

Title: The Danger of Partial Obedience

Text: 1 Samuel 15

Big Idea: Great failures begin with little compromises; partial obedience is still disobedience before God.

1. God's command was clear.

- Saul was chosen by grace and commanded to listen to the word of the Lord.
- The Amalekites represented centuries of hardened rebellion and predatory violence.
- God's judgment was not to become Saul's opportunity for pride or profit.

2. Saul's compromise exposed his heart.

- He spared Agag as a trophy and kept what seemed valuable.
- He destroyed only what seemed weak or worthless.
- His partial obedience revealed that something else had captured his heart.

3. Disobedience often hides behind excuses.

- Saul shifted blame to the soldiers.
- He spiritualized his sin by claiming noble motives.
- He lied about his obedience while the evidence exposed him.

4. God values obedience more than religious activity.

- "To obey is better than sacrifice."
- Rebellion is like divination; arrogance is like idolatry.
- Religious activity cannot cover a heart that rejects God's word.

5. Saul's repentance was incomplete.

- He admitted sin but still wanted public honor.
- He feared people more than he feared the Lord.
- He was sorry for consequences, not truly broken over sin.

6. Undealt-with sin eventually returns to destroy.

- The Amalekites picture sin that reforms when it is not killed.
- Compromise now can create consequences later.
- True repentance requires honesty, humility, and radical obedience.