

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD
NOW THEREFORE HEARKEN THOU
UNTO THE VOICE OF THE WORDS OF THE LORD

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.
SUNDAY MORNING- OCTOBER 10, 2021
SCRIPTURE READING: **1 SAMUEL 15:1-15**

1 Samuel 15:1-3, 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.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the October 10, 2021 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today we will take our text from the book of **1 Samuel chapter 15.**
- b. The hour in which we live there is gross rebellion on every hand.
- c. God has indicated in **1 Corinthians 10:5-6**, that the Old Testament was our example. ***But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6: Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.***
- d. God allowed King Saul to be king over the Nation of Israel. Saul, unlike David was extremely disobedient to God.
- e. We have seen that David did sin; his murder of Uriah the Hittite, his adultery with Bathsheba, and the sin of numbering the people. So, we conclude that David was not perfect; however, he always displayed genuine repentance seeking God's forgiveness.
- f. King Saul, on the other hand was very rebellious. He followed God for a while but then he decided to seek his own way and his own will.
- g. We conclude from this that **it is a dangerous thing to modify what God tells us to do.**
- h. We see so much of this today; men and women being partially obedient. The Bible tells us in **1 Samuel 15:22, 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.**
- i. We come face to face with Saul's gross rebellion.
- j. This resulted in Saul's rejection from being king over Israel.
- k. The Lord selected David – a man after His own heart. **1 Samuel 13:14, But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.**
- l. From time to time, we come across people, who do not understand God's ways nor His will. We have been focusing lately on the two sides of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is a love side and a wrath side.
- m. Most of the time we want to concentrate on the love side because it does not irritate anyone and allows us to compromise with sin.
- n. As we concentrate on the points to the message today, we are going to see that God performs extreme surgery against the Amalekites. Sin, rebellion, and disobedience come at an awful price. Several Sundays ago, we found that the foolish act on the part of David in numbering the people

was extremely costly in that seventy thousand people lost their lives. We must learn to accept God's judgment and not allow ourselves to question His actions. We must remember that His ways are not our ways. **Isaiah 55:8, For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.**

- m. The reason for the extreme surgery of the Amalekites which invoked God's harsh judgment is found in the **Book of Esther** preached several Sundays ago. If you recall, Haman almost destroyed the entire Jewish race. Had it not been for Mordecai and Queen Esther, it would have resulted in complete annihilation of the Jews.
- o. We know God would never allow that to happen; however, in many cases the royal line dwindled down to one or two.
- p. Haman was one of the Amalekites. God knew the true nature and character of these people. The Lord also knew He had to judge them. Had Saul been obedient in carrying out God's will, the incident with Haman would have never occurred.
- q. We find the malicious attack upon Israel by these people in **Exodus 17:8-16, Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9; And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. 10: So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. 11: And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12: But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13: And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14: And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. 15: And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: 16: For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.** The raising of Moses' hand indicated trust and belief in God.
- r. I am always reluctant to say who is saved and who is not but, as we study the life of Saul and his actions, it does not appear that King Saul was God's man at all.
- s. We know that David was God's man because He states that he was a man after His own heart. On the other hand, Saul was about doing his own will. He displayed gross rebellion, practiced idolatry and was filled with stubbornness and iniquity, thereby losing his position as king.
- t. Too often we come across people in the church like this. God will teach us a couple of things and all of a sudden, we are off into our own will.
- u. There is a price to pay for rebellion. There is a price to pay for attempting to modify what God has said.
- v. With that Introduction let's look at the points to the message today.

3. SEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. Now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.
 - 1. **1 Samuel 15:1-3, 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.**
 - 2. God is very specific in His instructions as to what is to be done.
 - 3. If we were to approach this without looking at the context and the background, we would think that God is extreme. God is righteous and His judgments are always correct. **Revelation 16:7, And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**
 - 4. We must understand that God is a God of love and **John 3:16** is there to prove that. **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**
 - 5. He is also a God of wrath. In our study of the **Book of Revelation** we saw the vial of wrath being poured out; it is living proof that God does not play.

6. **Deuteronomy 25:17-19, Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; 18: How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. 19: Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.**
7. In reference to the aforementioned verses, God gives Saul specific instructions as to what action he is to take.
8. When God calls us to a mission, I believe He gives us specific and detailed instructions as to what we are to do. We are to obey Him and not to try to change the rules of the game. **Deuteronomy 12:32, What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**
9. The Lord said **I remember that which Amalek did to Israel**, and as a result of that there is going to be judgment. He specifically tells Saul to **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.**
10. Some would say, I don't think God needs to do this. Well, we do not stand in judgment against God. That is what got King Saul in trouble. Remember questioning God got Job in serious trouble. **Job 38:4, Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.**
11. If you recall, Saul did not follow God's instruction sparing both Agag and some of the flock. In the **Book of Esther**, Haman, being a descendant of the Amalekites, tried to exterminate the Hebrew Nation and almost succeeded.

b. And Saul gathered the people together and numbered them.

