



Honing in on the Heart!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #29:

‘The Results of Disobedience!’ Part 2

Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

Last week in ‘Honing in on the Heart:

- Last week we scratched the mere service, of the Results of Disobedience that Saul encountered.
 - *You may remember that I decided to split up my message into two parts, simply because of the magnitude the Lord laid on my heart that this text should have on us. Sinners, just like Saul in a lot of ways.*
- Last Wednesday night we only covered two points from ***1st Samuel 15:10-23...***
 - I asked the question: *What are the Results of Saul’s personal decision to actively engage in disobedience against God?*

- Tonight we are going to look at the last 3 truths to answer that question. But the first two were...
 - **Truth 1: *Samuel is Made Aware. (V. 10-15)***
 - **Truth 2: *Samuel is Righteously Angry. (V. 16-23)***
- So tonight, I am going to do something that I don’t usually do.
 - *Since this is a two part message and greatly follows the same theme and general outline of last Wednesday, I feel led to use the generally same introduction and conclusion I did last Wednesday.*
 - To help instill it in our minds, to not throw the firecracker (sin) that many of us hold in our hands...

‘The Results of Disobedience!’ Part 2

1st Samuel 15:24-35

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:

- ***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 3: *Saul's Poor Actions.* (V. 24-27)

- 'Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. **25** Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD." **26** And Samuel said to Saul, "I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel." **27**

As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore.'

- *Based on the text so far this evening, I feel like Saul is a child who is being scolded by his mother or father, for a wrongdoing.*
 - He doesn't want to listen to Samuel speak on behalf of the Lord about all of his own bad personal actions.
- He wants them to go away and he feels that he can talk his way out.
 - *If he can just say the right things, maybe he can get Samuel to be quiet.*
 - When these doesn't happen, Saul, yet again, will show his true colors and the real temperature of his heart.
 - *If you want to find out what someone is really like inside, see how they respond when they don't get what they want. Especially Church people...*

○ I believe there are **3** things to look at regarding Saul's Poor Actions...

● *The Request.* (V. 24-25)

- 'Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. **25** Now therefore, please

pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD.”

- This is the first time that Saul seems to repent, and it will not be the last time...
- Saul’s word choice is also important to look at...
 - ***‘I have sinned’***
 - Shows that he is admitting personal failure.
 - ***‘I have transgressed’***
 - Shows that he has crossed the boundaries because he broke the Lord’s command.
- ***Saul is using the right words! But just like you and I, we sometimes use our words to manipulate God and others without meaning anything by them.***
 - True repentance is shown and revealed by our actions...
 - Starts with words yes, but must be followed by actions.
- ***Verse 25 shows that Saul wants a pardon, he is pleading hard, but we must ask the question based on his rage a few verses later, did he actually understand the dimensions of his disobedience? Do we?***
 - Saul at this point, is the **EXACT** ***opposite*** of what the Psalmist wrote in Psalms 51:4...

- ‘Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.’
Psalms 51:4

- When we request and ask God to forgive us, are we truly ready to be changed by Him? Or do we just want the scolding to be over?
- ***The Response. (V. 26)***
 - **26** And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”
 - Samuel responds in the way Saul did not want him to, but also formally states what Saul has done.
 - ***Which Saul does not fully understand or comprehend.***
 - I think the first reason that Samuel refused to go with Saul, is because he most likely felt as if Saul had not truly repented, so in Samuel’s mind, why go with him if he is not actually and truly sorry?
- ***The Rage. (V. 27)***
 - ‘As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore.’
 - Samuel had spoken, he was going to exit and leave, and Saul’s rage (that we’ve seen in the

text before and will certainly see again), comes out...

- *Like a coward, Saul waits until Samuel has his back turned to him, and grabs the corner of his robe... (the hebrew word for skirt is 'Kanap' קָנָפַי and literally means corner).*
- *According to Numbers 15:38-39, the Torah law required that tassels be present on the bottom of the robe to be reminded of all the Lord's commands.*
 - *So, when Saul tears this part of the robe, he symbolizes that he has broken the Lord's commands.*
 - This is an example of biblical imagery and symbolism.
- *When thinking and looking at Samuel's rage, I must ask you tonight...*
 - How do you respond to someone when they say something you don't like? Even if and when it is the truth?
 - While you may not be pulling the bottom portion of people's clothes, you may be showing rage in other ways.
- Next we see that Samuel responds accurately with what the Lord had already said and decided regarding Saul.

