



Teaching Notes Anointed to Lead- Week 2

A Study of the Lives of King Saul and King David



This is King Saul's story...

- It is a story of compromise... justification... good intentions... which leads to a story of disobedience, jealousy, and an unrepentant spirit.
- It is a story about doing a seemingly good thing instead of doing the God thing.
- It is the story of having an outer mantle of anointing without having an inner presence of the Spirit.
- It is a story that far too often you and I find ourselves repeating if we aren't careful.



Saul Anointed King

- The people of Israel, who had always been a **Theocracy- ruled by God-**, demanded that they have a king just like everyone else. (1 Samuel 8)
- vs. 7- *And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but **they have rejected Me** from being king over them.*
- Saul is chosen by God and anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the first ever king of Israel.
- Why Saul? He was tall and good looking. That’s literally the only reason. (1 Samuel 9)



*“About this time tomorrow I will
send you a man from the land of
Benjamin, and you shall **anoint him
as leader** over My people Israel;
and **he will save My people from
the hand of the Philistines.***

I Samuel 9:16 a



Saul Anointed King

- **Saul privately anointed to be king** (1 Samuel 10:1)
- vs. 6,7- *Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you mightily, and you will prophesy with them, and you will be changed into another man. ⁷ When these signs come to you, do for yourself whatever the situation requires, for God is with you.*
- vs. 9- *Then it happened when Saul turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came to pass that day.*
- Yet, Saul tells no one that he has been anointed king...

➤ **Saul publically chosen as king...**

➤ vs. 21, 22- Saul the son of Kish was chosen by lot; but when they looked for him, he could not be found. ²² So they inquired further of the LORD, "Has the man come here yet?" And the LORD answered, "He is there, **hiding*** himself by the provisions and supplies."

➤ 1 Samuel 11:15- **Saul made king.**

➤ 1 Samuel 12- **Saul confirmed as king.**

➤ So... was Saul anointed to be the king? No doubt. Has Saul been called to be king? Four times!

➤ The Lord was with Saul and the Bible says on numerous occasions that the Spirit came upon Saul.

➤ 1 Samuel 15.... **Saul rejected as king...** What happened?



Saul Rejected as King

- 1 Samuel 15
- vs. 2, 3- *"Thus says the LORD of hosts (armies), 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way when Israel came up from Egypt. ³ Now go and strike Amalek and **completely destroy everything that they have; do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.**'"*



Saul Rejected as King

- vs. 7,8,9- “Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸ He captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, though he totally destroyed all [the rest of] the people with the sword. ⁹ Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and **everything that was good, and they were not willing to destroy them entirely; but everything that was undesirable or worthless they destroyed completely.**”



Who were the Amalekites and Why Does God Want Them Destroyed?

- The grandson of Esau fathered the Amalekites. Jacob, Esau's twin, fathered the Israelites.
- The Amalekites were the first nation to attack Israel when they came out of Egypt.
- They didn't fight and attack like brave men, no, they were cowards and bullies who would attack the rear of the Hebrew caravan and prey on the weak, the frail, and the old who brought up the end of the line.
- They preyed on those who were the most vulnerable and helpless and in Deuteronomy 25 it says they "feared not God."



*“Remember what Amalek did to you along the road when you came from Egypt, ¹⁸ how he met you along the road and attacked all the stragglers at your rear when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. ¹⁹ Therefore when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall wipe out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; **you must not forget.**”*

Deuteronomy 25: 17-19



Esau, The Amalekites, and The Flesh

- It is Esau remember who sold his birthright for temporary pleasures. He despised his blessing...
- Hebrews 12:16,17- *"and [see to it] that no one is immoral or godless like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that later on, when he wanted [to regain title to] his inheritance of the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no opportunity for repentance [there was no way to repair what he had done, no chance to recall the choice he had made], even though he sought for it with [bitter] tears."*
- Esau was proud and self-sufficient, and he has come to represent The Flesh. Therefore, he has given that distinction to his descendants as well.
- The Amalekites, due to their wicked deeds and Godless existence, now too represent The Flesh.
- This is who King Saul has been told to destroy- The Flesh. Destroy The Flesh. **Destroy every part of it. Leave none of it alive!** (The Word of the Lord according to Deuteronomy 25:19 and I Samuel 15:3.)



But something happens...

