

CARE This Week...

July 21, 2024

Saul's Downfall

Scripture Discussed: 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Sunday's lesson was about Saul's Downfall. In 1 Samuel 15 we read the account of how God gave Saul instructions, through the prophet Samuel, to destroy the Amalekites. Saul disobeyed God and left the king of the Amalekites, Agag, alive and also left flocks and herds of animals alive and kept them as plunder. Saul was so pleased with himself he was going to erect a monument in his own honor. In other words, he had allowed pridefulness to take hold of his heart. Saul and his men were blind to their own sin and errors. When they came home happy and excited because of what they gained from the battle, they implied there was something joyful or happy about God's judgment. This dishonored God, who brings His judgment reluctantly and without pleasure, longing that men would repent instead. God's heart was broken over Saul's disobedience. The man who started out humble and submitted to God eventually went his own way in disobedience.

Pride and disobedience make us blind – or deaf – to our sin. What was completely obvious to Samuel was invisible to Saul. We all have blind spots to sin in our lives, and we need to constantly ask God to show them to us. We need to *sincerely* pray the prayer of Psalm 139:23-24: *Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*



In coming chapters, God will raise up another man to replace Saul as king. David, in contrast to Saul, was known as a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). Even though David would also disobey God, the difference between him and Saul was great. David felt the guilt and shame one should feel when they sin. Saul didn't feel it. In this account, it reveals his conscience was dead to shame, and his heart was dead to God. Saul's heart was so dead he could directly disobey God and still set up a monument for himself on the occasion.

Bible Verse: Carefully observe the commands of the Lord. *Deuteronomy 6:17*

Life Application: I will not let others keep me from obeying God.

SATURDAY ZOOM CLASS

Saturday ZOOM Bible Study didn't meet last Saturday due to Anita's week away. We will be back to our normal schedule this coming Saturday.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, July 28th
July & August Birthday
Celebration

Friday & Saturday,
August 2nd & 3rd
REACH Conference for
Life Group Leaders
Friday - 6:30 to 8:00 PM
Saturday – 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Saturday, August 10th
CARE Game Night
6:00 to 8:30 PM