

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

August 5, 2013

Compromising for what is wrong

I recall getting into my truck and placing my lunch bag on the floor of the cab. After driving for a while, I noticed some ants trying to get into my lunch bag. I stopped the truck, grabbed the bag and jumped out in an attempt to get rid of the ants. A gentleman saw me, stopped and he just happened to be an exterminator. He advised me that I would need to have the entire cab sprayed to eliminate the ant problem. By taking the truck to the truck shop, I knew they could easily eliminate the problem. Instead, I bought a can of ant spray and sprayed the truck myself. The next day, I had even more ants. Instead of listening to the gentleman at the first sign of trouble, I took the matter into my own hands. I was delayed two hours because I chose to ignore the advice of an expert. As a result, I did not finish my route until after 6 p.m., and as well, missing my appointment at 4:30 p.m.

1 SAMUEL 15:13-23 NLT – (13) When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. "May the LORD bless you," he said. "I have carried out the LORD's command!" (14) "Then what is all the bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cattle I hear?" Samuel demanded. (15) "It's true that the army spared the best of the sheep, goats, and cattle," Saul admitted. "But they are going to sacrifice them to the LORD your God. We have destroyed everything else." (16) Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! Listen to what the LORD told me last night!" "What did he tell you?" Saul asked. (17) And Samuel told him, "Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The LORD has anointed you king of Israel. (18) And the LORD sent you on a mission and told you, 'Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.' (19) Why haven't you obeyed the LORD? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the LORD's sight?" (20) "But I did obey the LORD," Saul insisted. "I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. (21) Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." (22) But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. (23) Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

Saul's refusal to totally conquer the Amalekites costs him his kingdom. Disobedience is a most serious sin. The text not only exposes Saul's sin, it also exposes our own sin. Saul is willing to do things we might never even consider – like killing little children. Would we have put the Amalekite children to death as Saul did? If not, why? The above text addresses the nature of Saul's disobedience, eerily similar to the disobedience prevalent among Christians today. The text holds important lessons for us to learn about Saul's disobedience and its consequences, along with our own disobedience to God's commands.

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 12:3

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: God is as good as His word.