Truth 4: *Samuel Responds Accurately. (V. 28-31)*

- 'And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 29 And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret." 30 Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God." 31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the LORD.'
- *Just as Saul tore Samuel's clothing out of anger, Samuel responded with some news that God had already done (torn and given are in the past tense), but had just not yet come to realization.*
 - When Samuel responds here, it is accurate with what had already occurred, Saul had probably just not yet realized the magnitude of it, due to his response in verse 30.
 - We need to look at **3** things regarding Samuel's Accurate Response to Saul's pleading...
- **Rejection is Final. (V. 28-29)**
 - 'And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.'"

- This ‘better’ neighbor will be revealed in 1st Samuel 16. We will get a front row seat of his anointing next week.
 - *We know that this will be King David. A man after God’s own heart, but still a man who was not without sin.*
 - *When we pickup with the stories of Saul again, we will find that he is jealous of David, and wants to kill him as well.*
 - The aggression Saul had shown in verse 27, will just get even louder...
 - *Earlier in Samuel we have learned that the Kingdom would no longer belong to Saul or his royal line.*
 - But now it’s fatal, it’s final, and it’s fully understood by Saul.
 - *In Jonah, for example, God’s Judgment was conditional on Ninevha’s repentance...*
 - *But after COUNTLESS warnings and please from the Lord through the Priests, Saul would not stop. He couldn’t let God increase, and himself decrease...*
 - *Saul makes one last effort at trying to regain what he had already lost...*
 - *Repentance out of Consequence, not Conviction. (V. 30)*
- ‘Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the LORD your God.”
 - This is the second time that Saul has said that he was wrong...
 - *Robert D. Bergen said ‘Saul, desperate to retain his position of authority over the people, repeated and expanded his petition to Samuel. In an apparent effort to appease the prophet and regain his support, Saul confessed for the second time that he ‘sinned’ and yet still wanted to worship the Lord.’*
 - *I believe this is ‘fake’ repentance out of consequence and not conviction (which you and I are guilty of more than we realize). Why?*
 - *#1: Future Actions.*
 - Just a moment earlier, he was mad at what Samuel had said and tore the bottom of his robe.
 - *True repentance will result in true life change.*
 - Looking ahead at the second section of 1st Samuel, Saul will seek to Kill David, he will visit a witch for guidance, and this will

all culminate to his personal suicide.

○ **#2: Outward Appearance.**

- Yet again, Saul is worried about how he looks in front of people. He thinks if he can get Samuel to come back with him, that he would look good in front of the elders.

- *People that truly haven't repented only care about the results of their actions when it affects them.*

○ **#3: Saul doesn't respect God.**

- It's a small, but important detail, Saul says in verse 30, 'YOUR' God. Not our God, but YOUR God.

- *This isn't repentance. Saul isn't concerned about how God is grieving over HIS sin, he wants to go through the motions and get this over with.*

● **Really trying to Keep the Peace. (V. 31)**

- 'So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the LORD.'
- *Because Saul was able to finally convince Samuel to come back with him, in Saul's mind, he was able to keep an undamaged appearance.*

- Eventually, the entire nation would know that the line of Saul was torn from him due to his actions.

○ **But we must ask and answer the question, why did Samuel finally agree to go to the temple and let Saul worship in front of others?**

- I believe that Samuel changes his mind as a man (we all are susceptible to changing our minds), to keep temporary order and peace until a new King is appointed.
- *Samuel is no doubt tired. Tired of the people's attitude, Saul's antics, and Saul's anger.*
 - To keep the peace, and to keep everyone temporarily happy, he does this. But he may have also wanted to see God's command fulfilled, with the killing of all the amalekites, including Agag...

Truth 5: Samuel Kills Agag. (V. 32-35)

- 'Then Samuel said, "Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites." And Agag came to him cheerfully.[d] Agag said, "Surely the bitterness of death is past." **33** And Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. **34** Then Samuel went to Ramah, and

Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.’

