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**A New Beginning (1 Sam. 15:10-16:13)**

**Recap (1 Sam. 15:10-13)**

*10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 11 “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments.” And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. 12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, “Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal.” 13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD.”*

- Saul has been deteriorating, even threatening to kill his own son.
- Samuel gave Saul a commission to wipe out the Amalekites, but he and his men kept their best goods as plunder. Saul claims to have obeyed God, regardless.

**Saul Defends Himself (1 Sam. 15:14-21)**

*14 But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” 15 And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”*

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16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” And he said to him, “Speak on.” 17 So Samuel said, “When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? 18 Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?”

20 And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

- Saul’s response is to immediately shift the blame to the people.
- Being little in his own eyes could have been one of the roots of Saul’s problems, which is an incredible irony.
- Saul was degenerating into greed: “Why did you swoop down on the spoil?”

**To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice (1 Sam. 15:22)**

22 So Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is [as] the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is [as] iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

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- One of the greatest teachings on obedience and the dangers of “small sins.” **First**, the dangers of an outward show of serving God. Ultimately, only God knows our heart, and every one of us will stand before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
  - *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.* (1 Cor. 3:12-15)
- **Second**, Samuel makes a powerful and direct connection between sins of the heart and their more obvious manifestations.
  - In Hebrew the word for *like* or *as* is not present. It simply says *rebellion is the sin of witchcraft*.
  - This is the Hebrew word for *divination* [*qesem*]: seeking forbidden knowledge through the help of demonic spirits.
  - Rebellion and stubbornness are two different sides of the same coin of disobedience to God: pulling away from God and pushing back at Him.
  - People can **disobey** God’s Word, and also **reject** God’s Word.
  - Stubbornness is iniquity: the more we give place to it, the more it will deform and twist our character. Also, stubbornness is idolatry, because it also dethrones God and puts self on a throne in His place.
- **Third**, Saul conveys to Samuel that now that he has rejected the Word of Yahweh, Yahweh has also rejected him as king.

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### **Saul Seeks Honor (1 Sam. 15:24-31)**

*24 Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.”*

*26 But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”*

*27 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. 28 So Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent.”*

*30 Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.”*

*31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.*

- Now Saul admits that he sinned by disobeying God and Samuel.
- The cause of his disobedience? fearing the people and obeying **their** voice.
- Again Saul demonstrates that he is very much interested in receiving honor.
- The dramatic prophetic sign of the torn garment!
- How does God regret something? God might regret it, in the sense that He grieves over these events, but He won't turn away from His decision.

### **An Ending (1 Sam. 15:32-35)**

*32 Then Samuel said, “Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.” So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.”*

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*33 But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.*



- This is the end of one facet of Samuel’s ministry. He will no longer serve as a prophetic counselor to the king.

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- Samuel does the work of a king instead of a priest.
- Samuel still kept that merciful heart of an intercessor and mourned over Saul.
- God regretted that He had made Saul king. This doesn't mean that God made a mistake, or that this was not in His plan. But God nevertheless grieved in His heart about how things had ended up.

**A New Beginning (1 Sam. 16:1-5)**

*1 Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."*

*2 And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." But the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' 3 Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."*

*4 So Samuel did what the LORD said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"*

*5 And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.*

- Notice that this time the king will be anointed out of a ram's horn. This speaks of death, and a crucified life.
- Bethlehem was not a big place but was very important in Israel's history already.
- Jesse was the grandson of Ruth, made famous by the Book of Ruth.

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- God tells Samuel to tell the truth, but not to reveal everything about the trip.
- There is great apprehension at the arrival of Samuel.
- But God had provided, or literally seen, for Himself a king among the sons of Jesse. God is always looking for those whose heart is perfect towards Him.
- Samuel consecrates and invites Jesse's sons to the sacrifice.

**This Is The One! (1 Sam. 16:6-13)**

*6 So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!" 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

*8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."*

*And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here." 12 So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.*

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- Samuel immediately falls into the trap that the entire kingdom has fallen into. God looks at our heart, and the intensity of our love for Him.
- Seven had gone by, and David was now the eighth, the number of new beginnings in the Scripture. David is said to be the youngest or the **smallest**.
- He was out keeping the sheep, whereas when we first meet Saul, he is out looking for lost donkeys, the very picture of a poor shepherd.
- David was handsome, with a reddish complexion.
- Once he is anointed from the oil out of the horn, the Spirit comes on him from that day forward. This is the same language that was used of Saul. David receives honor by being anointed in front of his brothers. They are all witnesses.
- This began an adventure that would require about 22 years of preparation before David would reign over all of Israel.

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