

1 Samuel 15 2-1-2015 PGCC Don Ringman

Costly Disobediance

Opening/ Welcome

The last few weeks have been exciting as we have moved through the story line of Gods plan to bring a royal connection through the line of David to the prophesied, promised messiah, Jesus Christ. In chapter 13 we saw the first manly King of Israel begin to build his temporary kingdom by choosing his army and entourage with bodyguards and detachments. Calling the Hebrews with trumpet blasts, a rendezvous at Gilgal set the stage for battle with the philistines. Seeing the strength of the philistine army Israel began to scatter and in panic hid in caves, holes and pits. Watching his army collapse while waiting for Samuel, after seven days Saul took on the priestly role of offering burnt and peace offerings showing his impatience and revealing his pursuit of absolute power in civil and sacred things. By invading the priests office, it was another sign of his un fitness to be King. Impatience, ignoring restrictions and personal ambition over road the commands of the Lord.

Recently in Chapter 14 we saw Jonathan come on the scene with his armor bearer to take on and taunt the philistine garrison. In this adventurous enterprise they proceeded without approval of any generals and was contrary to any established rules of military disciplines. Even Saul was unaware of his son's actions. Hearing of the wild disorder coming from the enemy camp Saul took a head count to see who if any were missing. Finding Jonathan and his armor bearer at the root of the disturbance Saul decides to reinforce the effort and even the men of Israel who had hidden themselves followed hard after them in battle. Just shy of victory, in a sudden, rash, hasty, emotional decision Saul called for a fast of all the people. This impulsive oath sounded heroic but had disastrous side effects.

- 1) The men eventually became too weak to fight
- 2) They became so hungry they ate of meat that still contained blood (which was against gods laws
- 3) Saul came close to having to kill his own son for breaking the oath (ignorance was and is no excuse for the law).

If you are in the midst of conflict, guard against rash, hasty impulsive statements you may be forced to honor.

1 Samuel 15: 1-35 Read all

We begin with Samuel again reminding Saul of GODS anointing to be king over His people Israel and to destroy Amalek completely. Verse 3 is one of the many verses that seem to cause us dismay. Why would God command such a thing?

In Deuteronomy 25:17-18 Moses reminds the people of the treacherous hearts of the Amalekites.

¹⁷ *℣* “Remember what Amalek did to you ^{on} the way as you came out of Egypt, ¹⁸ how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and ^{cut} off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God. ¹⁹ Therefore ^{when} the LORD your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

Footnotes

And in Exodus 17: 15-16 After Joshua defeated the Amalekites,
" Moses built an alter and called the name of it, The Lord is my

banner, saying A hand upon the throne of the Lord. The Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation"

Considering the hereditary restless enemy of Israel and with 500 years of living in bitter, sleepless hatred as a nomadic people who perfected plundering, God, the true King of Israel, in His right to vengeance decreed that public enemy #1 finally had to go completely.

Saul set out with great valor and true purpose to complete the word of The Lord, but in the thick of his leadership he made a decision that brought him to the close of his kingship with God by His side. In verses 7-9 Saul destroys all the people with the sword but spares agag and the best of everything that was good. Saul's partial obedience fell from 99% to 89% with one self motivated choice. In 1 Samuel 15 13-15

And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, ^q“Blessed be you to the LORD. I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”¹⁴ And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?” ¹⁵ Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, ^rfor 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.”

Possible reasons for sparing Agag could have been 1) Use as a hostage in the future 2) Having as a trophy 3) Bragging rights

Possible reasons for sparing the animals could have been 1) As scripture says "To offer as sacrifice to the Lord."

2) It seems more likely they saw it as really good meat they could eat later. Either way reasoning does not equal obedience and its impossible to justify disobedience to God. 1 Samuel 15 :22

And Samuel said,

^w“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.

That day Saul brought genuine grief to the heart of God.

1 Samuel 15 10 -11

The word of the LORD came to Samuel: ^{11 n}“I regret³ 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.

God also grieves at our unbelief and disobedience. Can you think of a time when Disobedience brought grief to the heart of God and yours.

The shrimp story " The extra limit"

A few years ago we had just experienced the normal combat shrimping season of three days from 7am-3pm each day.

Getting under our quota we looked for the possibility of getting an additional day. It did come to pass and I had myself, Debbie

and Robert set to go and the plan was to try a spot we never had been before. I told Robert it was an adventure because we had no idea what to expect. We arrived to find only two other boats in the area, basically we had it all to ourselves. We baited up and dropped the gear, then floated around for about an hour and a half. Motoring over for the first pull as usual Robert grabbed the buoy and we brought in the first trap. Very pleased to see about 70 shrimp in the first pull as a limit is 80 each. Then it began. the second pot came up with about 125, the third probably 200 and the last was plugged with who knows how many. We were both totally blown away. I say both because it was just Robert and myself as Debbie could not go as scheduled. Having more shrimp on the boat ever in the history of shrimping I began picking our limits from the jumbos that were taunting me. Then I made the decision to take 1 limit for Debbie in honor of her absence, I mean she really wanted to be with us right,? I had a license for her right?. Well on the way home we were between Whidbey and Camano running down the slot when out of nowhere we were blue lighted by WDFW. Two nice kids (Maybe 23) greeted us and asked how we did and if they could see our catch (Debbie's limit was in a different cooler). After seeing the two limits properly bagged and tagged the big question came. Do you have any extra shrimp on board? Gulp, being a horrible lyer I smiled and said yes, we have one for my wife. Hearing my answer they asked

for the extras and also our licenses and ID. Telling us they would be right back with an accurate count and we drifted apart.

Then it hit me square in the heart, my eyes pooled up as I looked to my grandson and told him I was sorry. My heartfelt grief was from me dragging my grandson into my disobedience. As I told Robert I was sorry he simply looked and said " It's going to be Okay" Similar to Saul it was my decision as captain to fall into the sin of temptation. Was it bragging rights, was it because they would taste so good, or besides," we threw 300 back into the water !"

Why did i think reasoning is equal to obedience? Why do we try to justify disobedience? Why did I pounce on the plunder and do evil in the sight of the Lord? My heart grieved as I plodded home in my day of disobedience.

Trying to explain away and blaming others for the bleating of sheep Saul attempts to avert any bad publicity. In momentary humility he seeks Samuels participation in the offering of sacrifice. Samuel declines and reveals the consequences of Saul's actions. As he reached for Samuels robe in desperate supplication it tore and Samuel said "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today". The Chapter ends with Samuel and Saul together at one last worship and Samuel takes the life of Agag . Each went to their own homes and Samuel

mourned for Saul and God grieved that he had made Saul King over Israel.

All our excuses for disobedience need to come to an end. Let's call it what it is...SinSin displays itself in many ways.

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.”

Rebellion against God is perhaps the most serious sin. In rebellion we risk closing the door to forgiveness and restoration with God. There is hope for us as believers who struggle with obedience. It comes in the forgiveness of sin through Jesus's atoning work on the cross.

Heartfelt repentance moves us into the loving arms of Christ who gives the strength to obey

Heartfelt repentance moves us into the loving arms of Christ who paid the price for our sins

Heartfelt repentance moves us into the loving arms of Christ who brings us restoration with God

Jesus' open arms are like hearing " It's going to be Okay"

In Heartfelt supplication Grasp the garment of Christ and His atoning sacrifice for our sins by believing then receiving forgiveness in its fullness. And when you are in the heat of battle, Take the time to consult the Lord.

Prayer

Communion