



REAL MOMENTUM

REAL MOMENTUM at Woodstock
A Man & His Obedience
By Keith Boggs

Obedience –

In both the OT and NT, the word translated “obey” are related to the idea of hearing.

Obedience is a positive, active response to listening to the Word of God.

We may dress the part, act the part, talk the part of being a Christian, but none of these things prove that we genuinely love God. But, obedience is the only way.

1 Samuel 15

1. The Direct Order to Saul (1-3)

Our lives are meant to the story of God in human history.

When God gives a direct order, He desires to make a statement through us.

2. The Disobedience of Saul (4-9)

What is Biblical Obedience?

Doing **what** you are told to do,
when you are told to do it,
with the right heart attitude.

Deut. 11:26-28, "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: [27] the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; [28] and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings conflict.

1. Partial Obedience

[7] And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. [8] He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

Saul applied human reasoning to God's command.

Human reasoning (demonic reasoning) will make you...

debate what you are told to do

delay when to do it

dialog within your heart

Listen, the dangerous thing about partial obedience is that we can think we are “okay.” As a result, we will most likely not give another thought to what was directly commanded from the Lord.

2. Proudful Obedience

[9] 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.

But Saul and the spared Agag –

Unwilling to utterly destroy –

Self-centered

Self-willed

Utterly disobedient to the things of God

Disobedience is an inside job.

Proudful Obedience Promotes Self –

1 Samuel 15:13-14, Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord." [14] But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"

Proudful Obedience Protects Self –

1 Samuel 15:15-16, 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." [16] 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."

1 Samuel 15:17-21, 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? [18] 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.' [19] 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?" [20] 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. [21] 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."

Proverbs 28:13,

He who covers his sins will not prosper,

But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

3. The Divine Opposition to Saul (10-26)

1 Samuel 15:10-11, Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, [11] "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.

1 Samuel 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.

To obey is better than sacrifice –

The sacrificial system was never intended to function in place of living an obedient life, but rather was to be an expression of it.

There are a lot of people who do "a lot for God." They'll come and do this at the church and that at the church. But somewhere in their life there is a command that has not been obeyed.

To heed than the fat of rams – the fat from the ram was reserved for God as the most prized part of the sacrifice.

Obedience is better, listening and heeding the voice of God is better than any sacrifice.

[23] 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."

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (divination→ following the devil)–

Resisting God...

Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry –

Hard headed, hard hearted - obstinate, inflexible

Those who continually reject God will one day be rejected by Him.

What does the Divine Opposition of Saul look like?

1 Sam. 15:35

1 Sam. 16:14-15, 23

1 Sam. 17:11

1 Sam. 18:10-15

1 Sam. 19:9

1 Sam. 28:5-17

There was jealousy, fear, envy, bitterness, frustration, conflict, affliction. This was not a life blessed by God, it was a life cursed by God. Obedience brings blessing, disobedience brings cursing.

Some quick takeaways...

1. Rebellion is costly.
2. Disobeying God usually makes our lives more difficult and complicated.
3. At particular crossroads, disobedience to God can ruin our lives.
4. No one who is in rebellion against the Lord has true peace, joy, contentment or success in life.
5. God takes disobedience seriously and the consequences are grave.

MOSES

Deuteronomy 32:44-47; 48-52

Living and dying right on the edge of where God had intended for you to be robs Him of His glory... and there are consequences for robbing God of His glory.

A Broken Fellowship (51a)

A Bruised Faith (51b)

A Besetting Future (52)

What did Moses do? Number 20:7-12

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ⁸ "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." ⁹ So Moses took the rod from before the Lord as He commanded him.

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" ¹¹ Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.

¹² Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

This is not the sin of a young man, it is the sin of a seasoned saint.

In order to live obedient lives as men... let's take the definition of biblical manhood that Robert Lewis offers in the Quest for Authentic Manhood.

Joshua 1:1-9

1. Reject Passivity

There is no such thing as leadership apart from action. But to the Christian leader, it is not just action that matters, it is obedient action.

Almost is never enough when God says all.

Partial obedience is total disobedience.

2. Expect Great Things

There is a big difference between chasing good ideas and fulfilling a mission, an assignment.

God doesn't tell you to do something and then leave you to yourself.

You are operating under His authority and for His glory.

The mission is His and you are His.

3. Accept Responsibility

If we obey God it is going to cost people more than it costs us and that's where the pain begins. If we obey God it means that other people's plans are upset

Crawford Loritts, "Success or failure is determined by your obedience to the Word of God. You are offered the same choice as Joshua. You can either try to sustain yourself by your talent or experience, by positive self-talk and motivational slogans, or by the strength of your strategic plans. Or you build your life and ministry on the Word of God."

4. Lead Courageously

Courage is complete obedience in the face of opposition.

Obey God and leave the consequences to Him.

Lead with the Scriptures
Live according to the Scriptures

Anytime God gives you an assignment, you can expect opposition.

John 14:15, If you love Me, keep My commandments.