

Morning Worship

October 20, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship	Allan/People
Scripture Reading	Deuteronomy 17:14-20
Hymn # 581	<i>We Have Heard the Joyful Sound</i>
Worship Prayer	Allan Lane
Hymn # 604	<i>Come All Christians, Be Committed</i>
Hymn # 600	<i>More About Jesus</i>
Offering Prayer	Fred Kerns
Tithes and Offerings	People
Offering Music	Alva Lou Schottel
Chorus # 34	<i>Step by Step</i>
Chorus # 75	<i>Think About His Love</i>
Special Music	Al and Debbie
Message	Bro. Allan
Hymn # 571	<i>Let Others See Jesus in You</i>
Prayer Concerns	Allan/People
Closing Chorus # 571	<i>Let Others See Jesus in You</i>

Confession of a Doubtful Man

1 Samuel 15:1-35

A 6-year-old girl was memorizing Bible verses for Sunday School. When she came to 1 Samuel 15:22 — "To obey is better than sacrifice" for her Bible memory course, she had a hard time understanding it. So her mother attempted to explain what each meant. One day the girl observed her 3-year-old sister being disobedient, and she immediately took her sister aside and sternly admonished her: "Now remember, the Bible says that if you don't obey, you will be sacrificed!"

Now that wasn't quite what her memory verse said, but it wasn't far off. In our example tonight of someone who confession they had sinned, we find that King Saul had not obeyed God's commands, and because of that:

- He sacrificed his entire kingdom.
- He sacrificed his once close relationship with Samuel (Samuel never saw him again).
- And he sacrificed his relationship with God.

First let's review some facts about Israel and King Saul. About 40 years before this

incident, Samuel had been the leader of Israel. He served as a prophet, a priest and a judge for the people before God. But as he grew older, his sons took over his responsibilities to be judges for nation.

Unfortunately, 1 Samuel 8:3 tells us "(Samuel's) sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice."

Because of this, the Elders of Israel took Samuel aside and "said to him, 'You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have'" (1 Samuel 8:5).

Now, there were a couple things wrong with that request:

1st – Samuel apparently hadn't done anything wrong, but the Elders had decided to replace him anyway. They decided they wanted to reject Samuel as their leader. We know this because Samuel takes the issue to God and God says (in part) "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; IT IS NOT YOU they have rejected..."

The 2nd problem with their decision was that the Elders hadn't bothered to get God's input on this decision. And this error on their part deeply upset God. God's full statement to Samuel about this was: "It is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected ME as their king."

Now God HAD intended to give the people a King – it's just that the time wasn't right yet. The man that God wanted to anoint as King (David) wasn't even alive. But since the Israelites were clamoring for a King God gave them best man available for the job: Saul, son of Kish.

When Saul was first anointed King he seemed the ideal candidate.

- He was athletic.
- He was humble.
- He was pious.
- And he stood a good head taller than everybody else (it made it easier for his men to rally around him on the battlefield).

Ellen and I have been blessed through the years by the produce of our church members. Bill and Alva Lou Schottel have blessed us from their garden and fruit trees. Before we left for Israel, their apple tree wasn't quite ripe but knowing we would be gone, Alva Lou picked up apples that had fallen already and shared with us. They had some bruises and spots in them, but it was nothing a good sharp knife wouldn't cure. Ellen is an expert in salvaging fruits and vegetables, but if something's gone too far, even the sharpest knife cannot salvage it.

After Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 13, he was given another chance to salvage the throne and make things better. The kingdom or dynasty was over but the king was still in power and his reign was still in check. The next assignment entrusted to Saul was to destroy the Amalekites. The Amalekites were Israel's blood brothers but sworn enemies. They were descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother (Genesis 36:12, 16). Blood is thicker than water, but boundary is thicker than blood. When Israel left Egypt, the Amalekites attacked them from behind (Exodus 17:10), hoping to rob them (1 Samuel 14:48). The Amalekites gave the Israelites their first experience of war and killed the weak, the slow and the weary travelers (Deuteronomy 25:17-19). The Amalekites were wicked (1 Samuel 15:18) and had no fear of God (Deuteronomy 25:18). Saul had a chance to redeem himself, but the worst side of him surfaced and the last glimmers of hope were lost.

How do we differentiate between someone who is slightly bad and one who is fully rotten? Does God give people an opportunity to change or repent? Think about a time when you failed and were given a second chance. How did you handle it?

King Saul's reign as king had mixed reviews. Over time, Saul's humbleness was

replaced with pride and his commitment to God became about a mile wide and a foot deep. By the time we get to the incident recorded here in I Samuel 15, Saul has allowed his dark side to control his actions.

1. What Saul Did Right .

God had given Saul some pretty simple instructions:

1. Go and attack the Amalekites and...
2. Totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys (1Samuel 15:3). Granted, that seems a little gruesome... but still, the instructions were pretty straightforward. Destroy everything. Kill all the people and all the animals.

a. He did acknowledge Samuel .

Samuel was the prophet appointed by God to anoint Saul as King. Samuel reminded Saul of that. However, we understand from the attitude of Samuel that this was Saul's last chance to salvage his role as the leader of Israel.

b. He did go .

