaks louder than our claims.

C. The Consequences of Rejecting God's Word 15:24-35 **[God takes His Word seriously!]**

3. When we **REJECT** the word of God, there are consequences we cannot escape.

Tragedy of Saul
He had opportunities to obey but repeatedly chose his own way.

Proverbs 29:25
The fear of man bringeth a snare…

Galatians 1:10
For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1Samuel 15:24 *– …**I have sinned**… **transgressed the commandment of the LORD**, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.*
1Samuel 15:25-26 *– … I pray thee, pardon my sin, and **turn again with me**...*
1Samuel 15:27-29 *– … as Samuel turned about… **he laid hold**… **and it rent**…*
1Samuel 15:30-33 *–… Samuel turned again… **Bring ye hither to me Agag**… hewed…*
1Samuel 15:34-35 *–… Samuel **came no more**… mourned… the LORD repented…*

"Because I **feared the people**" – feared people more than feared God?! ***Pr 29:25; Jn 12:43***
"Turn again **with me**" – true repentance? wants to preserve his public image + standing!
"**Rejected** thee from being king" – consequences cannot simply be negotiated away!
"Yet **honour me** now" – admits sin; more concerned about what people think than God!

MORE SCRIPTURES ***Psalm 51:4, 17 (broken + contrite heart); Mt 7:21-23 (Jesus re: vain religion)***

- **Godly sorrow** ***1 Corinth 7:9-11*** "For godly sorrow worketh repentance…"

Conclusion – Sin is extremely dangerous!
Sin does not just cause us to do wrong things. It can also distort how we perceive the wrong things we are doing. This is what makes Saul's behavior so dangerous! He was not simply disobeying God. He was demonstrating an unwillingness to recognize the seriousness of his disobedience to God.