

Home Small Group Lesson
“Listening to the Right Voice”
1 Samuel 15

Start It Up

* Opening Ice Breaker:

Describe a situation where you experienced trouble or pain because you listened to the wrong voice (ie. Poor business counsel, bad tax advice, road directions that put you in dangerous part of town...)

Talk it Over

* Sermon Summary—Three Symptoms of Being a People Pleaser

1. People Pleasing Downplays God’s Commands

2. People Pleasing Shifts the Blame to Others

3. People Pleasing Replaces Repentance with Remorse

- * Which part of the sermon impacted you, gave insight, challenged you, encouraged you or helped give direction for life?

- * Samuel gives Saul and all Israel a challenge and a warning in 1 Samuel 12:14-15. Samuel encourages the people to fear the Lord (not to be afraid, but to have such respect and reverence so that His Words have such a prominent place in their lives). Why didn’t Saul follow this advice? What are the reasons we don’t follow this advice?

- * Saul clearly heard the command from the Lord to kill the Amalekites (v.3). Why would God give such a command (Exodus 17:14) and why did Saul not obey? What commands of God do we find hard to obey because of what others might think? Can you think of situations when we are disobedient to the Bible having determined that obedience does not make sense to us or to those around us?

- * How was Saul selectively obedient to the command regarding the Amalekites? Aren’t you glad selective obedience no longer happens today? Illustrations of selective obedience

- * Saul made excuses when he was confronted by his disobedience? What were his excuses and how did he shift the blame? What is the rationale behind the practice of blaming others (See Genesis 3 blaming others has been around for awhile)? What would have been a better response of Saul when he (and we) was confronted with his disobedience? Hint: 1 John 1:9.

- * What is the difference between repentance and remorse? Notice the pronouns in 1 Samuel 15:30.

- * So where did Saul go wrong? If we look at this passage we find exactly where Saul got off course and willfully chose to rebel. V. 24-“I was afraid of men, so I gave into them”.

Saul feared other people more than God.

Sermon in a sentence- WHEN WE LIVE TO PLEASE PEOPLE, WE FAIL TO PLEASE GOD

Pray it Over

- * Like Danelle on the slopes, we speed through life at 70 MPH and we hear a lot of different voices, what will you do differently to clearly hear the voice of God?
- * Are there areas in your life of disobedience or selective obedience where you need to REPENT and change your behavior?
- * Give thanks to the Lord that He is not silent and He has given us His Word that will thoroughly equip us for every good work 2 Timothy 3:16-17. If you are not regularly in the Bible (God's Word), would you make a commitment today to begin? Commit to participating in weekend worship at New Hope, join a Home Small Group and personally study God's Word.