

BIG IDEA

To obey is better than sacrifice

...to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22, HCSB)

To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:1-35

PRINCIPLE: No matter how crazy it may seem, when God tells me to do something, I need to obey.

*“Samuel told Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you as king over His people Israel. Now, listen to the words of the Lord. This is what the Lord of Hosts says: ‘I witnessed what the Amalekites did to the Israelites when they opposed them along the way as they were coming out of Egypt. Now go and attack the Amalekites and **completely destroy** everything they have. Do not spare them. Kill men and women, children and infants, oxen and sheep, camels and donkeys.’ ””*
(1 Samuel 15:1–3, HCSB)

PRINCIPLE: I need to be God-pleaser, not a people-pleaser.

“Saul and the troops spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, cattle, and choice animals, as well as the young rams and the best of everything else. They were not willing to destroy them, but they did destroy all the worthless and unwanted things.” (1 Samuel 15:9, HCSB)

PRINCIPLE: Obeying God is always right, but that doesn’t mean it will be easy to do.

...So Samuel became angry and cried out to the Lord all night.” (1 Samuel 15:10–11, HCSB)

“When Samuel came to him, Saul said, “May the Lord bless you. I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.” Samuel replied, “Then what is this sound of sheep and cattle I hear?””
(1 Samuel 15:13–14, HCSB)

PRINCIPLE: My obedience to God is more important than my image in front of others.

“Saul answered Samuel, “I have sinned. I have transgressed the Lord’s command and your words. Because I was afraid of the people, I obeyed them.”
(1 Samuel 15:24, HCSB)

PRINCIPLE: Disobedience has short-term and long-term consequences.

For Saul, he lost his kingship, and eventually his life.

For Samuel, he lost a friend.

For God, it broke His heart.

“Even to the day of his death, Samuel never again visited Saul. Samuel mourned for Saul, and the Lord regretted He had made Saul king over Israel.” (1 Samuel 15:35, HCSB)

To obey is better than sacrifice
I don't need your money, I want your life
And I hear you say that I'm coming back soon
But you act like I'll never return

Well you speak of grace and my love so sweet
How you thrive on milk but reject my meat
And I can't help weeping of how it will be
If you keep on ignoring my words
Well you pray to prosper and succeed
But your flesh is something I just can't feed

To obey is better than sacrifice
I want more than Sundays and Wednesday nights
'Cause if you can't come to me everyday
Then don't bother coming at all

To obey is better than sacrifice
I want hearts of fire, not your prayers of ice
And I'm coming quickly to give back to you
According to what you have done
According to what you have done
According to what you have done