

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 6, 2018

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the perfectly obedient King whose atoning work on the cross transforms our dead, rebellious hearts into hearts that love and joyfully serve their new Master.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 15

"We do not have a High Priest who is not touched with the feeling of our infirmities. God is not some blind force out there, but He's touched with our finitude. What an extraordinary God we have, who's intimately involved in the time, day to day, second to second emotional fluctuating lives that you and I have. And He says, "Yes, I'm right there, imminent, in your midst." **Derek Thomas**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- Briefly recount Saul's reign up to this point. What have been his high moments and low moments? What do you think is his fundamental flaw?
- What are three main themes of 1 Samuel 15?
- What clear instruction from God did Samuel deliver to Saul? What was the purpose of this Divine warfare against the Amalekites? Reference Exodus 17:14, Numbers 24:20, Deuteronomy 25:17-19. What does this war ultimately foreshadow? Reference 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.
- Why do you think Saul disobeyed God's command by sparing Agag and keeping the choice animals? What excuses did Saul give for his disobedience? Reference verses 15, 20-21. How seriously does God take disobedience? Reference verses 22-23. Are obedience and sacrifice competing virtues?
- Give some examples when you have used religiosity to cover up or excuse disobedience.
- Discuss the difference between cold, religious assent and obedience that flows from a heart transformed by the gospel. Reference Ezekiel 36:26. Is your heart filled with a love for God and a genuine desire to obey him? Reference 1 John 5:3.

- Rather than repenting of his sin, how did Saul choose to respond when he was confronted by Samuel? Reference verses 30-31. What was his punishment? When we sin, how does the gospel lead us to repentance? Are you knowingly harboring unconfessed sins that God wants to free you from?
- Read verses 11, 29, and 35. Is this a contradiction? What do these verses teach us about God and his feelings about our sin and sorrows?