He did go to the Amalekites and he did attack them. He wasn't totally disobedient.

c. He did obey ... partially.

He believed his obedience was enough. He compromised a bit, but in his mind he obeyed. He was being faithful.

2. What Saul Did Wrong .

So, did Saul do that? Well... kind of. He spared the best of the cattle and sheep - and he spared King Agag. But he killed everything and everybody else.

Now, in Saul's mind this made sense. He didn't care about the Amalekites - they were only getting what they deserved. But why waste all those good cattle and sheep? And King Agag? Well, this was a powerful man. He knew people. Some speculate he may even have made a deal with Saul to make it worth his while to spare his life. But other than that, Saul obeyed God... at least in his own mind.

a. He used his own judgement .

b. He was influenced by others.

c. He passed the blame .

Whenever we fall into disobedience, we need to go to God and admit we've failed. Admit we've sinned. Acknowledge that we've hurt Him and that we don't want to do it again... and God promises to forgive us.

So, why does confession fix our problem when we've disobeyed? Because it puts our relationship with God where it belongs. God is God... and you're not. He is the God who gave you everything you have in your life, and He is the one who has the right to ask for us to change our lives and repent of our sins.

But, you see, Saul didn't think like that. He never really confessed his sin. Notice what he says when Samuel calls him on his disobedience in 1 Samuel 15:15:

Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

Whose fault was it? Not Saul's... it was those bad soldiers. And the more Samuel confronts him about his sin, the more Saul tries to defend himself. He says: "The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal." 1Samuel 15:21

In January 2006 a visitor to a British museum destroyed a set of priceless vases. The vases were from the Qing dynasty and were 300-years-old. The Daily Telegraph reported the three Qing ('q' is pronounced as 'ch' - ching) vases were over 300 years old dating from the late 17th or early 18th century and had stood on a windowsill in the museum for at least 40 years. Their prominent position made them among its best-known artifacts. The paper said, 'The culprit who destroyed the vases was an unnamed man in his 40s'. Steve Baxter, another visitor to the museum who saw the accident was quoted as saying: "We watched the man fall as if in slow motion. He landed in the middle of the vases and they splintered into a million pieces. He was still sitting there stunned when museum staff appeared. Everyone stood around in silence, as if in shock. Then the man started talking. He kept pointing to his shoelace and saying, 'There it is; that's the culprit!'"

The text tells us Saul took one last stab at this confession thing... but even then he couldn't quite do it right. 1 Samuel 15:24 tells us "Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned (sounds like he's repenting). I violated the LORD's command and your instructions (and that sounds like he's repentant... but then he says) I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.'"

Once again he's not really confessing. He's passing the buck. He's saying: I was afraid of those bad, bad soldiers. If it hadn't been for them I'd have obeyed God. Now, why wouldn't Saul confess his sins? Why would he deliberately disobey God and then try to blame somebody else? Well, the problem for King Saul was that he'd begun to edge God out of the picture.

3. What Lessons We Can Learn.

a. Do not be fooled .

Don't ever be fooled into believing you can use your service / sacrifices for God as an excuse for allowing bitterness, pride or sexual immorality. Service to God is wonderful, but it won't hide a disobedient heart.

b. Own your sin.

When you do disobey God, learn to take responsibility for your sins, don't pass the buck, and don't try to blame someone else for why you failed. Just admit you failed and let God forgive you so you can start again.

c. Be obedient to God.

As James 4 tells us "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Therefore humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up (James 4:6, 10).

Conclusion:

When a Christian is mindful of who God is, they learn how to do things God's way.

1. They learn to humble themselves before God
2. To confess their sins when they've failed
3. And to be obedient to God and honor what He wants done.

Back in 1992 a TV news camera crew was on assignment in southern Florida. They were filming the widespread destruction of Hurricane Andrew. In one scene they shot, amid the devastation and debris, stood a house still on its foundation. The owner was cleaning up the yard when a reporter approached him.

"Sir, why is it that your house the only one still standing?" asked the reporter. "How did you manage to escape the severe damage of the hurricane?"

The man replied "I built this house myself, and I built it according to the Florida state building codes. For example, the code called for 2 x 6 roof trusses, so I used 2 x 6 roof trusses. I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane. So I did, and it did. I guess no one else around here followed the code."

Jesus once told the story about the wise man who built his house upon the rock: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock (Matthew 7:24-25).

That's why we give an invitation at the end of every service – a time to obey God in becoming His child.

- A time to believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God.
- A time to admit that you've sinned and you don't want to live like that anymore
- A time to confess Jesus as your Lord and Master
- A time to be buried in the waters of Christian baptism and risen up a new creation in Christ.
- And a time to decide that you want to live for Jesus forever.

Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice!

Patience or Persistence?

So I had started to write this article whining about how the power company had not yet come to fix our electrical problem in spite of me calling and reporting it several times this week. I even spoke with service representatives who assured me there were work orders and the problem would be remedied ASAP. 24 hours after that promise, I made another call, and after getting rather nasty about it (in case you're wondering I remembered my Christian witness), "Ashley" assured me she would now list it as "an emergency and priority" and someone would address it within the next few hours. I don't know why it wasn't listed as a priority four days earlier. To my surprise the service man showed up before she said he might and he took care of the problem in 15-20 minutes. Ironically, it took a whole lot more of my time to get the problem resolved.

