Obedience is Better than Sacrifice

Brent Moody · 1 Samuel 15

INTRODUCTION

- Sometimes we do things just to avoid criticism or just to improve public image.
- A king who let his image in his desire for self-glory override obedience.
- Obstacles to obedience that are very obvious in the story of Saul.

1 Casualness Toward God and His Word

1 Samuel 15:1–3; 1 Samuel 15:8–9

- An obstacle or a hindrance to obedience is just outright casualness toward God. Toward God and toward his word.
- Taking the things that God has said and kind of taking them lightly.
- God is very precise on what he wants and what he's asked for.
- It's very easy, as we all know, to allow our own personal desires to usurp God's desire and will in my life.
- They decide they're only going to do that with the worthless things. The things they don't care about.
- Saul's clearly mostly focused on his own honor in this story, he hasn't taken God's honor seriously at all.

2 Presumption Is Rebellion

1 Samuel 15:22–23

- For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.
- Saul and the people, they somehow know what God wants better than God knows what he wants.
- We better not make religion a means of self-glorification.
- God's ways are higher than my ways, and just because I don't understand, or it doesn't make sense, is not an excuse to say I've got a better way.
- Presumption under the pretense of worship is rebellion. Partial obedience is disobedience.
- God desires obedience, not showy ritualism.

3 The Obstacle of Fear

1 Samuel 15:17; 1 Samuel 15:24; 1 Samuel 15:30

- And then there is this obstacle of fear. Maybe this is the biggest one, the hardest one.
- Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel?
- You're the leader. Why are you obeying the voice of the people?

- In his apology, in his admission of sin, what he's actually interested about, again, is damage control.
- It is hard sometimes to stand up against popular opinion, but that's what God has called us to do.
- Are we actually willing to stand up and say something when something's not right?

THE CHALLENGE

You can give your life to Jesus Christ, submit to his will, stop fearing people and what others think, and to realize it's what Jesus thinks that truly matters.

MY NOTES