

Spoken Word no. 188

God Demands Obedience not Works

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Matthew 19:16- 20:16 *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? 17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 20 The young man saith unto him, **All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?***

Notice that he did everything that he thought was required by God but yet he still felt empty, and he knew that he was still lacking something. And you know what it was? Jesus knew that his accumulations had become his god. And he needed to empty himself of that which drew him away from Christ.

*21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt **be perfect**, (if thou shalt be of full age and fully mature) **go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.** 22 But when the young man heard that saying, **he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.** 23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. 25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, **Who then can be saved?** 26 But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. 27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, **we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?** 28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon **twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** 29 And **every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.** 30 But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.*

Chapter 20:1 *For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2 And when he had agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4 And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5 Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7 They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.*

8 So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9 And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. 10 But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11 And when they had received it, they murmured against the good man of the house, 12 Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and **thou hast made them equal unto us**, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13 But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14 Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15 Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but **few chosen**.

And that is exactly what both of these Scriptures show. Many are called but only a few are chosen. We read that several times in paragraph 40 from the Spoken Word is the Original Seed and paragraph where brother Branham really emphasized that if the Scripture says few it means few. Now, this morning we will continue in reading from the Spoken Word is the original Seed and pick up at paragraph 42 "*Oh, you know, **we used to be Pentecostal**. We stood down on the corner with a tambourine in our hand and **prayed**; and the women standing there and their long hair hanging down and praising God and things like that.*" Oh, my, goodness, you know better than to do that. They'd laugh right in your face, a real Christian would. Standing out there with a pot of bobbed hair up like that and a big pan of paint on like that and a dress looked like a skinned-down wiener, and going out like that, and. So does the world know better than that. Shame on you. You had better stay off the corner... If you can't produce no more than that. I'm not critical, I'm not beside myself. I'm telling you the Truth, and you'll find out in the days to come that... But it's just like it's always been; it'll always go over and then they won't see it till it's too far. They've did it every time. They've done, done it.

43 ***Jehovah's bride wanted to go whoring after the rest of the people, like the rest of them.** That's what Jesus' bride wanted to do. Old Samuel, who the Word came to... who did the Word come to? the prophets. Why, that old prophet walked up and said, "Now, just a minute, children. Why do you want to go out after that for?" Said, "**Have I ever told you anything in the Name of the Lord but what come to pass?**" Remember that? How many ever read that? Sure you have. "**Have I ever told you anything in the Name of the Lord but what come to pass? And another thing, did I go out holding big campaigns, or so forth, and taking all your money away from you? Did I,**" he said, "**I ever beg any...**" I'm talking about Samuel now, somebody the Word of the Lord came to. He said, "**Did I ever ask you to take--to put in so much and do such-and-such?**" "No," they said, "no, you never did that. You never did tell us anything but what was right." He said, "**Then why would you want to go out after that?**" And he said, "**Samuel, you're so right, but we want it anyhow.**"*

44 That's just exactly what the Pentecostal church done. That's the reason I don't join them. Sure, **I want to stay a virgin before God with His Word.** Whether they... I don't have to have no great big shows and things like this; I've refused it. I didn't want to get myself tied up. That wasn't my wisdom; that was God's wisdom. If I had to go out so I could--had to "sucker around" with the people and the devil and tell them, "Yes, I have to have so much for a telecast, and I have to have so much of this; you got to pay for it," I'd have to pull strings like that too. But **I've never told you nothing in the Name of the Lord but what would come to pass. I've never told you nothing but the Word.** Judge yourselves. **Have I ever asked you for anything?** No, sir. No, **God's taken care of that. I don't have no big programs to support.** I wouldn't have one. **Everyone that belongs to God will hear God. Just feel led of the Spirit where to go and what to do and do that.** That's all that's necessary. Keep that, not a great big money making program with millions of dollars in it--millions and millions and millions, and some of them now building millions and billions of dollars in it.

