

THE DISOBEDIENT KING

I Samuel 15:1–35.

LESSON 57 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

BIBLE TEXT

I Samuel 15:1–35

1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen,

and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the

people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I

have performed the commandment of the LORD.

14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

22 And Samuel said, Hath 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 hearken than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the

LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent:

for he is not a man, that he should repent.

30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD.

32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

NOTES

A King Wanted

We remember what a good leader of the people Moses had been. Then Joshua became the leader; later on we find Gideon leading the people on their journeys. God told these men how to be good leaders.

But the people were never satisfied. All their enemies had kings ruling over them; so the people of God decided they wanted a king, too. God did not want them to have a man for a king; He was their King.

Sometimes when we want something very, very much, God let us have it. However, later on we often find that it was not best for us

to have it. God sometimes gives us the things we keep on begging for; but He knows what is really best for us, and we should be satisfied with what He gives us.

Saul Chosen

God showed the wise prophet, Samuel, the man He wanted to be the king. This young man's name was Saul. He was taller than the other men, and strong. When the day came to choose a king, and Saul was selected, he could not be found. So they finally asked the Lord where Saul was; and He said that Saul had hidden himself "among the stuff." Saul did not think he was very great.

When Saul was brought out before all the people, they shouted, "God save the king." They were very happy that they now had a king to rule over them, as the other nations had. But they had made a great mistake as we shall see later on.

His Mistakes

King Saul had been over the people only a few years until he displeased the Lord. The prophet Samuel told him that he had done foolishly. But he was given another chance to prove himself before the Lord. He was sent to a city and was told that he should destroy everything in it.

Again King Saul disobeyed the voice of the Lord. He kept alive the king of the city, and also the best of the sheep, oxen, and lambs. After this act of disobedience, he also told a lie. He told Samuel that he had done just as he had been told.

By this time the Lord was very much displeased with Saul, and He said that He was sorry that Saul was king. Samuel told Saul that since he had not kept the Word of the Lord, the Lord could not let him be king any longer. They had to have another king to rule instead of Saul.

Praying Always

We see by this that when we are saved we must keep on praying in order to keep saved. When we displease the Lord and commit sin, we are no longer saved. Children going to school should pray every morning before leaving home, and again at night, and even oftener than that. We are told in the Bible to “pray without ceasing.”

“Jesus can keep little children

Good all the day --- if they pray.”

A number of years ago in the city of Tacoma, Washington lived a little girl who was a real Christian. She always knew her lessons in school -- the teacher could always depend upon her. So one day she said to the girl, “Come up here to the front of the room, and tell us how you manage to always have your lessons.” The child answered, “I pray.” The teacher said, “But did you just pray once, in order to get your lessons every time?” “No,” replied the girl, “Always -- I always pray.” She asked God, and He helped her to learn her lessons. God is pleased when we ask Him to help us in everything we do. He is our loving Father.

QUESTIONS

1. Did King Saul destroy the best animals? I Samuel 15:9.
2. How did Samuel find out what had happened?
I Samuel 15:10, 11, 14.
3. Do you think Saul lied to Samuel? I Samuel 15:13.
4. How was Saul punished for his disobedience? I Samuel 15:23.
5. Is it possible for us to backslide as King Saul did? Ezekiel 18:24.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

