



First Baptist Church  
Canton  
Gather, Grow, Go.


**'HONING IN ON THE HEART!'**



A KINGDOM.



YOUR HEART.



A KING.

A VERSE-BY-VERSE SERIES ON THE BOOK OF  
1ST SAMUEL  
DURING WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERVICES IN 2024

*Honing in on the Heart!' Sermon Series*

**Sermon #28:**

***'The Results of Disobedience!' Part 1***

Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

**Last week in 'Honing in on the Heart:**

- Last week we studied a tragedy in scripture, found in 1st Samuel 15:1-9.
  - *While many may view the tragedy as the lives that were lost among the Amalekite nation, the true tragedy was the disobedience of Saul.*
  - Last week we looked at ***'Abusing God Given Authority!'*** from 1st Samuel 15:10-35.
  - I asked the question: *How does King Saul continue to abuse the authority that God has given him as King of Israel?*
    - **Point 1: Orders are Straightforward. (V. 1-3)**

- **Point 2: Operations start Smoothly. (V. 4-6)**

- **Point 3: Obliteration Stalls. (V. 7-9)**

- Last Wednesday we looked at how Saul abused the authority that God had given Him.
  - ***This evening, we get to look at the direct results that come when we make the choice to disobey God.***

***'The Results of Disobedience!' Part 1***

***1st Samuel 15:10-23***

**Sermon in a Sentence:**

*We can see the results of Disobedience in this passage when we see that Samuel is made Aware, Samuel is righteously Angry, Saul has poor Actions, Samuel responds Accurately, and Samuel kills Agag.*

**Intro:**

- Briefly discuss the fact that this message is going to be a two part message and how that came about.
  - ***If we're being honest, many of us enjoy our own disobedience against God in the moment. It is the results of our actions that we often lament.***
- ***In other words, most of the time we are sorry for the results of our actions and not necessarily the action itself.***
  - Every person who is a Christ follower here tonight should aspire to get to the point in their

life where we can say what the Apostle Paul did in [Romans 7:19](#):

- ‘For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.’
- *While we should aspire to get to that place in our lives, if most of us are being honest tonight, we aren’t there.*
  - Meaning, we think we don’t like sin, and we try in our own power to turn against it, but without the power of the Holy Spirit, we will not be able to overcome the disobedience in our lives.
- *As we continue in this section of our study in 1st Samuel, we will see tonight that Saul did not like the results that came from his actions.*
  - We will see that his initial reaction to Samuel is that he even denies doing any wrong.
  - *It’s not until Samuel reveals the consequences of what he’s done that he starts to backtrack. Admit that he was wrong, and give an apology.*
- *\*Illustration\**
  - Growing up, I was always told stories of mischief that my dad would get into.
  - *One story in particular, he was in the 7th grade (I believe).*

- He and his friends were in the woods in Greer, South Carolina.
- They had gone down to the local convenience store and purchased firecrackers and small fireworks.
- *According to those that tell the story, this was all my dad’s idea.*
  - I am told that the firecracker my dad threw at someone, landed on a kudzu tree, and the tree went up in flames almost instantly.
- *With it being in Greer, the entire forest was mostly Kudzu, and within minutes 7 acres in Greer SC were on fire.*
  - *The boys, including my dad, ran through the creek back to their homes to act like nothing had happened.*
- *Of course, the truth came out, and it was revealed my Dad was the main instigator of the awful tragedy.*
  - My grandfather Bob, Dad’s dad, was away on a business trip.
  - So, my grandmother Francis, had to do the initial disciplining.
- He got in huge trouble and was grounded for a very long time, along with the lifelong shame of knowing he had started such a fire.
  - *I give that illustration this evening to show that my Dad didn’t think it was*

*wrong on that afternoon to throw a firecracker at someone, until the tree turned into flames.*

- *You and I often hold firecrackers (sin) in our hands, without realizing the weight of it until the damage is already done.*
  - *My prayer tonight, is that we will see what the results of our sin can cause, to encourage us to put the firecrackers down, before it's too late.*

*\*Read 1st Samuel 15:10-23\**

### **Question to Ask:**

*What are the Results of Saul's personal decision to actively engage in disobedience against God?*

### **Truth 1: Samuel is Made Aware. (V. 10-15)**

- The actions of Saul were going to spread, and spread quickly.
  - *I believe that before Samuel found out of Saul's actions by word of mouth, the Lord came to him and told him that He (God Himself) was grieving.*
    - So Saul was going to go down and find out for himself what actions Saul had done that grieved the Lord.
  - *In these first 5 verses, we find dialogue and situation that will continue and escalate the rest of this evening and into next Wednesday night when we continue our study.*

