

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

1 SAMUEL 15

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While King Saul had some good days and great victories, his heart became proud. This was evidenced by his incomplete obedience in the matter of the Amalekites. God's Word is true, always. ***"Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'"*** (vv.2-3) God had remembered what the Amalekites had done when the children of Israel had come out of Egypt and were attacked. God had been merciful 400 years. Now Saul was acting like he knew better than God. He spared the life of the wicked king Agag. He spared the best of the sheep, oxen and fatlings. This thing displeased the LORD. God saw it all and it was the last act He would tolerate. God told Samuel that He had rejected Saul because of his self-will. Samuel said to Saul, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not the head of the tribes of Israel. Saul decided he knew better than God. That is a very dangerous position.

I Samuel 15:22-23 has an often-quoted passage of Scripture throughout the remainder of the Bible. ***"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."*** God would rather us obey than to need to repent over our disobedience to Him. Just like we would rather our children obey us than to have to go through the separation and grief that is caused by disobedience. God says that stubbornness is as iniquity or twisting or sin to seek to justify our guilt; or to be so self-willed that we become a god unto ourselves, which is a form of idolatry.

Prayer and Action Steps

Our fellowship with God is maintained one moment at a time. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible?
