

The Turning Point

1 Samuel 15

Introduction:

Amalek - Amalek was one of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11-12).

1 Samuel 15:1-11 - First, Samuel reminds Saul that he anointed him king (15:1); second, he comes with words from the "Lord of hosts" an authoritative revelation from God (15:2). Third, Israel had failed to destroy Amalek (Exodus 17:14-16).

Turning Point - 1 Samuel 15:9 - They decided what should be despised and destroyed and kept what they thought was worthy. (1 Samuel 15:11).

Precept: To truly obey the Lord we really need to see things the way God sees them.

1 Samuel 15:12-35

Holding Saul Accountable - 1 Samuel 15:12-23 - First, there is a determination to face a person who has done wrong (15:12). Second, Samuel confronted Saul (15:13-21) and corrected his wrong impressions. Third, Samuel provides a precept that governs actions that are a response to what the Lord commands (15:22-23).

Saul's response - 1 Samuel 15:24-31

Listening to people - 1 Samuel 15:24

Tearing Samuel's garment - 1 Samuel 15:27-29

Precept: When I sin before God as a citizen it is not the same as when I sin before God as the Prime Minister. To whom much is given much is required and that certainly applies to accountability.

Samuel holds Agag accountable - 1 Samuel 15:32-33

First, I would do better to see my sin the way God sees it if I am going to understand God's wrath at sin.

Second, I would do better to see the influence of sin on me the way God sees it if I am going to walk in the works and ways of Jesus Christ.

Separation and grief - 1 Samuel 15:34-16:1

Conclusion: This story is framed by the grief of the Lord that he had made Saul king (15:10, 35) and is one of the darkest moments in the early life of Israel.

Why is it so rare that we find a competent, wise, humble and honest leader—someone with a good heart? For this reason scrutiny and accountability are vital to a long term healthy family and organization.

When I fail to obey God I increase evil, I magnify disobedience. The greater my responsibility the more important is my obedience. (1 Corinthians 11:1; 4:16-17; Philippians 3:17-19; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:7; Jeremiah 5:5-6)