45 I don't feel bad about criticizing; It's due criticism. I don't want to hurt nobody's feelings, but I'd rather hurt some man's feelings to hurt God's feelings. **If He commissions you and sent you out here to do these things and proved it amongst the people, then you ought to hear it.** I'm telling you the Truth. God's proving it's the Truth. Not only signs, but He's proving it by His Word it's the Truth. It's exactly right.

46 So Jehovah's bride went whoring, and what did she do? **she brought forth a bunch of illegitimates again.** Is that right? We know it's the Truth. Even had to be taken away by King Nebuchadnezzar and so forth. **Christ's Bride's done the same. What's the matter? Can't wait.** Oh, no. Huh-uh, **just can't wait. They have to manufacture something.** They can't wait for the Holy Spirit to come and get into the church. See, they have to get more in their denomination. If it'd stayed the way it was back yonder a hundred years ago, or fifty years ago, when Pentecost first started out in this latter day, when the Word begin to be preached, **if it'd stayed like that, she probably wouldn't have had over fifty members today.** That's right. **But they would be blood washed. They'd had the power of God in them. The world would be shaken under her tremendous impact of the Word flesh being spoke word by word.** But today, why, it's a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. That's right. **Just become nonsense, a laughing block, a disgrace to the world, a disgrace to God.**

Now, what brother Branham is telling us here about Samuel he is actually making the point that he as Samuel has lived true to God, and his motives have been very clear all along, and the people know it.

Let's see this story for ourselves about Samuel in **1 Samuel 8:1 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba. 3 And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. 6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.**

7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, **Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.** 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. 9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet **protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.** 10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. 11 And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. 18 And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. 19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. 21 And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. 22 And the LORD said to Samuel, **Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king.** And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, **Go ye every man unto his city.**

Now, notice that even though a vindicated Prophet told them what they would get by choosing a king rather than have God for their king, they chose to go ahead with it any way. You know, that is just like people anyway. As brother Vayle has told me on several occasions, **“Brian, people are going to do what they are going to do, and no matter what you tell them it will not make any difference.”** Now, it’s really sad that people are so dense to their own motives and objectives, and so dense to the Presence of the Judge of all the earth Who is standing in the midst of the People today. And even when God Himself makes Himself visible to the people in so many different kinds of manifestations, the people are still going to do what they are going to do, because it just shows what seed is in them. They must act out the nature that is in them, and they just can’t help it.

So, let’s see what happened to the people after a year or so of this king ruling over them that they just had to have.

1 Samuel 12:1 And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you. 2 And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and gray-headed; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day. 3 Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose

ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you. 4 And they said, *Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.*

Now, to me that is the real test of any five fold minister of God as well. If you are true to God and know that you will answer to the Judge who is standing in our midst, you wouldn't think of pulling a deal on the people, or using them for your own gain. Now, that is not to say, that you can't make a living, it just means that making a living is not what motivates your decisions. For God promised to bless you if you hearken to His Voice and to curse if you do not. So if you are blessed, that is the fruits of hearkening to the Voice, but if your motive is wealth, then you are serving the wrong God.

And so having received the testimony of the people, Samuel, instead of pulling back any punches, he let the people have it. 5 *And he said unto them, **The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand.** And they answered, He is witness.* 6 *And Samuel said unto the people, **It is the LORD that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.*** 7 *Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD of all the **righteous acts of the LORD, which he did to you and to your fathers.*** 8 *When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place.* 9 *And when they forgat the LORD their God, he sold them into the hand of Sisera, captain of the host of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab, and they fought against them.* 10 *And they cried unto the LORD, and said, **We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD, and have served Baalim and Ashtarothe: but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, and we will serve thee.*** 11 *And the LORD sent Jerubbaal, and Bedan, and Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and ye dwelled safe.* 12 *And when ye saw that Nahash the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me, Nay; but a king shall reign over us: **when the LORD your God was your king.*** 13 *Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you.* 14 *If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:* 15 *But **if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.*** 16 *Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes.* 17 *Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.* 18 *So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.* 19 *And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.* 20 *And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from*

following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; 21 And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. 22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. 23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: 24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 25 But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

And of course what happened? King Saul did wickedly and God took him off the scene and delivered the people into the hands of the enemy. Now, as Saul got bigger and bigger in his own eyes, I want you to notice how he began to interpret the commandments of God to his own liking. Just like the serpent did to Eve, and she accepted it so easily enough.

