


FORWARD

...CHOOSE OBEDIENCE

THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT STEP!

 New Life Christian Center
March 3, 2024

Pastor Brett Avery | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

"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. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king." 1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NIV)

Key Idea:

My partial _____ is _____.


Reflection:

What is one area of my life that I need to change today to be obedience to God's Word?

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Key Idea:

My partial OBEDIENCE is DISOBEDIENCE.

Reflection:

What is one area of my life that I need to change today to be obedience to God's Word?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

March 3, 2024



[CONNECT]

When you were growing up, how did you understand the concept of obedience? Was it a positive or negative one for you? Explain

[ENGAGE]

What impacted you the most personally from the message?

[GROW]

1. Why might God have commanded such a severe judgment against the Amalekites, and what does this tell us about the nature of God's justice?
2. How does Samuel contrast the value of obedience to God with the value of sacrifices and offerings?
3. In what ways does Samuel's response to Saul challenge common religious practices that prioritize ritual over obedience?
4. Reflect on a recent decision you made. Can you identify any areas where you may have chosen partial obedience or outright disobedience to God's direction?
5. Consider your current leadership roles, whether at home, work, or in the community. How can you model complete obedience to God in these areas this week?
6. Identify a scripture that you can memorize this week to help you stay focused on obeying God rather than conforming to cultural norms.
7. Think of a situation where you might be tempted to fear people's opinions over God's commands. How can you prepare yourself to choose obedience in that moment?

[LEAD (YOURSELF)]

What is one area in your life that you have been reluctant to fully surrender to God? What practical step can you take today to begin addressing it?

DAY 1: OBEDIENCE BEYOND CONVENIENCE

1. Truth: True obedience to God requires full commitment, not just when it's convenient. It's about acting on God's direction with unwavering faith, even when it's challenging or doesn't align with personal desires. This kind of obedience is a testament to the trust and reverence one holds for God's divine will.

2. Read: 1 Samuel 15:22 - "But Samuel replied: 'Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.'"

3. Reflection: In what situations do you find it most difficult to obey God fully? How can you strengthen your resolve to follow His will even when it's inconvenient?

DAY 2: INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP

1. Truth: Leadership is a call to set an example of obedience to God. It's about living with integrity and taking responsibility for one's actions, rather than conforming to a culture of blame-shifting. This kind of leadership inspires others and fosters a community grounded in obedience.

2. Read: Ezekiel 34:2 - "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock?'"

3. Reflection: As a leader in your own context, how can you more effectively model obedience to God and encourage others to do the same?

DAY 3: ANCHORED IN SCRIPTURE

1. Truth: Engagement with Scripture is essential for discerning God's will and resisting the temptation to rationalize sin. It's the lifeline that keeps believers anchored in truth, enabling them to live lives that are pleasing to God.

2. Read: Psalm 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

3. Reflection: How can you make daily Scripture reading a more integral part of your life, and what practical steps will you take to ensure it guides your decisions?

DAY 4: THE HIGH COST OF DISOBEDIENCE

1. Truth: Disobedience to God has severe consequences that can lead to the loss of His blessing and favor. It's a serious matter that affects not only one's relationship with God but also their influence on others.

2. Read: Proverbs 14:12 - "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

3. Reflection: Can you identify a time when disobedience led to negative consequences in your life? How did it affect your relationship with God and those around you?

DAY 5: THE HIGH COST OF DISOBEDIENCE

1. Truth: True obedience is an internal surrender to God's authority, valuing His approval above all else. It's about trusting in His wisdom and committing to His lordship over every aspect of life.

2. Read: James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

3. Reflection: What are the areas of your life where you struggle to surrender to God's authority, and what steps can you take to submit these areas to Him?