**TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE**

1 Samuel 15:1-35 (Key verse 22)

*But Samuel replied: “Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

1. How did Samuel persuade Saul to listen to the message from the Lord (1)? What was the message of the Lord to Saul, and why (2-3)? How could this be a difficult instruction to obey? What did Saul do (4-7)? Why did he spare the Kenites (6)? What can you say about the Lord’s judgement and mercy on the Amalekites and Kenites respectively?
2. What did Saul fail to do, and why (8-9)? What did God regret (10-11)? Why was Samuel angry? Where was Saul, and what did he set up when Samuel went to meet him (12)? What did Samuel confront Saul about, and how did he defend himself (14-21)? What did Samuel teach Saul about (22-23)? What does *“to obey is better than sacrifice, to heed is better than the fat of rams”* mean?
3. What did Saul realize, and beg for (24-25)? What was the result of his sin (23b, 26-29)? What was Saul much more concerned about (30)? Why did Samuel go back with Saul (31, 32-33)? What did Agag king of the Amalekites hope for (32) But what was the Lord’s judgment on him (33)? Where did Samuel go, and what about Saul (34)? How was the relationship between Saul and Samuel affected (35)? What can we learn from Samuel?