In fact that is what Paul warned the Galatians about how they also were behaving, themselves. And if you will notice the similarities between Paul and Samuel, then you will notice also the similarities between Paul and William Branham, because Paul is the pattern for every true minister of God.

***Church Age Book Chapter 3 - The Ephesian Church Age P:20** Paul founded the church at Ephesus about the middle of the first century. This enables us to set the date of the beginning of the Ephesian Church Age; about 53 A.D. 21 His manner of ministering set the pattern that all future messengers were to aspire to, and actually sets the pattern for every true minister of God, though he would not attain to such heights in the prophetic realm as did Paul. Paul's ministry had a threefold quality and was as follows: 22 First of all, Paul was absolutely true to the Word. He never deviated from it no matter what the cost. Galatians 1:8-9, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." **Galatians 2:11,14**, "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed." "But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the Gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?"*

*23 **I Corinthians 14:36-37**, "What? came the Word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." 24 Notice that Paul was unorganized, but Spirit-led, as when God moved upon Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. Jerusalem's council never sent Paul out, nor did it have any power or jurisdiction over him. God, and God alone, did the sending and the leading. Paul was not of men, but of God.*

***Galatians 1:1**, "Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him from the dead:)"*

Galatians 2:3-5, *"But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you."* Notice how Paul called out their wrong motives.

25 **Secondly**, *his ministry was in the power of the Spirit, thereby demonstrating the spoken and written Word.*

I Corinthians 2:1-5, *"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."*

Acts 14:8-10, *"And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked."*

Acts 20:9-12, *"And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead. And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him. When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed. And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted."*

Acts 28:7-9, *"In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed."*

II Corinthians 12:12, *"Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds."*

26 **Thirdly**, *he had the evident fruit of his God-given ministry.*

II Corinthians 12:11, *"I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing."*

I Corinthians 9:2, *"If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostle-ship are ye in the Lord."* **II Corinthians 11:2**, *"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."*

Paul had been the means of bringing in multitudes of the Gentile sheep; he fed them, and cared for them, until they brought forth righteous fruit and were prepared to meet the Lord as a part of the Gentile bride.

In fact we see Paul speak just like Samuel in **2 Corinthians 11:1-3** I would like to read it from the new Translation called The Message, because the wording is so easy to understand here. Paul says in verse 1: *Will you put up with a little foolish aside from me? Please, just for a moment. The thing that has me so upset is that I care about you so much—this is the passion of God burning inside me! I promised your hand in marriage to Christ, presented you as a pure virgin to her husband. And now I'm afraid that exactly as the Snake seduced Eve with his smooth patter, you are being lured away from the simple purity of your love for Christ.*

4-6 It seems that if someone shows up preaching quite another Jesus than we preached—different spirit, different message—you put up with him quite nicely. But if you put up with these big-shot "apostles," why can't you put up with simple me? I'm as good as they are. It's true that I don't have their voice, haven't mastered that smooth eloquence that impresses you so much. But when I do open my mouth, I at least know what I'm talking about. We haven't kept anything back. We let you in on everything.

7-12 I wonder, did I make a bad mistake in proclaiming God's Message to you without asking for something in return, serving you free of charge so that you wouldn't be inconvenienced by me? It turns out that the other churches paid my way so that you could have a free ride. Not once during the time I lived among you did anyone have to lift a finger to help me out. My needs were always supplied by the believers from other countries. I was careful never to be a burden to you, and I never will be, you can count on it. With Christ as my witness, it's a point of honor with me, and I'm not going to keep it quiet just to protect you from what your neighbors will think. It's not that I don't love you; God knows I do. I'm just trying to keep things open and honest between us.