- There are \_\_\_ things to point out concerning the truth that Samuel is made aware of Saul's sin...
- **Genuine Sorrow. (V. 11)**
  - "I regret[c] 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.'
  - Verse 11, and verse 35 of the ESV translation both say 'God regretted'.
    - *The older RSV had 'I repent that I have made Saul king.'*
    - *The NIV has 'I am grieved that I have made Saul king.'*
    - *The CSB & ESV have 'I regret that I have made Saul King'*
    - *The KJV has 'I repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be King.'*
  - No matter the translation you have, to understand this genuine sorrow, we must go back to the Hebrew text.
    - *It comes from a Hebrew word (נָחַם nāḥam) that occurs 108 times in the OT, and literally means to grieve.*
      - *I believe that God is deeply saddened and grieving over Saul's sin. And Saul's decision to do his own thing, instead of obeying God.*

- ***This is the exact same Hebrew verb that is used in Genesis 6:6.***
  - ‘And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.’
- ***I believe that this is meaning that God feels real and genuine sorrow when thinking and seeing Saul’s sin.***
  - It does not mean regret in the way you and I view it through our 2024 vision.
  - I believe in this context and in Genesis 6:6, is not that God thinks his decision to make Saul King (or to make mankind) is going to derail his plan in the overall course of his plans for history.
    - ***But it’s that the decision of mankind does grieve the Heart of God.***
- ***If Saul’s actions grieved the heart of God, we must know that the same is true with us when we choose sin over God.***
- ***Gross Selfishness. (V. 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.”
  - ***In the eyes of the Lord, and others, selfishness is just gross. There’s no way around it.***
- Samuel goes to find Saul to confront him on why the Lord would be grieving, and is told by someone (we don’t know who), that Saul was putting up a monument to and for himself.
- ***The text tells us Saul came to Carmel, this is not the famous Mount Carmel that will become prominent with Elijah.***
  - This Carmel was 7 miles South from Hebron. In the southern section of Judah (see Joshua 15:55).
- ***It seems as if Saul created a monument for and to himself to commemorate his victory over the amalekites.***
  - The battle had JUST been won, and already, Saul is wanting to make a monument of Himself, to show Israel who and what he was...
- ***This is a big contrast to what Moses did when he oversaw the victory over the amalekites...***
  - After Moses defeated them, he built a monument, but it was an altar to the Lord, and it was to ‘The Lord is my Banner’
    - ‘And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner,’ Exodus 17:15
- ***Let me go ahead and say something controversial here regarding this, I do not***

***believe any Church should name any building, SS Class, or anything on their property after one individual.***

- This Church has done an AMAZING job of not doing that through all these years. But we need to keep that up.
- ***We will not name anything after an individual. All we do here is for the Glory of God anyway. That is such a baptist tradition that needs to go away (maybe we got it from Saul).***
  - ***Saul was inappropriate to try and take credit for something God could only do.***
- ***Greetings Start. (V. 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.”
  - Saul may be thinking that Samuel is coming to greet and congratulate him.
    - ***Saul may be thinking Samuel is coming to scold him, but at this point, I don’t think Saul thinks he’s done anything worth scolding, so I tend to believe he thinks Samuel is coming for a handshake, hug, and a ‘good job my son’. But, that’s not what happened... Nor should it have...***
- ***General Sarcasm. (V. 14)***

- ‘And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?”
- ***I can’t help but see Samuel shaking his head at Saul. Like, really?***

- ***You’re building this statue and saying you’ve obeyed God when I can literally hear the sound of disobedience in my ears?***

- ***I wonder if that’s part of what grieves God? When we building buildings, ministries, and Churches all around us. All around our name. All around our own self fulfillment, instead of for His own Glory?***

- This sarcasm of Samuel would turn into a much needed scolding for Saul.

- ***Great Sparing. (V. 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.”
- For the first time, of what will be many, Saul shifts the blame.
  - ***Saul tells Samuel that it is the PEOPLE who have spared the best of the sheep and that’s why he hears the animals.***
- Saul doesn’t take leadership responsibility and admit that he allowed them to do such a thing.

**Truth 2: *Samuel is Righteously Angry.* (V. 16-23)**

- Now that Samuel is made aware of Saul's actions and has heard Saul give his own explanation, Samuel gives his response to Saul's words, and what I see here, is that he is righteously angry and upset with Saul.

