

OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

(10/15/2023; Life Group; 1 Samuel 12:1-15:35; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: God desires a king and a people who listen to His voice and obey His commands. Jesus Christ, the one true King, lived to do His Father's will and was obedient unto death. Therefore, true faith in Christ must result in a people who love Jesus, believe in Jesus, and obey Jesus' commands!

I. Israel's Need for a Savior – Read 1 Samuel 12:1-25

- A. Read 1 Samuel 12:6-13. What righteous deeds are highlighted to display what God has done throughout Israel's history? How do these righteous deeds highlight Israel's disobedience?
- B. What are the blessings and curses that Samuel declares in verses 14-18?
- C. How does this passage showcase Israel's abundant need for a Savior? How does it highlight the role of mediator (vv.19-25) between God and man, pointing forward to the Lord Jesus?

II. Saul's Need for a Savior – Read 1 Samuel 13:1-15:35

- A. What observations do you make about the nature of Saul's sacrifice in 1 Samuel 13:5-14? How does Samuel's command in 1 Samuel 10:8 highlight Saul's disobedience?
- B. What events in chapter 14 expose Saul's failure to lead the people of God? How does Jonathan's actions highlight what Saul should be doing as the king of Israel?
- C. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-23. Saul clearly disobeys God's command. What are your thoughts regarding God's judgment on the Amalekites and His rejection of Saul as king?
- D. Saul used sacrifice to achieve his own purposes and manipulate the holy things of God. In what ways might you be tempted to manipulate the good things God has given to bring about your own purposes? How does manipulation display a love for self rather than a love for God?

III. Our Need for a Savior – Application

- A. How does Saul's lack of obedience point us forward to the Lord Jesus and His perfect obedience to the Father's will? What passages come to your mind when you think about Christ's commitment to walk in perfect obedience to God's Word and God's plan?
- B. According to 1 John 2:1-6, how do we know that "we have come to know Jesus"? What does it look like to actively keep God's Word? How does 1 John 1-2 highlight that it is not about living perfectly, but characteristically and progressively according to God's commandments?
- C. In what areas of your life would you like to grow in love for God and obedience to His Word?