- vs. 7,8,9- “Saul defeated the Amalekites,... .⁸ He **captured Agag the king of the Amalekites alive**, though he totally destroyed all [the rest of] the people with the sword. ⁹ Saul and the people **spared Agag** and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and **everything that was good, and they were not willing to destroy them entirely; but everything that was undesirable or worthless they destroyed completely.**”



1 Samuel 15:10-14

- “Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ **“I regret that I made Saul king,** for he has turned away from following Me and has not carried out My commands.” Samuel was angry [over Saul’s failure] and he cried out to the LORD all night. ¹² When Samuel got up early in the morning to meet Saul, he was told, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, **he set up for himself a monument [commemorating his victory],** then he turned and went on and went down to Gilgal.” ¹³ So Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD. **I have carried out the command 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?”



I Samuel 15:15-19

➤ Saul said, “**They** have brought them from the Amalekites, for **the people** spared the best of the sheep and oxen **to sacrifice** to the LORD your God; but the rest **we** have destroyed completely.” ¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop, and let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” Saul said to him, “Speak.”

¹⁷ Samuel said, “Is it not true that even though you were small (insignificant) in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel, ¹⁸ and the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, totally destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are eliminated.’ ¹⁹ Why did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but [instead] swooped down on the plunder [with shouts of victory] and did evil in the sight of the LORD?”



I Samuel 15:20-23

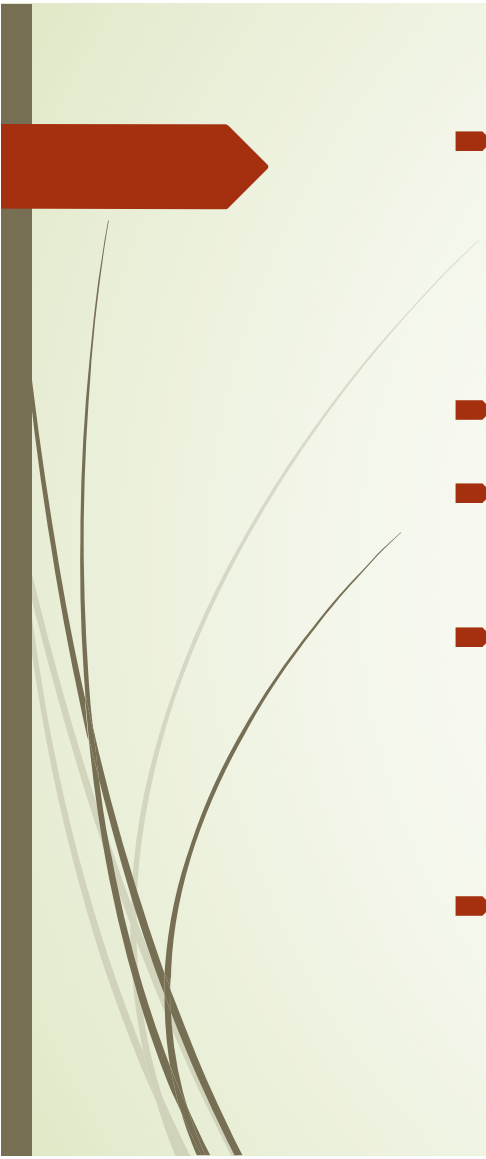
- Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have completely destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹ But **the people** took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things [that were] to be totally destroyed, **to sacrifice** to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

Samuel said,

"Has the LORD as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
As in obedience to the voice of the LORD?

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed [is better] than the fat of rams.

"For rebellion is as [serious as] the sin of divination (fortune-telling),
And disobedience is as [serious as] false religion and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you as king."

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- In 1 Samuel, God commands a thing to be done. He doesn't suggest that Saul do it. He doesn't hope that Saul can do it, no, He has anointed and called Saul to do a thing and what He requires of Saul is obedience.
 - Saul ALMOST gets it right.
 - The problem is that Saul chooses to obey only the part of the command that makes sense to him.
 - God gave the Amalekites into Saul's hands, yet Saul believed that he knew better than God. He actually thought that he was doing God a favor by NOT being fully obedient.
 - If only he had realized the seriousness of what his disobedience would cost him.



vs. 9- ***"Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and everything that was good, and they were not willing to destroy them entirely;"***