- **While MUCH has occurred in our text tonight, there is still one major piece of business that needs to be taken care of.**
 - **The task that Saul was directed by God to do, is going to be finished by Samuel.**
 - John Woodhouse describes Samuel’s actions as **‘Taking over the royal prerogative’.**
- In leading Israel, Samuel really has gone through a lot of pain.
 - **The people came to him and demanded a King, because they no longer wanted God as their King. They wanted to be like the other nations.**
 - And here, Saul was partially obedient, so Samuel has to finish what Saul was supposed to do all along. Obey God Fully and kill king Agag.
 - As we wind down tonight’s message, there are **3** things to point out concerning the killing of King Agag...
- **Agag Hopes he has Escaped Death. (V. 32)**
 - ‘Then Samuel said, “Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.” And Agag came to him cheerfully.[d] Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.”

○ **Verse 32 in the Hebrew text can be muddy and somewhat unclear, so let’s dive into to dig out the meaning.**

■ ***Word Study***

- The word ‘Cheerful’ comes from the Hebrew word **‘Ma’adannah’**

מַעֲדָנָה Which can mean, **trembling, in fear, cheerfully or influenced.**

- I personally believe ‘influenced’ and or ‘cheerful’ is the best way to translate this word based on the context of what is going on with Agag here.
 - **From Agag’s perspective, Saul had been stepped to the side, and this old priest walks in and grabs a sword.**
 - **To Agag, he probably thought this was good news!**
 - **The big, strong, handsome man who had killed all his people is off to the side.**
 - Now this old feeble man walks in who was a priest.
 - **I believe Agag was ‘influenced’ to believe that he could be cheerful that he had averted death.**

- Agag says to Samuel *‘Surely the bitterness of death is past’*
 - This phrase is looked at as a resignation of his fate, or, supporting my belief on the Hebrew word *‘Ma’adannah’*, a last second plea to not be killed.
 - *Based on Samuel’s verbal response, I tend to agree with the latter...*
- *Agag is Murdered by an Old Man. (V. 33)*
 - ‘And Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.’
 - As I’ve stated before in our study of 1st Samuel, the Amalekites were a ruthless bunch.
 - *They killed men, women, and children ruthlessly, and now Samuel is essentially saying to him ‘Why would I spare you when my God desired for you to get a taste of your own medicine?’*
 - *God’s judgment on the Amalekites, and their leader, Agag.*
 - By the way, what Samuel says in the Hebrew text actually rhymes in Hebrew.
 - *Just before Agag dies, Samuel is reminding him the OT Biblical Truth that bloodshed begets bloodshed.*

- “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.’ Genesis 9:6

- **Word Study**

- What’s interesting here is that the word ‘hacked’ is not found in the Hebrew text.
- *The word ‘pieces’ in english comes from the Hebrew word ‘Shawsaf’*

שֹׁשֶׁף which literally means to cut into tiny pieces.

- This word only occurs one time in the Hebrew OT, but it’s Hebrew Root Word (Shaw-aw) is often used in regards to sacrificing animals to the Lord.
- *The reason Samuel doesn’t sacrifice animals here, Agag is the sacrifice.*
 - Agag is killed by an old man.
- *All Parties go home. (V. 34-35)*
 - ‘Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. **35** And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.’

- *Saul and Samuel both go to their own hometowns.*
 - Briefly, we get a break from Saul as next Wednesday night we get to look at the anointing of King David.
- *While Saul would initiate contact with Samuel again (1st Samuel 19:23-24), Samuel would no longer initiate or desire any contact with Saul again.*
 - I think what we see in Samuel here, might be what God thinks when He deals with us.
 - *God has given us a way to be saved, He sent His Son, and He's given us His Word for us to follow and live for Him.*
- Yet what do we do?
 - *We continue to disobey Him.*
- 'And the Lord regretted that He had made Saul King over Israel'
 - *I believe the word regretted is a poor translation, as it was back in verse 11.*
- *The word regretted that is in regard to God's own personal regret, occurs twice in this passage (verse 11 and verse 35).*
 - *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.*
 - Just as Saul grieved the heart of God, you and I do the same thing...

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)*
- **Truth 3:** *Saul's Poor Actions. (V. 24-27)*
- **Truth 4:** *Samuel Responds Accurately. (V. 28-31)*
- **Truth 5:** *Samuel Kills Agag. (V. 32-35)*