THE DISOBEDIENT KING

Lesson 57

I Samuel 15:1-35

Teach Me, O My Lord Above

WATCH AND PRAY 48

4 ↓
4 ↓

m: d: s: d: r: f: m:-

l: s: t: d': f: m: r:-

m: d: s: t: l: d': t:-

d': l: f: m: f.m. r: d:-

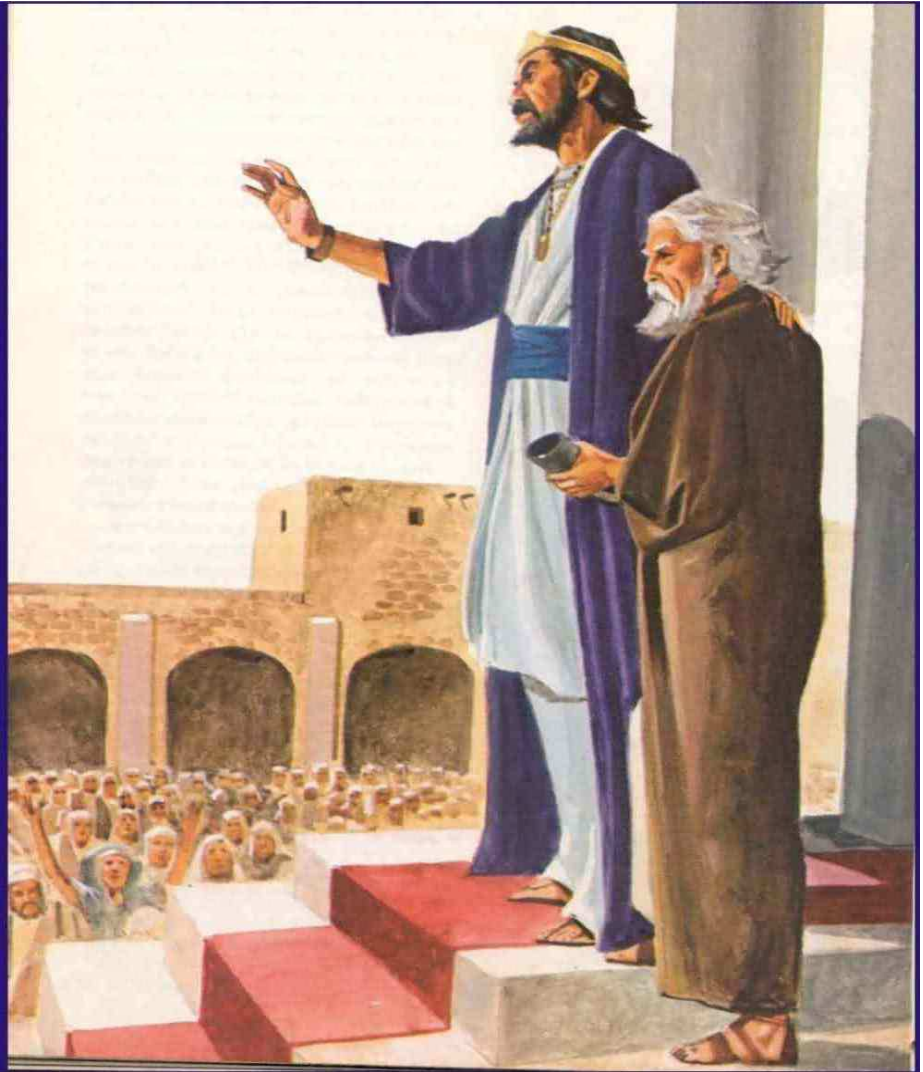
Teach Me, Oh, My Lord Above

**Teach me, oh, my Lord above,
Great obedience to Thy Word
Which teaches that I should love
Him who first gave me His love.**

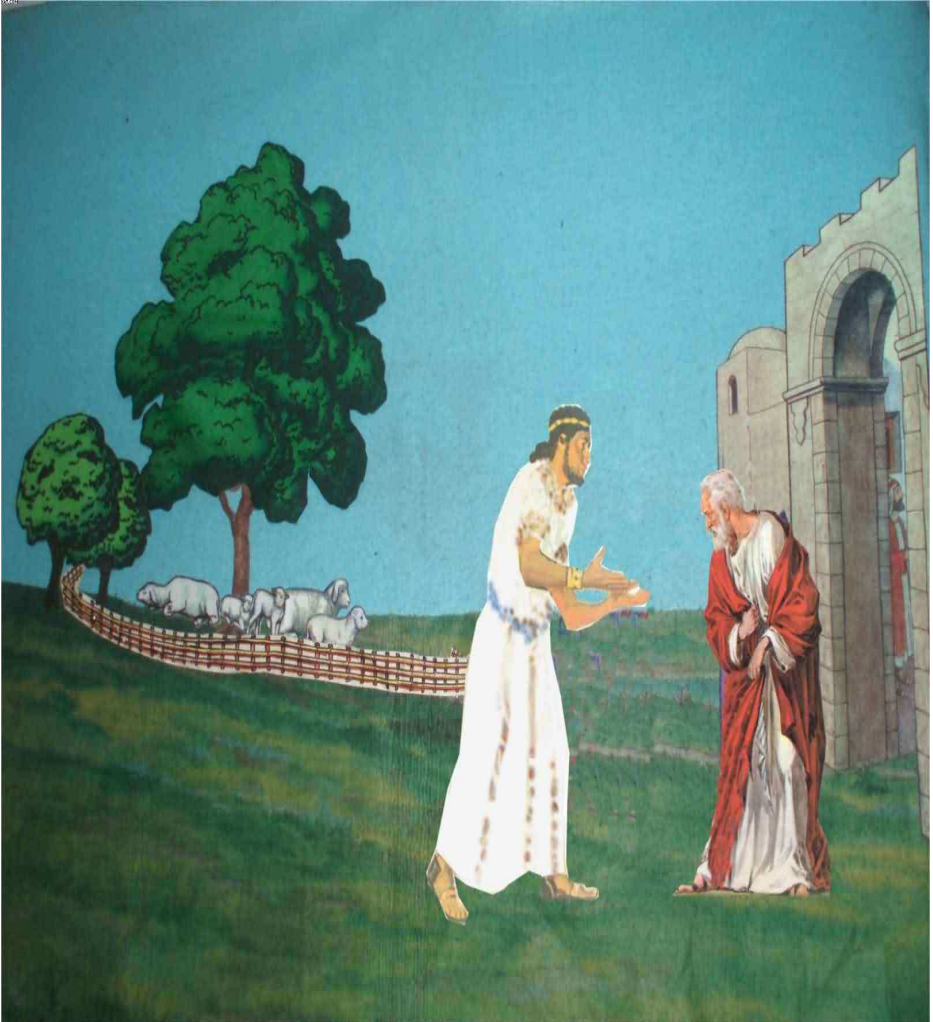
PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

