1 Samuel Lesson 10 (2020)

**TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**

1 Samuel 15:1-35

Key Verse: 15:22

Open it:

1. What are some of the primary reasons people rationalize their behavior?

Explore it:

1. Read verses 1-9. What mission did God give Saul? (1-6; Dt. 25:17-19) How did Saul carry it out? (7-9)
2. Read verses 10-15. What was in the Lord’s heart and why did Samuel cry out? (10-11) In the meantime, what was Saul doing? (12) How did he rationalize himself? (13-15)
3. Read verses 16-21. How did Samuel rebuke Saul? (17-19) What was Saul’s problem? (Pr. 16:18) How were his words different from his real motives and actions? (20-21)
4. Read verses 22-23. What was Samuel’s divine oracle? As a leader of God’s people, why are obeying and heeding God’s word more important? (13:14; compare with Ac. 13:22) What does it mean to you? What are the roots of disobedience, and what are they equivalent to? (23a)
5. Read verses 24-35. In what respects was Saul’s repentance not authentic? (24-31) How did Samuel obey the Lord absolutely? (32-33) How did Saul’s failure affect both Samuel and the Lord? (34-35)

Apply it:

1. How can you place a higher value on obedience than on appearance or practical consideration in your life? How can you avoid rationalizing next time you are “caught in the act” of something you know you shouldn’t do?