



Saul's Failure as King: **To Obey is Better than Sacrifice**

(1 Sam 13 - 15)

Study Notes Handout: Week Seven

But now your kingdom will not endure: the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and appointed him leader of His people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.

1 Samuel 13:14

Introduction:

Last week we studied Israel's sin of asking for a king (Ch. 12) and we learned that doing things out of fear instead of faith cannot receive the blessing of God. This week the focus is on Israel's first king (Saul) and the lesson is that God esteems obedience to Him over the pursuit of any other religious activity or personal agenda.

Sermon Outline:

1. Obedience Lessons: Pursuing your own Heart's Desires? (1 Samuel 13:6 - 14)
- Or being a man after God's own heart (13:14; Mt. 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:22).

2. Memory Lessons: The Dangers of Forgetting what God Remembers (1 Samuel 15:1 - 3)
- And remembering what God forgets (Jer. 31:34; Heb 10:17; Phil 3:13)

- 'Amalek' (Gen. 36:12; Exodus 17:14; Deut. 25:17 - 19; 1 Sam. 28:18 - 19; 2 Sam. 1:6 - 10)

3. Hard Lessons: The Slippery Slope of Sin's Deceit (1 Samuel 15:7 - 33)
- Living a life that grieves God? (1 Sam. 15:11, 35; Eph. 4:30)

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

- i. How was David different than Saul? (1 Sam. 13:14; 16:7) What do you do when your desires conflict with what you know to be God's desires for you?
- ii. The Amalekites are a picture of the power of the sinful flesh against the believer. What lessons on overcoming sin do we learn from Israel's fight with the Amalekites?
- iii. Have you ever caught yourself substituting 'sacrifice' for obedience? (15:22 - 23)



Personal Study Notes

Key Verses:

²² But 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.

²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

1 Samuel 15:22-23

The Lord Gives Israel a King "Such As All Other Nations Have" (cont.)

Saul Demonstrates His Unfitness to Be Israel's King (13:1-14:46)

The Lord Gives Israel a King "After His Own Heart" (1 Sam 15 – 2 Sam 1)

The Lord Rejects Saul (15:1-35)

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)

