Introduction

Saul was successful as a military leader, but he had one serious character flaw. He would not listen and it cost him the kingdom.

What does God expect of leaders?
What does God expect of us?

Listen and obey.

I. Partial obedience is disobedience.
I SAMUEL 15:1-11

Saul was in a unique position as Israel's king.
- The Lord made him king.
- The king (Saul) had to submit to the prophet (Samuel).
- The people were not Saul's people, but God's.

Samuel brought a message from God. The time has come when God is going to carry out his judgment on the Amalekites.

Everything was to be destroyed – given over to the Lord – just like the battle of Jericho.
Saul attacked and destroyed the Amalekites except for two things:

- He spared Agag, their king.
- He spared the best of the livestock.

God was grieved that he made Saul king. Verses 10-11

- Saul has turned away from me.
- Saul has not obeyed my commands.

Partial obedience is disobedience. It is saying to God, we know better.

II. We can be blinded by our own sin. I SAMUEL 15:12-23

How was Saul blinded by his sin?

- He set up a monument in his own honor. Verse 12
- He said, “I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.” Verse 13
- He exaggerated his obedience. Verses 20-21

He destroyed many, but not all of the Amalekites. In the book of Esther, Haman is an Agagite (an Amalekite). And Mordecai is from the tribe of Benjamin, the same tribe as Saul.
To obey is better than sacrifice. God wants our devotion and our sacrifice. We can be blind to our own sin.

- Idolatry
- Greed
- Immorality

III. What will we do with our sin?
I Samuel 15:24-35

Saul's response is classic. Verse 15

- He blamed others.
- He rationalized his actions.

We do that too.

Sadly, his repentance seems insincere. (Verses 24-31) Saul seemed more concerned about his image and his honor than God’s. The kingdom would be torn from his hand and given to a neighbor, David.

Conclusion

- Confess it to God.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9

- Repent – turn away from our sin.

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Acts 3:19
• Be filled with the Holy Spirit

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.”
Ephesians 5:18