

Sunday, November 25, 2018

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What Saul Didn't Know About God: Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:1–23

(black Bibles page 237; Children's Bibles page 371)

Series Introduction: "What David Knew About God"

- What do you *know* about God? Not opinions, guesses, etc.
- What you know about God typically results in deep convictions that determine how you live your life. We see this in David – and sometimes these deep convictions are surprising.

15:1–3: Not your typical war – this is Divine judgment upon the Amalekite nation.

- See Amalekite evil described quickly in 15:33 and Exodus 17:8
- Also atypical was that they were not allowed to enrich themselves: "devote to destruction all that they have." (15:3)

15:4–9: Victory – and plunder!?

- Saul and the people enrich themselves (15:9), against God's directions (15:3).

15:10–21: Samuel confronts Saul

- Note Saul twice gives his defense, that he intended to sacrifice these many animals to the Lord (15:15, 20)
- Later Saul will give a different explanation, that he feared the people (15:24).
- Who was Saul? Saul set up a monument for himself (15:12), which sounds proud, yet Samuel said Saul was "little in his own eyes" (15:17). That sounds good. So what was his sin?

15:22–23: "To obey is better than sacrifice"

- Scripture says these things are also better than sacrifice: steadfast love (Hosea 6:6), knowledge of God (Hosea 6:6), and mercy (Matt 9:13).
- "To obey is better than sacrifice | I don't need your money | I want your life." Keith Green

There are some sins and sinners in the Bible, like Saul, that we might have more compassion about than God Himself does. What does this tell us about ourselves?