- ***Samuel and Saul are going to have a comparatively lengthy conversation here that throughout the passage will turn heated.***

- But I do want you to see the tale of two people here.
- *Saul is going to lash out and react in rage.*
- *While Samuel is angry and will cut someone's head off that we will see next week, he is still righteously angry.*

- There's a big difference. In Matthew 21:12-13, we see that Jesus Himself showed righteous anger, when He flipped the tables that were being used in the temple to sell goods.
- ***If you and I are being honest tonight, there are more times in our lives where we show the anger of Saul, than we do that of Samuel.***

- There's a comparison here that we cannot ignore.
- Samuel's righteously angry, because of the first 5 verses we studied tonight, there is little to no repentance in Saul whatsoever. We will even see that again next week.

- *I believe there are 4 things we need to see concerning Saul and Samuel's conversation here...*

- ***Enough! (V. 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."'

- ***\*Word Study\****

- The English word 'Stop' is translated from the Hebrew word **'Raphah'** רָפָה which occurs 46 times in the OT, including in Psalms 46:10, where it is translated 'be still'.

- ***This Hebrew verb means to literally cease, stop moving, be still, to stop.***

- *Based on the emphatic way 'STOP' comes across in the Hebrew, I truly believe that Samuel shouted this. It wasn't whispered.*

- Samuel has really and truly had enough. He is righteously angry.

- *John Woodhouse said 'Samuel saw Saul's 'defense' for what it was and shut him up.'*

- *Many times this is what the Lord is saying to you and I! But we choose not and refuse not to listen to Him.*

- See, Saul had been giving his lousy defense, and it seems as if Samuel cuts him off and tells him to be quiet!
  - Like, Saul! Seriously! Why do you continually do this? Why do you continually defend actions of yours that are just plain sinful and totally against God? Just STOP!
- **To put the ball in our court, The Lord wants you to STOP making excuses for sin that you've been stuffing in the back of your spiritual closet for years and years.**
  - There comes a time where God has enough, just as Samuel had enough of Saul's worthless words.
  - Is God tired of your silly excuses to Him tonight?
    - *Just as Moses gave an excuse to the Lord as to why he couldn't lead (his speech), our excuses may be these simple.*
    - *Often times though, like Saul, they are much darker and more deviant than we could ever imagine...*
- Samuel tells SAUL to STOP and God is telling us to STOP tonight. STOP making silly excuses.
  - *Now, Samuel makes his first Evaluation.*

- **Evaluation. (V. 17-19)**
  - '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?"
  - Saul lets him speak, and so Samuel speaks.
  - **Samuel is evaluating Saul's life and trying to get him to understand the bigger purpose that he plays in life.**
    - In other words, it's not just him, and that his actions do in fact affect others...
  - Samuel evaluates Saul in three ways from the text...
- **Position. (V. 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.'
  - **The first thing Samuel does in his evaluation, is remind Saul of who he is, the position that he holds.**



- From the beginning, Saul acted as if this position was too big for him (because he didn't lean into God's strength and calling).
  - Remember in 1st Samuel 10:22 when he hid among the baggage when they tried to find him?
  - *I don't think Saul ever lived up to the responsibilities of being the King, because he never truly accepted it.*
    - Samuel also reminds him of his position in Israel, because Saul's go to method is a lot like ours. Blaming others. When he (Saul) was responsible for his troops.
- **Purpose. (V. 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.'
  - The word 'sinners' here is important.
    - *God wanted Saul to completely destroy them because they were sinners, as an arm of His judgment.*
  - *Saul had a distinctly Divine task that he chose to make it his own task, when he deviated from God's instructions.*
- Which led to uncontrolled Pouncing...
- **Pouncing. (V. 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?'
  - This word **WHY** is huge and has great significance in our lives...
    - Disobedience is foolishness and that's the feeling I get when I read this **WHY** in the text.
  - **WHY** do we sin?
  - **WHY** do we fail to obey Him daily?
  - **WHY** do we know the right thing to do, yet still CHOOSE not to do it?
  - **WHY** do we choose to GOSSIP about the sins of others when we have our own to deal with?
  - **WHY** do we choose to say awful things behind someone's back, instead of to their face?
  - **WHY** do we choose to **POUNCE** on **SIN** at any and every opportunity?
    - Because we are fallen and in need of a Savior, the Lord Jesus, who desires to CHANGE us.
- **WHY** do we pounce?



