

COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER SERMON SUMMARY, 01/19/14

1 Samuel 14-15 — "Rejection," Ryan Kelly

In short: The kingdom is taken from Saul for his disobedience to God's voice, which reveals our need for a perfect king.

SUNDAY'S OUTLINE

1. The Need for a Righteous King (chapters 1-14)
2. The Need for Divine Vengeance (15:1-3)
3. The Need for Full Obedience (15:1-23)
4. The Need for True Repentance (15:15-30)
5. The Need for Another King (15:23-35)

HELP FOR UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING THE SERMON TEXT

1. What went through your mind when you saw God's instructions for Saul to destroy the Amalekites? Ryan gave us a summary of how to think about God's justice and judgment? What were some of these points? How was God's judgment of the Amalekites actually a sign of God's patience? Has God changed since then? The doctrine of God's wrath is a touch one at times, but what is there to lose in giving it up or ignoring it?
2. For what sin was Saul removed as king? Was this surprising to you? Saul was guilty of an initial sin, but many other sins followed surrounding his confrontation. How did Saul's sin go from bad to worse? What are some words to describe Saul's response to his own sin? How have you tempted to soothe your conscience when in sin? Ryan said that we will likely identify more with Saul in this story than any other character. Was this true for you, and how?
3. How can 1 Samuel 15 help us grow in our commitment to read, hear, and love the Bible? How specifically can you be more serious about "hearing the voice of God" in your life and with your family? How can we as a group foster more accountability in the Word?
4. What does all of this have to do with Jesus Christ? Or, put another way, how does the obedience required of Saul point us to the gospel?

QUOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND OTHER MATERIAL FROM THE SERMON

Six things that can and should be said about God's justice and judgment:

1. God is righteous and just in all he does.
2. The whole world is in rebellion against God and thus, deserves God's judgment.
3. The Amalekites were fitting objects of God's judgment (Ex. 17:14; Deut. 25:17-19).
4. It's important to remember that God restrains evil in this world.
5. None of this means that God calls Christians today to go wipe out a people or even a person.
6. 1 Sam 15 is a blip on the screen. It's a foreshadow of the final judgment to come. In that sense, ignoring or trying to take out or explain away 1 Sam 15 will do us no good.

In Saul, we see that God gave Israel just what they asked for:

1. A king who is impressive and tall on the outside, but full of fear and self-focus on the inside.
2. A king who relies on human strength and human reasoning.
3. A king who is impetuous and impatient.
4. One willing to kill his own son for unknowingly breaking one of his arbitrary, senseless oaths.
5. One who is not for the people, but for himself.
6. One who celebrates his military victories with a monument to himself.
7. One who "rejects God's Word" and will "not listen to the voice of the Lord."