

Sermon Notes

12/18/05

www.cvillechurch.com

The times the people of Israel were obedient and disobedient.

Comparison made of the disobedience of Saul and the obedience of David.

Where do we stand, with Satan or with God?

Exodus 14

When Moses lead the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt, he lead them to a land promised by God. Even as they were leaving, when they came to the Red Sea and were trapped there by the pursuing armies of Pharaoh, they turned against Moses, and thusly against God. Yet God in His mercy gave them deliverance in parting the sea so that they could continue to this land.

Exodus 15-16

After 3 days marching they were without water. Again the people grumbled. Moses called out to God and He gave sweet water to the people. He provided manna. He provided quail meat. He provided what was needed, even when the people were rejecting Him by their grumbling.

Exodus 17

When the people again thirsted, God gave them water from the rock, even though they tested the Lord with their grumbling. And when the Amalekites came to battle with them at Rephidim, the victory was given to them. By God. And God told Moses to write in a book as a memorial that He would utterly blot out the memory of Amalek for this attack on His people. Even though the people tested God constantly, He kept His promise to Abraham that from him a great nation would rise. All they had to do was obey His voice and all would be well for them.

Exodus 32

When Moses went to Mt. Sinai to receive the law, the people turned completely against God by making the molten image of a golden calf, proclaiming this calf as the god that lead them out of Egypt. God saw fit to utterly destroy them because of their disobedience, yet relented when Moses pleaded for the people. In verses 31-35 we read, "Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin, but if not I pray, blot me out of Your book which you have written." And the Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. Now therefore go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin." So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

Numbers 13

When they arrived at the land of Caanan, the 12 spies were sent in to give a report of the situation there. Of the 12, only Joshua and Caleb told the people that they could take the land. But the report given by the other 10 spies convinced the people that it would be better to return to Egypt, even prompting them to try to select a leader that would take them back to bondage. Not even the entreaty of Joshua and Caleb could change their minds. God again determined to destroy them, and would have but for Moses pleading for them. When God pronounced that they must wander in the wilderness for their sin, they rejected His punishment and tried to enter THEN, and were punished for this disobedience. Yet always the plan remained the same. They would be given the land and become a holy people to God.

Joshua 1

When, after 40 years, the people finally did enter Caanan, they crossed the Jordan, lead by the ark of the covenant of God. Jericho fell to the people because of their initial obedience to Gods commands. Yet every time they acted without His counsel or in disobedience to His commands they failed. Achan took of the spoils of the city, so they were defeated at Ai. Though commanded to slay and utterly drive out all the inhabitants of the land, Joshua made an oath to the Gibeonites not to slay them. Yet still God gave the land into their hand.

Judges

Because they had made oath with these inhabitants, and had not torn down their altars, they had not obeyed the voice of the Lord. God pronounced that because of this these peoples would always be a thorn in their side, and their gods a snare. And after the death of Joshua, the people began to serve the baals, forsaking the Lord. As punishment, He delivered them into the hands of the peoples they should have destroyed. In His great mercy, He raised up judges to deliver them from their oppressors. As long as they heeded the judges, they had peace. When the judge was dead, they would turn again and walk even more corruptly than before, till finally, in chapter 2:21 He said He would no longer drive them out nor deliver them into Joshuas hand. The idolators would always be there to lure and ensnare them into unrighteous conduct. The God who had delivered them would not be glorified as He should have been.

1st Samuel

Samuel was a righteous man who knew the Lord. When he became a judge of Israel in chapter 7, he told them to put away the foreign gods and sacred groves and to serve the Lord. They seemingly turned back to God, and He gave them deliverance from the Philistines. And eventually they turned from God again, in asking for a king to judge them, like the other nations. God told Samuel to give them a king, for they were not rejecting Samuel, they were rejecting God. And in so doing, He told him to warn the people that this king would be very self serving, and they would seek deliverance, but none would be given. This is very much like the old saying, "Be careful what you ask for. You may just get it." God told Samuel to anoint Saul as king. Even in their disobedience in asking for a king, God had pity on them because of the Philistines. So Saul became king, and Samuels counsel was this. Serve God, don't turn from His commandments. Obey His voice and He would teach them the good and right way.

