

1 Samuel Lesson 13 – Lessons and Principles

1. God had pronounced judgement on Amalek some four-hundred years prior. Among men time should erase sin and make us more forgiving, but time does not erase sin before God. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can erase sin before God. (vv. 1-3)
2. Saul's handling of the battle against Amalek was obedient, but it was selective obedience, that's not what God wants. He wants complete and total obedience. See Gen 12:1-4; John 14:15, 21(vv. 7-9)
3. Saul's sparing of the best of Amalek is equivalent to sparing some root evil. For us it could be hanging on to that one sin that we reconcile to ourselves as not being that bad. (vv. 7-9)
4. Even though God knew Saul was going to betray Him, it still hurt God that he did. We are close to God's heart when the things that grieve Him grieve us, and the things that please Him please us. Again, see John 14:15, 21(vv. 10-11)
5. Saul wasn't grieved over his sin, as a matter of fact he was quite pleased with himself. There is no shame or remorse in Saul. In contrast David also sinned against the Lord, but he felt that guilt and shame one should feel when they sin. Saul didn't feel a thing but pride. When we sin against the Lord if we don't feel shame and our heart doesn't hurt, we need to examine our conscience, for we are not right with God. (vv.12-13)
6. Saul comes to Samuel with such boldness, boasting of his obedience because of his pride. He probably really believed what he was saying because he was self-deceived. That is what pride does, it always leads to self-deception. (vv. 12-13)
7. There is a time to go aside and pray, and there is a time to get your sword out and fight. Saul didn't know what time this was. We must realize that as Christians there are times when we must stand up and fight, not just pray and wait on God. He expects us to take action at times and He will give us what we need to win the battle. (vv. 16-19)
8. Though disobedience was the most apparent sin, the root sin of Saul's disobedience was far worse – *pride*. Samuel gives us a strong indication of what his sin is when he says, "When you were little in your own eyes..." (vv. 17-21)
9. "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice," Religious observance without obedience is empty before God. All the sacrifices a person could make mean nothing without a surrendered repentant heart to God (vv. 22-23)