1. **1 Samuel 15:4-6, 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.**
2. Saul gathers the people together and numbers them.
3. God does not say anything about the numbering. David got in trouble because he numbered the people, but Saul failed to follow God's instructions.
4. First Saul warns the Kenites. They were the descendants of Moses' father-in-law. There is a reference to them in **Judges 1:16, And the children of the Kenite, Moses' father in law, went up out of the city of palm trees with the children of Judah into the wilderness of Judah, which lieth in the south of Arad; and they went and dwelt among the people. Judges 4:11-17, Now Heber the Kenite, which was of the children of Hobab the father in law of Moses, had severed himself from the Kenites, and pitched his tent unto the plain of Zaanaim, which is by Kedesh. 12: And they shewed Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam was gone up to mount Tabor. 13: And Sisera gathered together all his chariots, even nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people that were with him, from Harosheth of the Gentiles unto the river of Kishon. 14: And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee? So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him. 15: And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet. 16: But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left. 17: Howbeit Sisera fled away on his feet to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite: for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.**
5. This was an act of mercy that no pagan nation had practiced in that day at all. But Saul is giving them warning.
6. God does not indicate that this was a problem concerning the Kenites. The Amalekites were the ones to be judged.

c. And Saul smote the Amalekites.

1. **1 Samuel 15:7, And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.**
 2. It appears that Saul is going to be obedient to God's will.
 3. **Too often we allow human reasoning to enter into the process.** I'm afraid that we are living in a day where human reasoning has entered into our pulpits. We are failing to preach the Gospel Message of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are failing to carry out the great commission as God has given us instructions to do. **Galatians 1:6, I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:**
- d. **But Saul and the people spared Agag.**
1. **1 Samuel 15:8-9, 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.**
 2. Now we find that man is making a modification to what God has said.
 3. God's instruction was to destroy them all. However, Saul saves Agag, who was the ruler of the Amalekites.
 4. Saul had no right to modify God's instructions. The nation He was talking about was evil and God had to pass judgment.
 5. Saul had no right to save the best of the cattle or anything that God told him to destroy.
 6. Notice that it was Saul and the people who made this decision and in the final analysis, the leader is responsible for the actions of everyone.
 7. When a pastor becomes afraid of the congregation it is time for that pastor to move on.
 8. The Israelites are fixing to bring judgment upon the Amalekites. For Almighty God has indicated that this is what needs to be done.
 9. We must understand that we are members of **His** Kingdom and **His** universe.
- e. **It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king:**
1. **1 Samuel 15:10-11, 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.**
 2. Samuel was a big fan of King Saul. As a matter of fact, he cried unto the Lord all night. But the interesting thing is **It repenteth me.**
 3. God had not changed His mind about Saul; Saul had not followed instructions and as a result, the wrath side of God must take over.
 4. **There is chastisement for the believer who is outside the will of God. Proverbs 3:12, For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Hebrews 12:6, For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**
 5. Not only did the people choose Saul, but Samuel also loved him.
 6. It appears that Samuel attempts to intervene with God on Saul's behalf.
 7. God cannot wink at sin. **Acts 17:30, And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:** God must judge sin for what it really is.
- f. **Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.**
1. **1 Samuel 15:12-13, 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.**
 2. Notice the double mindedness on the part of Saul. As a matter of fact, he did not do what God told him to do and now he is in the process of re-phrasing and re-writing what was done and said. **James 1:8, A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 4:8, Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.**
 3. We are good about doing that this day in time. We want to modify God's Word and substitute what man has to say and not regard what the Lord has to say.

4. God does not need any help from us; He knows what He wants and He will take care of His own business.
5. Saul passes himself off as having done what God told him to do.
6. Notice how discerning Samuel is.

g. What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears.

1. **1 Samuel 15:14-15, 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.***
2. Saul fails to come clean with Samuel and with God.
3. He double-talks. He states a reason why he was disobedient.
4. God does not regard a reason why we are disobedient. We are told in detail what to do and God intends for us to do it.
5. I see here that there is pious and pretense, there is gross rebellion and disobedience.
6. In America we look at something that is a sin and see it destroy lives but we will say it is beneficial to our economy. We must remember that righteousness exalts a nation. **Proverbs 14:34, *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.***
7. We cannot come to grips with the fact that evil is evil and to mix evil with good; it all becomes evil. **Galatians 5:9, *A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.* Isaiah 5:20, *Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!***
8. On this Columbus Day, America needs to stand up and be counted. The conscience of the nation needs to return to the churches and mainly the pulpits.
9. God's instruction was ***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.*** They decided that they were going to keep the best. The reason they were going to keep the best was so that they would have something to sacrifice to God.
10. **What a pious attitude.** It absolutely does not and will not work.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. **Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;***
- b. **Romans 3:10, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:***
- c. **Romans 10:9-10, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.****
- d. Would you please stand?

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