1st Samuel 15

The spirit of the Lord was with Saul initially. He could have obeyed His voice and glorified God in his actions, yet he did not. He made dubious decisions that eventually would cost him his kingdom and his life. He gave a burnt offering in violation of Gods law that Samuel reproached him for, telling him that God would raise up another to take his place. He commanded the people not to eat until vengeance had been taken on his enemies, so that whoever did eat would be cursed. The end result of this was that the people ate meat with blood, another transgression. This brings us up to chapter 15. God commanded that the Amalekites be utterly destroyed, because of their attack on the people at Rephidim. Everything was to be destroyed, all men, women, children, infants and flocks. Everything was to be destroyed. This may seem harsh in the mind of today's people, but it was the command of the Lord. Who is the clay, to question the potter?

Instead, Saul took king Agag alive and allowed the people to take the best of the flocks and the spoils of the city. God, in seeing this, repented that He had made Saul king, and told Samuel so. When Saul declared to Samuel in verse 13 that he had performed the commandment of the Lord, Samuels response was "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of oxen that I hear?" Saul tried to put the responsibility on the people, but as king it was his responsibility to make them obey, and he did not. Worse still, he tried to claim that he had done as God commanded. He just would not accept the fact that HE had sinned. Samuel declared to him, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" Against this Saul could not argue except to admit that he had sinned, but it was too late. God would anoint another over him.

1st Samuel 16

God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse to find His elect. Seven sons passed before him before David was presented to him. God told him that David was to be the one to be anointed, and when Samuel anointed him the Spirit of the Lord descended on him, and departed from Saul. Though Saul retained power, David was king. And where Saul was disobedient, David would be very different. Saul was a fully grown man who had Gods spirit with him, yet he failed. David was a boy who had Gods spirit and walked rightly. Each came from similar, humble beginnings, but Saul was self willed and disobedient. David fully trusted in God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.

1st Samuel 17:41-54

David's first great act, that of slaying Goliath the giant, demonstrated his complete faith in God's greatness, and his disdain for an enemy of God. He answered Goliaths taunting's by replying "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." Then they ran at each other! A man about 9 feet tall against a boy. And before Goliath could respond, David lobbed a stone at him so hard that it sank into his forehead. David cut off his head, the army of Israel slew the Philistines with a great slaughter, and he brought Goliaths head back to Israel. In this God

was glorified and all knew His name.

The ends of both men

David's success grew, his fame spread, and Saul became jealous. He sought David's life and harried him constantly. Yet it was David who had the greatest chance to slay him. He did not hate Saul, and honored him as king, twice passing up the opportunity to rid himself of his oppressor. Saul went so far, at the end, to consult with the late Samuel through the witch of En Dor, because the Lord had departed from him and gave him no answer to his entreaties. And from the grave, Samuel told him again that God had taken the kingdom from him because of his actions regarding Agag and the Amalekites. (1st Samuel 28:18) In the end his sons were slain, he was wounded and alone, and finding no one willing to slay him, fell on his own sword. Imagine, once having had the Spirit of God in you, and this being your end.

David himself sinned, in that he committed adultery with Bathsheba and caused Uriah the Hittite to fall in the thick of battle so that he could take her to wife. And because of this, God caused great strife in David's house. David confessed to God his sins (Psalms 51). We have no evidence that Saul ever did anything more than admit he had sinned. There is a difference. It is through a contrite and broken heart that God hears the sinners plea for repentance. David is spoken of in Hebrews 11:32-33 of having the faith that subdued kingdoms and worked righteousness. The opposite examples of both these men should be evident to us as heirs of adoption through our relationship with Christ the savior. If we walk rightly before God, and glorify Him in our actions, and demonstrate the faith of righteousness, our race will be well run, our reward guaranteed. READ HEBREWS 12:1-2. If we vacillate and are unsure of God's forgiveness, or stiff necked, proud and unwilling to submit to the authority of our Master, our end will be like Saul's, for we will fall on our own sword of ruin, a sword of our making. Let us focus on a spiritual life, and glorify God, if we hope to live ever with Him.