

The Greatest Story

FROM COVER TO COVER



"Obeying God...Sort of"

First Samuel 9-15



Saul: Well Begun

First Samuel 9



Saul: Well Begun

“There was a Benjamite, a man of standing, whose name was Kish son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphia of Benjamin. He had a son named Saul, an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites- a head taller than any of the others”

9:1-2



Saul: Well Begun

Saul arrives precisely on the day that Samuel arrives home from his travels. Not a day too soon. Not a day too late. Saul is coming out of the gate at precisely the time Samuel is going into the gate. They meet! God is moving all the parts. God is a master of timing the schedules of our lives.



Donkeys, Two Loaves, and a Christian Band

First Samuel 10-12



Donkeys, Two Loaves, and a Christian Band

“You will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, tambourines, flutes, and harps being played before them”

10:5



"I Forced Myself"

First Samuel 13



“I Forced Myself”

“When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’”



“I Forced Myself”

“I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

Samuel said, “You acted foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God gave you.”



"No One Eat"

First Samuel 14



“No One Eat”

“The men of Israel were in distress that day because Saul had bound the people under an oath.”

“Cursed be anyone who eats food before evening comes, before I have avenged **myself** on **MY** enemies!”



"I Did Obey"

First Samuel 15



“I Did Obey”

“I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. This is what the Lord Almighty says, ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them.’”



“I Did Obey”

“Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and cut off all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God”

Deuteronomy 25:17-18



"I Did Obey"

"Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs- everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely"

I Samuel 15:9



“I Did Obey”

“I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions. Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the Lord all that night”

I Samuel 15:11



We regret things because we didn't know it was going to happen. That can't be said of God. His regrets are different than our regrets. He can regret an act that He knew would happen and even appointed it to happen.



God so involves himself in our choices
that when we sin it is painful to God.
It hurts him. That is the heart of God.



“Why did you not obey the Lord?
Why did you pounce on the plunder
and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?”

Saul’s answer

“But I did obey the Lord”
(sort of)



“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice”

15:22



True repentance is a “whatever it takes” attitude. You show me someone who is managing consequences and outcomes and I will show you someone who is still unrepentant.



What may seem like a little detail
to us is a big deal to God for it
reflects what is in the heart!



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