

145:9)? Below are some passages to guide you in your study.

- a. At the time when God promised Canaan to Abraham's descendants, he predicted that Israel would be enslaved outside of Canaan for four hundred years, after which they would return. Note the reason why God waited before bringing judgement on the inhabitants of Canaan (Gen. 15:13, 16). Why did God ultimately remove the Canaanites (Lev. 18:24-25)?
  
- b. What purposes are cited for imposing a ban: Deut. 7:1-6; 12:2-4; 20:16-18?
  
- c. The Amalekites, a nomadic tribe that inhabited the desert south of Judah (Num. 13:29), are the archetypal plunderers in biblical tradition. They attacked Israel at Rephidim (Ex. 17:8), and the Lord declared war on them (Ex. 17:14-16; Deut. 25:17-19). They joined other groups against Israel in Num. 14:41-45; Judg. 3:13; 6:3; 10:12). Furthermore, Amalek had not changed over the years. They attacked David's city of Ziklag (1 Samuel 30). The current generation was described as "sinners" (1 Sam. 15:18) while Agag's war crimes were announced as the basis for his execution (15:33). Consider how slow to anger Yahweh is when he gives them three hundred years to repent! (ESV Study Bible, p. 515, n. 1 Sam 15:2; Dale Ralph Davis, *Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart*, Bell & Blain, Glasgow, England, 2014, pp. 154-55)
  
- d. As the Creator, God owns all (Ps. 24:1-2), and therefore rightfully has the authority (Isa. 37:16) to do what he wishes with his creation (Isa. 14:26-27), and to judge his creatures according to his standards (Ps. 96:5, 9, 10, 13; Ezek. 33:20; Rom. 1:18-25; 2:2, 5-6).

# Sermon Notes

"When Partial Obedience is Still Disobedience"

1 Samuel 13, 15

August 27, 2017

## Introduction

1.

2.

Conclusion:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 8-27-17

Questions adapted from *1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 46-52; *Explore the Bible, Adult Leader Guide*, Vol. 2, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 55-63; *Explore the Bible, Quicksource Leader*, Vol. 4, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 23-26.

## Getting Started:

1. What reasons do people give for not obeying God's instructions completely?

## Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 13:5-15.
  - a. What challenge did the Israelites face? How did they respond?
  - b. What was significant about Saul's decision to offer the sacrifice (be sure to consider 1 Samuel 10:8; 13:8)?
3. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-11
  - a. In what ways did Saul fall short of complete obedience? How did God respond?
  - b. In what ways does our culture tend to redefine what is right based on personal preference?
  - c. When have you been tempted to carry out only part of God's plan?

4. Read 1 Samuel 15:19-23.
  - a. Why does God consider our obedience much better than sacrifice offered to him?
  - b. What was the consequence of Saul's incomplete obedience? Do you feel the consequence fit the crime, or was it too harsh? Explain your reasoning.

5. Fear twice moved Saul to disobey God (see 13:11-12; 15:24). Has fear recently led you to disobey Him?

6. Write a one- or two-sentence description of a situation in which you are struggling to carry out God's instructions. Then identify in writing what is keeping you from fully obeying God in this situation. Pray about this, asking God to enable you.

## For Further Personal Study:

7. The expression in 1 Sam. 15:3, "devote to destruction" (ESV), "utterly destroy" (NASB), "totally destroy" (NIV) is literally, "put under a ban." This practice denotes setting aside something as the Lord's share. Usually such a ban meant that cities, persons, animals, and possessions were off-limits for Israel's use and were to be "devoted" only to Yahweh by destruction or, in the case of nonflammable precious metals, by placing them in Yahweh's treasury (cf. Joshua 6:17-21). All living things—men, women, children, and livestock—were to be killed. For many the concept of "utterly destroying" a people is troubling. How can this be the command of the God whose compassion is over all that he has made (Ps.