I'd suggested to myself the entire matter was a heavenly lesson in patience. That was Tuesday. By Wednesday the lesson was no longer about patience but about persistence. It didn't matter how many times I called the **evergy** emergency line to report a power outage, or whether I spoke to actual people or not. The automated voice on the other end assured me that my problem had been noted and would be addressed soon. And **evergy** confirmed "Customer Service is Our Priority."

The real problem wasn't my attempts to file a report. They said every call was reported. No one was convinced the problem actually needed to be addressed in a timely manner. I must confess I got very tired of it! Why did it take 5 days to convince the right person we had a problem and we were not happy about it?

But when the power came back on and I was unplugging the extension cords and getting everything plugged back into the right circuits, I accidentally shut down the computer and lost it.

While Pam Battreall was cleaning this week she told me about her troubles. You may have already heard her story. At the end of September there was a fire in one of the units where she has furniture and appliances stored. While hers didn't catch fire, her stuff is coated with smoke and soot. It got so hot her refrigerator melted. It's not a total loss, but her and her brother Steve have spent most of this week working to salvage what they can.

Our power outage was a problem, but fortunately nothing was damaged. It's just been an inconvenience. Pam's problem was much greater. Isn't it amazing that just when we start to feel "O woe is me" that God reminds us it's not so bad and could be a whole lot worse? Pam,

our prayers are with you as you cope with this trial. How can we help? While we may not know exactly what you're going through, we have all faced difficult situations. But God is faithful. He will see us through and, if we're listening, teach us life lessons. God bless you, Pam!

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Ken Nice, Dillon Burgess, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: LeRoy Bush

Youth Event

Judgement House

Lunch at Noon

FBC, Cameron..... 2:40 pm

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Wednesday, October 23

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Sunday, October 27, 2019

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: LeRoy Bush, Don Sharp, Gary Yarbrough, Ken Nice

Alternate: Joe Coats

No Evening Worship ..6:30 pm

Monday, October 28

and Tuesday, October 29

Missouri Baptist Convention

Branson, MO

Wednesday, October 30

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events

October 28-29 — Missouri Baptist Convention

Annual Meeting, Branson, Missouri

November 4 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

November 3 — Daylight Saving Time ends

November 24—Church Thanksgiving Dinner

and Business Meeting—noon

(note the date change)

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. 😊

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Sunday Night

We will have Sunday Night service tonight. We continue to study some of the commands of Jesus. Come study together with our church family.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

The Daniel Prayer, a study by Anne Graham Lotz, was good. We begin a new study this week. Won't you please attend and pray for the direction of our church?

Coming Today ...

Judgement House

FBC, Cameron

Youth Event

Appointment at 2:40 pm.

Lunch after church today

Leave around 2 pm

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Let Pastor Allan and Ellen know how much you appreciate them.

Urgent Prayer Need

Youth Sunday School Teacher

Praise the Lord! One person has already expressed a sense of God's call, but it's a big job. It would be good to have more than one person. Pray about it! God may be calling you, too!

For more information,
talk to Bro. Allan.

Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting
October 28-29, 2019

**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 3.**

Please remember to set your clocks back 1 hour
Saturday night,
November 2, 2019.

For the Record

Attendance: October 13, 2019

Sunday School.....	28
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	28
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	48
Sunday Night	9
Children's Worship	8
Wednesday Night	N/A

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 2,573.42
Long Family –September	\$ 200.00
MMO to date	\$ 1,515.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Toni Wyrick

October Counting Team:

Jordan Lane and Linda Dotson

October Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

October Birthdays:

03...Don Hart
08...Brigida Winans
09...Gina Harr
10...Fred Kerns
10...Jaden Schottel
14...Dillon Burgess
18...David Schottel
19...Caitlyn Schottel
22...Angie Liechti
25...Tom Lefevere
28...Ellen Lane
28...Marie Hren
31...Tim Izer

October Anniversaries

Mike and Martha Green
October 1, 2005

Prayer Requests ...

Jim and Brigida Winans
Carl Conard—Jack's cousin
Ryan Hutcherson—LoLeta's grandson
John Lewis
Ruth Anne Bush
Mike Green—ankle surgery
Jack and Flo Conard
Bill Dunn, Donna's husband
Sharon Russell—George's sister
June Fritchle
Gary Hurst—cancer
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!
Romey Keith Davis—Music
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Tim Waters
Chuck and Gloria Stewart
Sharri Duty
Stephanie & Jason Terpack—guidance
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson Elmer Mayse
Kevin Duty Tim Izer
Betty Campbell Nellie Reynolds
Ann Riddle Kenny Duty
Keon McKahan Buddy Means
Jozy Winans Curtis Conard

Pat Means Seth Long
Bill & Juanita Brenda Burgess
Pat Puckett
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service Women and Men
Terrorism in our world

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
