

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 10/07/2018

1 Samuel 15 – “A Disobedient King and the True Seriousness of Sin” by Eric Bobbitt

Overview

This sermon is the eighth in our series on the book of 1 Samuel. This weighty chapter deals with the central theme of disobedience. We dive deeper into the complexed character of Saul and the implications of only partially adhering to the Lord's commands.

The sermon text was outlined as follows:

1. A command to execute justice (v. 1-3)
2. Partial obedience (v. 4-9)
3. Excuses for sin (v. 10-21)
4. Consequences for sin (v. 22-35)

Three implications from these passages:

1. Disobedience is layered and self-deceptive
2. Obedience is full and immediate or else it is disobedience
3. Disobedience requires repentance because sin is serious

Quotations

“For God to say, ‘I feel sorrow that I made Saul king’ is not the same thing as saying, ‘I would not make him king if I had to do it over.’ Oh yes, he would. God is able to feel sorrow for an act in view of foreknown evil — foreknown pain and sorrow and misery — and yet go ahead and do it for wise reasons. He may well be capable of lamenting over something he chose to bring about. And God may be capable of looking back on the very act of bringing something about and lamenting that act in one regard, while affirming it as best in another regard.” John Piper

Understanding & Application

- 1) In this chapter, the curtain is pulled back on Saul by Samuel. Eric shared a formative experience where this happened to him. Have you ever had your sin/schemes exposed like this? What was your reaction? What did you learn?
- 2) In what ways does Saul shift blame and responsibility for his sin when confronted by Samuel? Can you think of a time when you have done the same to avoid blame for your own sin? What motivates us to respond this way? What impact does this kind of behavior have on us relationally and spiritually?
- 3) Compare Saul's initial response to being confronted with his sin, beginning in verse 20, to David's in 2 Samuel 12:13 and following, when Nathan confronts him of his sin with Bathsheba. If you could describe the difference between their responses in one word, what would it be?
- 4) Why must obedience be full and immediate? (See Ex. 20:3, Deut. 6:5, Matt. 10:38-39. Any other pertinent verses come to mind?)
- 5) In verse 23, disobedience is compared to other capital offenses under the law. Why is this so serious? What are we doing when we disobey God? What were the consequences for Saul?
- 6) As you contemplate the seriousness of disobedience addressed in this chapter as well as your own sin, where is your hope before a holy, exacting God? (See Romans 5:1-2)