Text: **1 Samuel 15:1-22**

**Introduction:**

 There is a saying that “ends justify the means.” Often in the work place a boss may approach an employee with an urgent project and say, “I don’t care how you get it done but I need it done.” Sometimes, or rather, often this mentality gets applied to religion. So long as the pews are full does it matter how we fill them so long as our intentions are good. It is a nicer end justify the means mentality. However, is that God pleasing? Is that biblical? I would contend that no it is not. Turn to **1 Samuel 15**, we will be looking at King Saul who had a similar idea about serving God. We’re going to see how that turned out and what God had to say about this mindset.

**God’s Sovereignty and Justice (1 Samuel 15:1-6):**

1. God reminds Saul how he got here **v.1**
	1. Perhaps this was to preemptively deal with any arrogance from Saul
	2. **1 Samuel 13:8-12 –** Offers sacrifices even thought he was not a priest
	3. **1 Samuel 13:14** – Acted arrogantly/foolishly and so his line was removed from the throne
2. God’s Justice and Mercy
	1. This was not a new injustice committed by the Amalekites **Exodus 17.8-16**
		1. **Duet. 25.17-19**
		2. **Judges 6.3**
	2. For 400 years they had been a thorn in Israel side and showed no signs of repentance.
	3. God is merciful and just
		1. There is another group of people here and because of their mercy 400 years prior they were shown mercy.
		2. The Kenites, they acted opposite of the Amalekites
	4. **Romans 2:4-5** His mercy = time. His justice = time will run out
3. God’s will be done
	1. God promised that Amalek and his people would be removed completely from the face of the earth **(Exo. 17.14)**
	2. It does not matter how long it takes, what matters is that if God wills it, it will be done!
	3. Regarding Saul, God gave him a clear command. And not just for that command, from Genesis to Revelation God communicates His will plainly for our benefit. ***(Gen. 3 –*** *Don’t eat the apple* ***Matt. 28-20*** *– Go and preach the gospel****)***

 **Saul’s Partial Obedience (1 Samuel 15:7-16):**

1. He captured Agag alive…
	1. God had commanded that everyone was to be destroyed **vs. 3**
	2. He and the people kept all the choice spoils and only obeyed God when it came to the worthless things.
	3. How many times do we give God only the despised and worthless things?
2. That partial obedience = full disobedience
	1. **1 Samuel 15:10-11**
	2. **Malachi 1:6-7**
	3. In all that we do we need to be giving God our best, not the leftovers or what is easy!
	4. His failure to obey God completely would have serious consequences in Israel’s future **Esther 3:1** (Haman the agagite)
3. Saul’s True Colors
	1. ***“pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”* Proverbs 16:18 KJV**
		1. Saul creates a monument to himself to commemorate this great victory, not an alter to thank God but a monument to himself.
	2. In His mind he also had done what God had commanded him to do **vs. 13b**
		1. He made two grave mistakes
		2. One, that so long as the end is the same the means do not matter **vs. 15b**
		3. God will accept whatever I offer Him **Matthew 7:21-22**
		4. God can and has refused offerings
			1. Cain and able **Genesis 4:3-8**
			2. Nadab and Abihu **Leviticus 10**

**To obey is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:17-22):**

1. Saul second reminder
	1. It was **God** that made you great, not you
	2. God gave you a mission (command)
	3. Why then did you not do it?
2. Saul’s Delusion
	1. ***I did obey…*** and brought back the king
	2. Cast blame, makes excuse. It was the people not I **(vs. 9)**
3. God’s Rabke (The thrust of the chapter)
	1. What does God want more?
		1. Sacrifice or obedience?
		2. Wrote service or a willing heart?
	2. Nothing we can do, no amount of works, goodness, or sacrifice will ever make up for humbly submitting to God in obedience. Nothing.
	3. **Jeremiah 7:22-23**

**Conclusion:**

To obey is better than sacrifice. Samuel obeyed God at every step, Saul did not. So, who are you going to be? A Samuel or a Saul? Are you going to “Obey [God’s] voice” and become one of his people?

To be a Christian you need to put on Christ **Galatians 3:26-27**