12-15 And I'm not changing my position on this. I'd die before taking your money. I'm giving nobody grounds for lumping me in with those money-grubbing "preachers," vaunting themselves as something special. They're a sorry bunch—pseudo-apostles, lying preachers, crooked workers—posing as Christ's agents but sham to the core. And no wonder! Satan does it all the time, dressing up as a beautiful angel of light. So it shouldn't surprise us when his servants masquerade as servants of God. But they're not getting by with anything. They'll pay for it in the end.

16-21 Let me come back to where I started—and don't hold it against me if I continue to sound a little foolish. Or if you'd rather, just accept that I am a fool and let me rant on a little. I didn't learn this kind of talk from Christ. Oh, no, it's a bad habit I picked up from the three-ring preachers that are so popular these days. Since you sit there in the judgment seat observing all these shenanigans, you can afford to humor an occasional fool who happens along. You have such admirable tolerance for impostors who rob your freedom, rip you off, steal you blind, put you down—even slap your face! I shouldn't admit it to you, but my stomach isn't strong enough to tolerate that kind of stuff.

21-23 Since you admire the egomaniacs of the pulpit so much (remember, this is your old friend, the fool, talking), let me try my hand at it. Do they brag of being Hebrews, Israelites, the pure race of Abraham? I'm their match. Are they servants of Christ? I can go them one better. (I can't believe I'm saying these things. It's crazy to talk this way! But I started, and I'm going to finish.)

23-27 I've worked much harder, been jailed more often, beaten up more times than I can count, and at death's door time after time. I've been flogged five times with the Jews' thirty-nine lashes, beaten by Roman rods three times, pummeled with rocks once. I've been shipwrecked three times, and immersed in the open sea for a night and a day. In hard traveling year in and year out, I've had to ford rivers, fend off robbers, struggle with friends, struggle with foes. I've been at risk in the city, at risk in the country, endangered by desert sun and sea storm, and betrayed by those I thought were my brothers. I've known drudgery and hard labor, many a long and lonely night without sleep, many a missed meal, blasted by the cold, naked to the weather.

28-29 And that's not the half of it, when you throw in the daily pressures and anxieties of all the churches. When someone gets to the end of his rope, I feel the desperation in my bones. When someone is duped into sin, an angry fire burns in my gut.

30-33 If I have to "brag" about myself, I'll brag about the humiliations that make me like Jesus. The eternal and blessed God and Father of our Master Jesus knows I'm not lying. Remember the time I was in Damascus and the governor of King Aretas posted guards at the city gates to arrest me? I crawled through a window in the wall, was let down in a basket, and had to run for my life.

Yeah, that's the man God sends. That's the man God uses. It's not an easy road, but one that is fraught with hardships and loneliness, and brothers pulling deals on you and using you to make a gathering so they can glean from it. That was Paul's Life, that was William Branham's life and that is the life of any true minister of God who is walking in the pattern that Paul laid out before us. And Samuel was that way.

1 Samuel 15: 1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. **2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. 3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.** Now, do you think Saul did what God told him via "Thus Saith the Lord"? No he didn't.

4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. **5** And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. **6** And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. **7** And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. **8** And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. **9** But Saul and the people spared

Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Notice, they destroyed the vile and refuse and those things that they wouldn't have wanted anyway. But God said destroy everything, the good with the bad, the young with the old. But did Saul and the people do what God had commanded? No! They did what they were going to do anyway. Because that is what people do. They do what they are going to do because what they do is what the seed in them calls for them to do. Why? because every seed must bring forth after its own nature.

*10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, 11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night. 12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal. 13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, **Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.***

What a liar... God said he didn't perform what He had told him to do. But you see how deluded people can get? They think they are doing God a service when they totally go against the Word of God. And how many times does God have to tell you to do or not do a certain thing? Once, just once is all.

One time Br. Branham had told the brethren that sister Shakarian was going to die, and the next day in service someone got up and said, "*thus saith the Lord, she will not die*". After the service br. Billy Paul said to his dad, "*Why didn't you tell that person that they were wrong and they didn't hear from God?*" And br. Branham said, "*Because I already told them what God said, and I don't need to tell them again.*" So how many times do you think God has to tell you when you are not listening to him...Don't think you are above His Word. If God said in His Word, Let the wife be in subjection to her husband, He means just what He said. Listen, Meda Branham got angry with her husband and spoken ill towards him just that once and that is all it took for her to come down with a tumor the size of a grapefruit.

