

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

August 24, 2015

Stay in Your Lane

1 SAMUEL 15:10-13 NKJV – (10) Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, (11) "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. (12) So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." (13) Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

Our lesson today is about Saul who had a good start as a king, but was tripped up by a giant "MY-OWN-WAY" resulting in a very bad ending.

Samuel, the gray-headed old prophet, came to Saul and said, "God wants you to take your army and go out to battle against the Amalekites. Those are the wicked people who fought against Moses and the Israelites when they came out of Egypt, and God has not forgotten the sins of the Amalekites. Because they have continued to do wrong, now God wants you to destroy them all. You must not save any alive, nor even their oxen and sheep and camels and asses must you not keep for yourselves; for God commands that they all be killed."

Then after the battle ended Saul and the soldiers looked about upon the flocks and herds that belonged to the Amalekites, and they saw many valuable cattle and sheep and playful little lambs. "We will save the best," they said, "and kill the others." So they returned again to the land of Israel, bringing Agag, the king of the Amalekites, and the best of the cattle and sheep and lambs. God told Samuel what Saul had done, that he had dared to disobey the command given, and Samuel knew that Saul had turned away from serving God.

We are all born with something in our hearts that likes to have its own way. But Samuel could not be fooled so easily. (Saul had done wrong, and tried covering up his sin to make Samuel believe that he had done all of God's command.) "I have performed the commandment of the Lord," Saul said. But the old prophet said, "Then what is the meaning of the noise of bleating sheep and lowing cattle that I hear?" "Those have been spared to sacrifice to the Lord," answered the king. "They were the best of the flocks and herds, and my soldiers thought it would be better to keep them alive. So we have brought them to sacrifice to God." Saul tried to place the blame for the disobedience upon his soldiers, but Samuel said, "Stop – Let me tell you what God spoke to me last night." Still Saul tried to excuse himself and blame his soldiers for sparing what they deemed best; Samuel told him plainly that God had turned away from him, stating, "It is better to obey God than to sacrifice to God."

"I have sinned," cried the king at last, "because I feared the people and obeyed their voice." Saul was still unwilling to admit that he sinned by his own choice. He wanted Samuel to forgive him, but Samuel turned to go away. Then Saul caught hold of Samuel's mantle (which is his coat) and tore it, and Samuel said, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel away from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is a better man."

It is never about us and always about God. Listen carefully to His instructions. "Stay in your lane" - complete the task.

SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 1:2

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Conduct ourselves as somebody and our children will be somebody.