What Does God Want From Me?

Greg Kline · 1 Samuel 15:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- Consider the question, what does God actually want from me?
- God wants all of our heart. He wants our complete devotion to him. Not most of it, not a lot of it, not 99% of it.

1 What Did God Want From Saul?

1 Samuel 15:1–3; Deuteronomy 25:17–19; Exodus 17

- Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them.
- Is God just and holy? If he is, then our understanding is what is lacking.
- You shall blot out the memory of them. That is sure. That is from God. Was it just? Absolutely it was.

2 Saul Did Most of What Was Right

1 Samuel 15:4–11

- But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen of the fat and calves and the lambs, and all that was good and would not utterly destroy them.
- Complete annihilation is what God asked for, and that is not what Saul delivered.
- It's that Saul did most of what was right. He did a lot of good.

3 Saul's Excuses: The People Spared the Animals

1 Samuel 15:13–19

- Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.
- Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?
- The idea is that Saul purposely knew what God said and didn't do it. Do you see that's a heart problem? God wants our heart.
- There is no understanding of God that would say, I can do what's wrong and please God in so doing.

4 To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:20–23; Amos 1:3–2:6

- We have to conclude God expects complete devotion to his will.
- Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.
- Who would be happy if your spouse was faithful 90, 95% of the time? Would any one of us say, that's close enough? No.
- For three transgressions of Judah and for four, I will not revoke the punishment. Because they have rejected the law of the Lord.

5 God's Judgment Is Just and Sure

Deuteronomy 25:17–19; 2 Peter 3:4–9

- Do you see that God's judgment is just and sure?
- Just because God didn't come and get them right away does not mean that God wasn't going to do what he says.
- The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
- God is sparing the world so that we will turn to him, turn to God, submit to his will today.

6 Total Commitment and Obedience, Not a Legalistic Exercise

1 Samuel 13:14; 2 Samuel 12:7–13; Luke 9:57–62

- God expects total commitment and obedience. This is not some sort of legalistic exercise.
- But the beauty is Jesus died to forgive us of our sins. We are to be raised a new creature.
- He wants me to be a slave of righteousness.
- David said to Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord.
- No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Let's devote ourselves to God. What does God want from me? He wants my heart. He wants my commitment. Be God's child today.**

MY NOTES