

Life Lessons From a Loser

Pt. 2 – Confess and Repent

Blessing follows obedience.

Discipline follows disobedience.

¹ Sam. 15:1 “Samuel said to Saul, ‘I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. ²This is what the Lord Almighty says: I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. ³Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’ ⁴So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah. ⁵Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine...⁷Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt.”

The pattern of disobedience:

1. My plan is better than God's plan.

¹ Sam. 15:8 “He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. ⁹But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs - everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.”

2. I deserve the credit.

¹ Sam. 15:10 “Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: ¹¹‘I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.’ Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the Lord all that night. ¹²Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, ‘Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.’”

Lk. 18:14 “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

3. I can hide my sin.

¹ Sam 15:13 “When Samuel reached him, Saul said, ‘The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions.’”

4. It's not my fault.

¹ Sam 15:14 “But Samuel said, ‘What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?’ ¹⁵Saul answered, ‘The soldiers brought them

from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

5. I am in charge of my life.

1 Sam 15:15“...they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

6. I had a good reason.

1 Sam 15:16“‘Stop!’ Samuel said to Saul. ‘Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night.’ ‘Tell me,’ Saul replied. ¹⁷Samuel said, ‘Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. ¹⁸And He sent you on a mission, saying, Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out. ¹⁹Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?’ ²⁰‘But I did obey the Lord,’ Saul said. ‘I went on the mission the Lord assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the Lord your God at Gilgal.’ ²²But Samuel replied: ‘Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.’”

The consequences of disobeying God:

I lose His favor.

1 Sam. 15:23“Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

I lose relationships and respect.

1 Sam. 15:24“Then Saul said to Samuel, ‘I have sinned. I violated the Lord’s command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. ²⁵Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord.’ ²⁶But Samuel said to him, ‘I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you as king over Israel!’”

I lose leadership and influence.

1 Sam. 15:27“As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸Samuel said to him, ‘The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors - to one better than you. ²⁹He who is the Glory of Israel (God) does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.’”

I make God sad.

1 Sam. 15:30 “Saul replied, ‘I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God.’³¹ So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.
³⁵ ...And the Lord was grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel.”

The life lesson from Saul: When I sin, fully confess and repent.

1 Jn. 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Gal. 6:1 “Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently...² Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

I can be forgiven and restored!