

After God's Own Heart

Daring to Trust in God

1 Samuel 15:10-23

Daring to Trust in God.

Daring to Trust: Airplane pilot (get on board, obey all instructions, etc.), Surgeon (sign the waivers, pay the cost, fast for 12-hours, follow-up PT, etc.), Wife (Sit on a stool, put a cup on your head, talk to the camera, and WHACK). Trust = Obedience

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

People After God's Own Heart Dare to Trust in Him by Obedience to His Word

Let's see how King Saul reacted to being caught disobeying the LORD and what that tells us about Daring to Trust in God

*“The word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 ‘I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.’ And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. 12 And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, ‘Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.’ 13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, ‘Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.’ 14 And Samuel said, ‘What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?’ 15 Saul said, ‘They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.’ 16 Then Samuel said to Saul, ‘Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.’ And he said to him, ‘Speak.’ 17 And Samuel said, ‘Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. 18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction 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 pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?’ 20 And Saul said to Samuel, ‘I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.’ 22 And 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 listen than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.’” **1 Samuel 15:10-23***

Two Contrasting Perspectives on Daring to Trust in God 1 Samuel 15:10-23

I. What Daring to Trust in God ISN'T – 1 Samuel 15:10-21

*“Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them..’” **1 Samuel 15:2-3a***

The Amalekites were enemies of Israel and very bad people. When Israel was alone and defenseless in the wilderness on their way out of Egypt, the Amalekites raided them. God rescued his people, but never forgot what they had done said at that time:

*“Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Write this as a memorial in a book and recite it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.’” **Exodus 17:14***

Daring to Trust in God ISN'T:

- **Personal Achievement (Vs. 12)** – Saul was so proud of himself & how he had won the battle against the Amalekites, he set up a monument!
- **Proclaiming Half Truths (Vs. 13)** – When King Saul saw Samuel the prophet he shouted, “I have performed the commandment of the Lord!”

*“And Samuel said, ‘What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?’” **1 Samuel 15:14***

- **Pointing Fingers (Vs. 15, 21)** – Like Adam, King Saul blamed the people for keeping the best, saying it was for sacrifice (i.e., Cookie for YOU).
- **Pursuing Personal Gain (Vs. 19)** – Samuel describes King Saul as ‘pouncing’ or like a bird ‘swooping’ in on the victories God gave.
- **Partial Obedience (Vs. 20)** – King Saul had King Agag of the Amalekites in captivity (in disobedience to God's command). It was all about HIM!!!

*“Saul is after a name for himself – his own kingdom, his own stature. That is why he spares Agag and keeps him prisoner. Refusing to kill Agag is not an act of mercy. No, having an enemy king in your prison is an enormous status boost. In those days conquering kings would frequently parade out all the kings they had captured – emaciated, in chains – as a sign to the world: ‘I am the king of kings.’” **J.D. Greear***

*“The lesson here is the Lord calls people to submit to his agenda, not to attempt to honor him with their own agendas.” **Tony Evans***

We're not off the hook here, today. So many of us show up to church each week pretending that everything is just great. We sing songs, play the part, pretend we're trusting in the Lord, but the evidence of our disobedience is all around us. Our spouse, child, roommate, girlfriend/boyfriend, browser history, bank statement, and others would tell a different story. It's silly and hypocritical, but it's common. The question is what are we going to do in response? Try to keep up the charade? Or get real with God in humble surrender, daring to trust in him with obedience?

People After God's Own Heart Dare to Trust in Him by Obedience to His Word

II. What Daring to Trust in God IS – 1 Samuel 15:22-23

The Prophet Samuel has had enough.

“And 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 listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption

is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.” 1 Samuel 15:22-23

What Daring to Trust God IS:

- **Obedience Over Performance (vs. 22)** – To obey is better than sacrifice.
- **Obedience Over Paganism (vs. 23)** – Disobedience = witchcraft/divination

“God does not want our rationalizations; He wants our repentance. He does not want our sacrifices; He wants our submission. The choice has passed for Saul but not for us. The choice between self-deception and repentance, between death and life, stands before each of us, even today.” Heath Thomas

It’s obedience, simple and trusting obedience that’s what delight’s our God!

People After God’s Own Heart Dare to Trust in Him by Obedience to His Word

2 Perspectives on Daring to Trust in God: 1) What it ISN’T, 2) What it IS...

King Saul tried to save himself, just like so many of us have tried to do. But...

“(Our attempts at self-salvation) ...will no more save us than the husks will fill our hungry bellies. It is not the husks we need; we need the grain. And so we do not need external ceremonies; we need the inward substance, and we will never get that except by trusting Jesus Christ.” Charles Haddon Spurgeon

King Saul, just like Adam in the Garden of Eden, failed due to disobedience.

“For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- **CSB Study Bible** – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- **Exalting Jesus in 1 & 2 Samuel** – J.D. Greear & Heath Thomas (2016)
- **Wiersbe Expository Outlines on the OT** – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- **New American Commentary: 1 & 2 Samuel** – Robert D. Bergen (1996)
- **Spurgeon Study Bible** – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- **First and Second Samuel** – Eugene H. Peterson (1999)
- **Tony Evans Study Bible** – Tony Evans (2019)
- **The Eerdmans Companion to the Bible** – Gordon D. Fee (2011)
- **God is a Warrior** – Longman & Reid (1995)
- **Holy War in the Bible** – Heath Thomas (2013)