

Message 10
Obedience

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► **Outline**

Today's Message based on 1 Samuel 13 and 15.

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."

1 Samuel 15:22 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(1 Samuel 13:1-7a)

B. Obedience refuses control by...

1. _____.
**(1 Samuel 13:7b-14. C/R: Proverbs 3:5;
Philippians 2:12-13; James 1:2-5)**

2. _____.
**(1 Samuel 15:1-13. C/R: Proverbs 16:18; Philippians 2:3; 1
Peter 5:6-7)**

3. _____.
**(1 Samuel 15:14-35. C/R: Psalm 27:1; Proverbs 29:25;
Hebrews 13:6)**

Answers: 1. Circumstances 2. Pride 3. People

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide with friends or on your own to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. Carve out time to reflect, learn and talk with God. Find a Small Group at brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups. For additional Bible Study tools, guides and devotionals, check out blueletterbible.org.

Conversation Starter

What is the difference between confidence and arrogance?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [1 Samuel 13:1-7](#).

1. Describe the situation Saul and Jonathan were facing. In a sentence or two, summarize this opening scene (vs. [1-5](#)).
2. How did the Israelites respond to what was happening (vs. [6-7](#))?

Read [1 Samuel 13:8-14](#).

3. What did Saul do when things weren't going as planned (vs. [8-9](#))?
4. How did Saul try to justify his actions (vs. [11-12](#))?
5. What weaknesses are we beginning to see in Saul (vs. [13-14](#))?

Read [1 Samuel 15:1-11](#).

6. What did the Lord command Saul to do (vs. [1-3](#))?
7. What did Saul do instead, and how did this affect his relationship with both God and Samuel (vs. [4-11](#))?

Read [1 Samuel 15:16-31](#).

8. What did Samuel name as the root of Saul's problem (vs. [17](#))?

9. As you reflect back over these two episodes in Saul's life, how did insecurity and a low view of himself lead to disobedience, fear and defensiveness? How did these show up throughout the stories?
10. Jesus is the perfect King. Unlike Saul, Jesus obeyed the Father and carried out His mission perfectly. How does the Good News of Jesus Christ enable us to live in greater obedience to God?

Soul Training: *Learning to Live in Our New Identity*

God is not only the King of the universe, He is also a deeply kind and loving Father. He sent Jesus to make us His sons and daughters ([2 Corinthians 6:18](#); [Galatians 4:4-7](#); [1 John 3:2](#)). Because of Jesus, we no longer have to carry the burden of shame and guilt. How can seeing yourself as God sees you help you live differently this week? Ask God to help you live in this new identity.

If you haven't experienced God's forgiveness and grace, we'd love the opportunity to talk with you about a life-changing relationship with Jesus. Email mark.taylor@brookwoodchurch or call 864.688.8211.

Memory Verse

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."

[1 Samuel 15:22 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [Proverbs 29:25](#)

Day 4: [2 Corinthians 6:16-18](#)

Day 2: [Psalm 27:1](#)

Day 5: [Romans 5:18-21](#)

Day 3: [Philippians 2:12-13](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 25, we'll continue our series *Belonging to God: The Life of Samuel*. To prepare for the message, spend a few quiet moments reading [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#); [25:1](#).