

9/21/2025



### What does it mean to Obey?

- To comply with, or follow the commands, restrictions, or instructions of...
- Submit, put or place yourself under the authority of another.
  - It is a choice!
  - To choose to submit.
    - **Ephesians 5:21** says: "Submitting to one another in the fear of Christ."
    - This is the attitude of obedience!

### Question:

- Is it possible to be disobedient (*not submissive*) and not know it?
  - And be covering it up?
    - And being delusional: "*but I did obey the voice of the Lord,...*" (v.20)

### Here in 1 Samuel 15

- God expects complete obedience!
- What's Saul supposed to do? OBEY!
- And he goes about to do that.
  - The story begins...

### Saul's struggle:

- He obeys in that he attacks and wins.
- He and his men did not totally disregard the Lord's command –
  - Whatever they did not want for themselves.
  - Whatever they didn't want to do.
    - They obediently gave over to God's judgment. It was self-serving, selective obedience!

### Our struggle:

- Unfortunately, it's the way many times people come to God/Word of God: pick and choose, take and take, ignore this, put off that.
- And then when caught... or confronted...
  - It's a "yeah I have obeyed..." (v.20)
  - There's no repentance or remorse or humility before God.

### Notice what Saul does here...

**He needed to obey, obey completely but, is he so completely oblivious to his disobedience?**

### He shows what unrecognized disobedience does:

## WHAT DISOBEDIENCE DOES...

### I. Blame shifts (vs.15, 17-19)

- A. Samuel's blunt questions (v.14)
- B. Saul blames the people (v.15) – army
- C. Samuel puts the responsibility back on Saul (vs.17-19)

### II. Justifies his actions (vs.20-21)

- A. But I have obeyed – just delayed for sacrifice, worship.
- B. Saul's attempt to redefine what it means to obey

*When these don't work...*

### III. Minimizes its seriousness (vs.24-25)

- A. Saul changes his strategy – to a self-serving confession.
- B. The pain of disobedience (vs.26-29)  
*again, he confesses (v.30)*

***Though Saul seems more concerned about his people than Samuel's God!***

### IV. Faces the Consequences (vs.26-29)

- A. Saul's reign will end
- B. He will technically continue as Israel's king for many years, but his legitimacy & leadership has eroded
- C. Mourning for Saul

### What can we learn from this tragic story?

OBEY! Obey at all cost!

2 points: [from Dr. E.R. Jordan:]

The temporary loss and the permanent gain of Obedience.

The temporary gain and the permanent loss of Disobedience.

*Many, many examples of these in the Bible...*

### CONCLUSION:

- You disobey God, you'll pay in your heart, mind, in your future!  
*If only he had obeyed!*
- Do you understand God *expects* obedience?
- To obey is better than sacrifice, worship.

*Let's be obedient, and not make excuses for disobedience!*