- Agag- a title for the Amalekite kings such as when we use the term Pharaoh to describe the kings of Egypt. So you see the term in multiple places in the Bible.
- It is a precursor to the Gog which is found in the Book of Revelation.
- It should be no surprise to you that Gog (Agag in 1 Samuel 15) means "Spirit of Rebellion."
- Saul has gone against the Lord's command and he has spared Agag. He has refused to destroy the Spirit of Rebellion, in fact, **he has brought it back home with him.**



vs. 9- *"Saul and the people spared Agag and **the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and everything that was good, and they were not willing to destroy them entirely;**"*

- We see further in verse 9 that they were not willing to destroy the Amalekites- The Flesh- entirely. The parts they didn't like- they destroyed.
- But the Word says that **the best parts of The Flesh-** the best sheep, oxen, fatlings, lambs, and all that was good- **they kept, they spared, they justified.**
- **They were not willing to destroy The Flesh entirely.**



This partial disobedience is really TOTAL disobedience on Saul's part. But, look how he justifies his sin...

- 1. He set himself up a monument (commemorating his victory). (vs. 12)

This tells us that instead of fearing how God would respond to his disobedience or feeling convicted over not fully obeying the commands of the Lord, he felt very satisfied with himself with his sin.

- 2. When Saul greets Samuel he says, "I have carried out the command of the Lord." (vs. 13)

This tells us that he is proud of himself. He is also a total liar and in complete denial regarding his actions.

- 3. He passed the buck and placed the blame for his actions on others. "**They** brought back..., **the people** spared... ." (vs. 15, 20, 21)

- 4. He justifies his disobedience as sacrifice. (vs. 21)

He claims that the best of the spoils was spared so the best could be a sacrifice unto God.

- 5. His only concern is saving face.

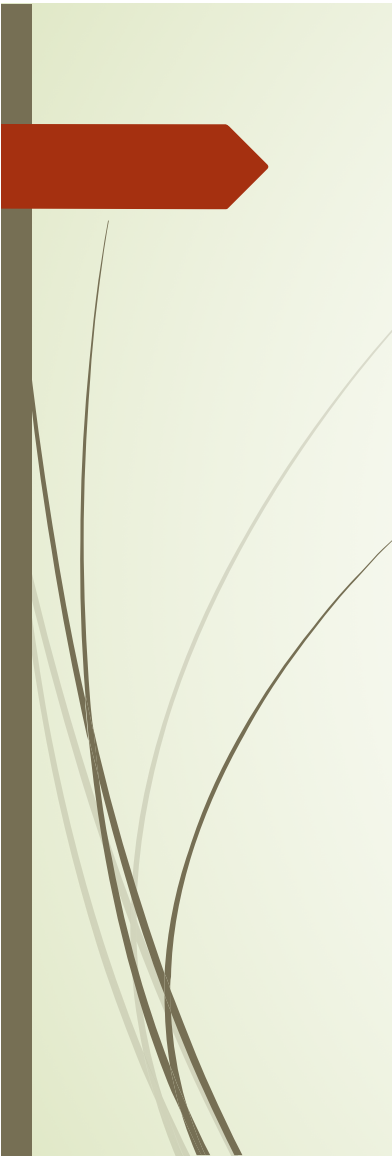
He wants Samuel to go along with him on pretense so that he will look good in front of the people. He shows no true repentance for his actions. This is the last time Samuel sees him.



Seems okay doesn't it? Seems like God would be pleased that Saul thought to sacrifice to Him, doesn't it? Who cares if Saul disobeyed? Shouldn't this great sacrifice make up for it? But here is the reality...

➤ **Saul kept only the best parts of what God hated.**

- The best of a wrong thing doesn't make any part of it right.
- vs. 22- Samuel said,
 - "Has the LORD as great a delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices As in obedience to the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed [is better] than the fat of rams.
- vs. 23b.- Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, **He also has rejected you as king.**"
- It would take several years for it to come to pass, but this sin ended not only Saul's reign, but would insure that his descendants would never sit on the throne of Israel. In the very next chapter, David is anointed king. ie. Samuel- get up, stop crying, it is over, move on. There is a new king!