- Because we care much more about what we WANT and desire than we do consulting and ASKING God *'is this your will for me?'*
  - Saul may now be regretting that he allowed Samuel to speak to him.
    - He shows great effort in still trying to defend himself and his actions...
- **Effort. (V. 20-21)**
  - '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.'"
    - *Saul continues to give a strong effort in proving his own innocence, and blaming others.*
      - Saul spends more time pleading his case, than he does in pleading for his need of forgiveness.
        - *It reminds me of the story I once heard a fellow Pastor tell.*
        - *'Church going people in their prayer times prefer to have a gossip session with God because*

*that's all they do with anyone else they converse with.'*

- Can you believe he/she did this, said this, bought that... etc.
- **When in reality God wants you and I to look at our own heart. Like the Psalmist David Wrote...**
  - *'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right[a] spirit within me.'* Psalms 51:10
  - How many of us tonight can actually say we pray that prayer regularly...
- Up until this point, Samuel had been interrogated Saul about the animals that had not been slain because he heard the noise of the sheep.
  - *So, Saul is saying he obeyed the Lord because he killed the Amalekites and the people were the ones who disobeyed God because they took the animals...*
- **In verse 20, Saul tells on himself and gives Samuel information he had not previously had...**
  - 'I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.'

- *This tiny detail is important. Saul knows he can't hide that information for long...*
  - Some scholars suggest that Saul brings this up about Agag, as prove he completed his mission. But see, that probably wasn't the root of why Saul kept Agag alive and also shows his heart...
- *Saul blames the people, in verse 21, but then states that they did it for spiritual reasons...*
  - Sacrificing unto the Lord for their victory.
  - *And with Samuel's edict, he's about to explain how much Saul messed up by letting all of this escalate the way it did...*
    - In Samuel's mind, it just kept getting worse...
- *Edict. (V. 22-23)*
  - '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."

- *The edict or verdict here, is what Samuel is getting to and that's at the very end of verse 23.*
  - 'He has also rejected you from being king.'
- *We will study in depth next Wednesday about what it means that Saul was rejected from being King. Saul is going to lash out and we get to see that up close and personal next week.*
- *But I want to study the portion of Samuel's Edict where he gives Saul a little lesson, before the ultimate verdict...*
  - John Woodhouse says this '*Samuel's Speech goes to the heart of Biblical faith, which is a response to the God who has spoken.*'
- God has given us His Word with commands in it to obey and follow. What Samuel says Saul did here and you and I often do as well, is this...
  - *We think that our disobedience to the Word of God can somehow and someway be compensated for by different amounts of religious activity (saul's idea of sacrificing the animals to make up for his sin), is disgusting to God and foolish.*
- *Let me give you some modern examples of how we may do this... By the way, I see these quite often...*

- Well I sinned pretty bad this week, although I don't ever go to Church let me 'make it up to Him' by going this week.
- Well I sinned pretty bad this week, I don't ever attend SS, but let me make it up to Him by going to SS this week.
- Well, I sinned really bad, let me read by Bible to make up for it.
- Well I sinned again this week and the consequences may be steep, let me actually tithe this week although I never do it normally.
- I've sinned pretty bad this week, let me pray and spend time with God to make up for it.
- ***You and I are often just as guilty with Saul when it comes to trying to compensate for disobedience in our lives.***
  - There is only ONE thing that can truly compensate and clean the disobedience in your life.
    - The Blood of Jesus that was spilled on Calvary. That's it.

**Conclusion:**

- This evening, I believe we've been able to see and study that the results of our disobedience are sometimes gruesome and hard to hear.

- *But, as I began this message tonight, how much better we will all be, if we can prevent the results of damage by consciously seeking not to consistently disobey God.*
- ***Tonight as we get ready to enter into a time of invitation and reflect, I want you to think back on the firecracker we all hold, called sin.***
  - *Sin can do so much damage. So much more than we realize when we have that tiny firecracker in our hand.*
    - I've asked my dad before, if you would've known that 7 acres were going to go up in flames in 20 minutes and that you'd be in trouble for a long, long time, would you have thrown the firecracker?
    - *Of course he says no...*
      - *My question to you tonight is this, why even throw it? Why even mess with it? Why not express true repentance and allow Christ to cleanse and change you tonight?*
  - Throughout the last two weeks, we've seen...
    - ***Truth 1: Samuel is Made Aware. (V. 10-15)***
    - ***Truth 2: Samuel is Righteously Angry. (V. 16-23)***