

The Command - 1 Samuel 15:1-9

God calls Saul and gives him the mission of the total destruction of the Amalekites

The first theological hurdle: Why does God allow total destruction of a nation?

1. The Context: the mission is not without reason (Deut. 25:17-19)
2. See event through the lens of God's patience and mercy
 - a. God bears with our sins until a certain measure (Gen. 15:16)
 - b. wickedness that can grow in an unrepentant heart (Gen. 6:5)
 - c. God is just (Romans 2:1-4)
3. See through the lens of God – an impossible task, because we are not God
 - a. God purposes for a purpose (Romans 9:21-23)
 - b. 10 billion things we don't see God doing at any given moment in time
 - c. Trust in the all-wise God is needed

Saul disobeys the command yet defends that he is in the right

1. However, partial obedience is not obedience at all, rather total disobedience

The Rejection - 1 Samuel 15:10-23

The second theological hurdle: How can God regret?

1. God is capable of lamenting over something he chose to bring about
 - a. humanly example – a parent's discipline
 - b. John 11 – death of Lazarus
 - c. Always a reason behind God's actions – for his glory, but also for our good (Romans 8:28)

Disobedience is always the sin of idolatry, our original sin

1. Our hearts are deceptive in justifying our disobedience
 - a. even with good intention it is the sin of thinking my wisdom is higher
 - b. at worse, it is the inability to know what is right and wrong

The Repentance? (Or the lack thereof) - 1 Samuel 15:24-35

Saul is sorry about the consequence that he must face, but being sorry the consequences is not repentance

1. Saul still only cares about his honor

Application:

Rejection of the Lord is Real

1. Rejection of the Lord is Scary
2. The fullness of God's rejection might be slow in coming, but it is sure
3. We give thanks for Christ's blood that evades the ultimate rejection, but should move us to action

Rejection of the Lord is Real (now you are rejecting the Lord)

1. God is just in his actions
2. Our hearts are double minded in rebellion towards God
3. Today, there can be the joy of repentance

Discussion Questions:

1. The message dealt with two tougher theological concepts which can pose a potential mind block towards God. How do you usually deal with difficult questions in the Bible? What are some areas in your life where you do not understand why God is doing what He is doing?
2. Saul justifies his disobedience using his own logic. Are there any partial obedience in your life that you try to justify? What is a way we can combat this?
3. We saw that the Rejection of the Lord is real (God's and ours). Spend some time sharing and praying for areas in your life that need a true changing of hear. Spend some time sharing and praying for people in your life that do not know the Lord. Pray for courage and chances to share the gospel with them.