Application:

- Let Saul's sin of disobedience be an example to you and I.
- We can get so busy doing the "good thing," justifying our actions and calling them a sacrifice, that we miss the God thing. ex. girl and the piano
- "Was the praise music a pleasant thing, a welcomed thing? Not at all! Songs of praise mean absolutely nothing when offered out of disobedience." Joni Erikson Tada
- God has called each of us to a unique plan in His divine story.
- But we can get so caught up with how small our call seems, or the place of our call, or the difficulty of our calling, or the impact of our call, or the parts of our calling that just don't seem to make sense- that in rebellion we begin to look for ways to "fix" what we are sure must be a mistake on God's part.
- **How many of us have wasted the call on our lives trying to do the good thing instead of the God thing?**
- Oh, we were not necessarily doing wrong, but we were disobedient to what WE had been commanded by Almighty God to do.

Application Continued...

- How many of us have justified the times when we have followed God's commands, **but only up to a certain point?**
- Just because I kept back a little sheep and oxen over here- just a little bit of The Flesh- it won't really hurt anything. Oh really? It can cost you everything! Just ask Saul, or Jonathan because his dad's actions stole from his future as well.
- "It won't hurt anything if I... . I mean I am kind of doing what God wants me to do... ."
- Excuses for sin. Justification for our lusts of The Flesh. Compromise. Unrepentant.
- Oh friend! **You are sparing Agag!**
- **You are sparing the Spirit of Rebellion. You are holding onto The Flesh. And God has commanded that you kill those things. Kill The Flesh. Kill Rebellion. Wipe it from the face of your life. Don't leave any of it to live in you another day!**



Application Continued...

- You know what you have been compromising. I don't have to tell you because you already know. The Holy Spirit has already been talking to you about it. And you have been trying to justify it, and you know that too!
- **Compromise with good intentions is still compromise.**
- It is sinful for us to think that we know better than He does. It is sin when we try to get away with doing less than He commands- **in any area of our lives.**
- In the end, the sin of disobedience, rebellion, justification, and compromise not only took Saul's kingdom, it caused him to spend the rest of his life in conflict with the man who would be given his kingdom- David. And ultimately, it took his life.



Lesson:

- There are two versions of the death of King Saul. One in 1st Samuel and one in 2nd Samuel.
- The version in 2nd Samuel- which was likely made up- has Saul dying at the hand of an Amalekite. **(Regardless, the Amalekite still took Saul's crown.)**
- **Lesson- Any part of your old life that you spare, will come back to slay you, and take your crown.**
- A wise friend of mine always says, "I would rather submit now, then be forced to surrender later."
- Because Saul refused to submit to the voice of God then- TOTALLY SUBMIT- he would be forced to surrender everything later, even his very life. From 1 Samuel 15 on, he would never know peace until his dying day. In fact, the Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul.
- He had proudly- with arrogance and justification- spared (clung to, lusted after, brought it home with him) the Spirit of Rebellion and that spirit would cleave to him the rest of his days.
- God knows best. Submit before you have to surrender.



Lesson Continued...

- I know that sometimes what God asks of us doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense. It may not even seem pleasant. There are many of us walking in that right now.
- Saul certainly felt that way. Why destroy the best of something when it seems to make more sense to hold on to those things which are easy, which make me feel good?
- At times, God has asked me to do some things, get rid of some things, avoid some things- that on the surface didn't seem to be "right to me." When those things happen we often think that God must have made a mistake, "but don't worry, I can "fix" it for Him."
- But we are simply sparing Agag- we are carrying out of Spirit of Rebellion when we think that our way is best. We are choosing the comfort of The Flesh over Faith. And we will pay a price for it. Guaranteed.

Lesson Continued...

- Saul was the anointed and appointed king which makes it all the more tragic that he insisted on doing things with a rebellious and un-repentant spirit. **He had the mantle on him, but the presence wasn't in him, and that made the difference.**
- You and I are fortunate. We have been blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit of the Living God- here and now with and within us.
- When we do wander towards disobedience, when we start to believe that we know better what will please God than what God has commanded, when we begin to spare The Flesh, we have a wise counselor that says," What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears?"
- Aren't you so thankful when God allows you to hear the very sin of your life crying out, "This is wrong! This is not God's will! This is not God's best!"
- The Holy Spirit is so merciful to whisper the bleating of our rebellion in our own hearts to warn us. But we must heed His warning before it takes our crown, before it takes our future, before it takes our anointing.
- Guard your anointing. Love it the way David did.
- Submit before you have to surrender.