Now, listen sisters, The Bible calls for a certain conduct from you, and it calls for you brothers to run your household. It calls for you to keep your children in line, and it calls for you children to obey your parents. So don't think you can get away with back talking your parents, or showing them disrespect. YOU will reap what you sow. And so Saul said, O welcome thou blessed servant of the Lord, How are you doing today...I am so glad to see you, yeah, uh huh? Oh, I have done just like God told me to do, I have done all that he asked from me to do.... But look what Samuel said,

14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

Notice this big hunk of a man start to blame the others even though he was in charge. I mean after all he was their king. He let them do what they did, and did not even try to stop them.

*15 And Saul said, **They** have brought them from the Amalekites: for **the people** spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and **the rest we have utterly destroyed.***

*16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and **I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night.** And he said unto him, Say on. 17 And Samuel said, **When thou wast little in thine own sight,** wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? 18 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, **Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed.** 19 **Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?** 20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, **I have obeyed the voice of the LORD,** and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, **and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.** 21 But **the people** took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, **to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.***

Oh, Samuel, look what a great thing we did. We kept the best for God? we want to give Him a great big sacrifice for giving us such a one sided victory. And I can see him now, squirming and trying to hide the gold and silver that he had put on his wrists and fingers, and he probably put his hands behind his back to try to get the stuff off his finger and wrists, hoping that Samuel wouldn't notice.

*22 And Samuel said, **Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.** 23 **For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.***

Now, I hope you are all listening to this, because this is the word of the Lord. He said, ***For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.*** So if you have a stubborn spirit you had better die brother, sister whoever you are. You had better crucify that stubborn spirit, that rebellious spirit little girl, little boy, or God is going to reject you. You rebel against your mother or father and you might as well rebel against God, because, God set them over you for life, not just until you are 18 or out of the house. The Bible commands you to honor your father and mother, period, so not just as long as your father and mother are alive you are to honor them, but even after their death. So you had better die to self, and learn to honor God's Word, because that is "*Thus Saith the Lord*".

Then Samuel said, ***Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*** 24 And Saul said unto Samuel, (ok, ok, ok) ***I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words*** (notice, not God's words but thy words...but you see I had an excuse, the people made me do it. That's what he says here.) ***because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.*** 25 ***Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.***

O what a shyster he is. Just like so many I have seen over the years, you tell them where they went off the Word, and they try to act so Holy, as if they had some great epiphany and hocus pocus and Now I get it, now I will do the right thing. But do they? Hah! If you believe that then I have some swamp land I would like to sell you. But how those who fall into sin, think they can just cry crocodile tears and everything will be ok. Everything is forgiven... But is it?

David said in, **Psalms 66 : 18** *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*

So you pray with all your might my friend but I don't think God will hear your prayers. If you premeditate to do wrong thinking if you get caught you can always ask forgiveness, then you have doubly sinned, because you have committed iniquity on top of our sin.

As the Apostle Paul said, *I might be kind of simple in my speech but I'm not stupid. I wasn't born yesterday.*

Now, getting back to **1 Samuel 15:26** *And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. 27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. 28 And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbor of thine, that is better than thou. 29 And also the Strength of Israel (God Himself) will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. 30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God. 31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the LORD. 32 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past. (let the past stay in the past, let bygones be bygones, and let's focus on the future...) 33 And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before (in the presence of) the LORD in Gilgal. 34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. 35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.*

Let us pray,

Dear father we have read some very stirring words today, and stories of your great sovereignty. Help us o God to be ever obedient to your Word, and to never be pulled to the side by others no matter how right their motives might be. If you call for us to be doing, then help us to be doing. Help us to be like your obedient Son Jesus. Help us to be conformed to the image of Jesus your first born son, and help us to become obedient in all things, for we ask this in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

God bless you...