

**These Three Kings:
On the Life of King Saul**

June 24, 2007

“Fear of Obedience”

1 Samuel 11-15

Introduction:

Obedience, is it a burden or a pathway? Now that Saul has been crowned king, he and the people are given one instruction to follow and that is to obey the Lord's commands. Unfortunately, they do not and the result is painful for Saul and the people.

Interpretation of the Story:

Applying the Story:

1. Obedience is the ultimate _____ .
It is our _____ to God's love, authority,
and faithfulness.

2. Obedience is our _____ that God's ways
are _____ .

Going Deeper

1. Read the account of the battle with the Ammonites in 1 Samuel 11. What strikes you about Saul compared to his action of hiding behind the baggage in chapter 10?
2. How would you characterize Saul's disobedience in chapters 13 and 15? Does it seem like an overreaction by Samuel and by God? Why or why not?
3. What does Samuel mean when he says that God desires obedience over sacrifice? In light of this and other verses, how would you define worship?
4. Read Romans 12:1. What does it mean to offer ourselves as living sacrifices?
5. How is it that obedience is more of a response than it is a command? What is at the root of obedience?
6. Is obedience a burden in your mind or a pathway to God's blessings? What is the difference? What will the result be of each mindset?
7. Make a list of specific things that God has commanded us to do in obedience. Is that list overwhelming or exciting?
8. Are there specific areas of disobedience in your life? God offers us forgiveness and restoration as we confess those areas. Are you willing to do that even today? What difference would obedience bring in your life?

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