

Saul

To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Saul's outside appearance:

- ~ Saul had a good pedigree.
- ~ Saul was impressive in his appearance: tall, handsome, charismatic.
- ~ Saul was trustworthy, diligent, steadfast, and carried out his employment well.
- ~ Saul was a humble, respectful young man.
- ~ Saul was being led by God, guided step by step.
- ~ Saul was chosen by God to be king.
- ~ The Word of the Lord was made known to Saul.
- ~ Saul was anointed by God.
- ~ The Spirit of the Lord rushed upon Saul.
- ~ Saul prophesied and walked alongside God.
- ~ Saul was a great leader.
- ~ Saul was a strong soldier.
- ~ Saul was liked by the people.

Saul's heart:

- ~ Saul believed that his way, would be a way to save God's people.
- ~ Saul believed that he could get God's saving power the way he wanted to get God's saving power.
- ~ You can observe where a man stands by observing what he fears.
- ~ You can locate a man's home by observing what he holds on to.
- ~ You can see a man's power by observing his mission.
- ~ You can see the extent of a man's pride by seeing where he gives credit.
- ~ You can identify a man's priority by watching his actions.
- ~ You can see a man's love by watching where he is loyal.
- ~ You can weigh a man's strength by evaluating his self-control.
- ~ You can observe a man's lord by watching who he worships.
- ~ You can see what is in a man's heart by watching his motives.
- ~ You can observe the formation of a man's will by understanding what he follows.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NIV)

²² But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance (insubordination, presumption) like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

Sacrifice vs Obedience

1a. Sacrifice is giving God **something**.

1b. Obedience is giving God **yourself**.

1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV)

"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord?"

- 2a. Sacrifice is **dying** for God.
- 2b. Obedience is **living** for God.

1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV)

“To obey is better than sacrifice,”

- 3a. Sacrifice is the writing of the **check**.
- 3b. Obedience is cashing the check and **living it up**.

1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV)

“and to heed is better than the fat of rams.”

- 4a. Sacrifice is **hard** work.
- 4b. Obedience is **heart** work.

1 Samuel 15:23 (NIV)

“Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

- 5. Lack of **obedience** (rebellion) is like the sin of divination.

1 Samuel 15:23 (NIV)

“For rebellion is like the sin of divination,”

- 6. Refusing to **listen** to God is like the evil of idolatry.

1 Samuel 15:23 (NIV)

“and arrogance (insubordination, presumption) like the evil of idolatry.”

- 7a. Christ’s sacrifice is how you **get** God.
- 7b. Your obedience is the proclamation that you **have** Him.

Obedience says, “I believe.”
Obedience says, “I am yours.”
Obedience says, “You’re the one.”
Obedience says, “You own me.”
Obedience says, “I have seen it.”

Obedience says, “I understand.”
Obedience says, “I have got it.”
Obedience says, “I love you.”
Obedience says, “I trust you.”

8. Repent/Confess

Repent says, “You are God.”
Confess says, “It is not.”