

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 15:1-8

God Gives Opportunities to Repent

Though God chastened Saul when he acted out of pride, He did not immediately reject him. He gave him another opportunity to repent so that He could forgive him. The Amalekites not just hindered the Israelites from getting into the Promised Land; they also defiled that place by their wicked deeds. God therefore commanded that they should be completely destroyed, including little children and all the cattle of the land. Saul took with him 2,10,000 men and went against the Amalekites. He acted wisely when he asked the Kenites who lived among them to depart from there and save their lives, for they had showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt. Then he went into the land of the Amalekites and took Agag their King alive, and utterly destroyed all the people. Did he do that which pleased God and obeyed Him completely...? We will look about it tomorrow.

Question:

When pride entered Saul, we thought that God rejected him. But how is that God again trusts him and gives him responsibilities?

Answer:

God is love. He never desires that a person should perish or be separated from him. This incident is a proof of such love. Since God Himself placed in a man the self will to make his own decisions, God gives another opportunity for Saul to make the right decision. A prideful heart will always seek after gain for oneself, submitting to the flesh and obeying the lusts thereof. Such a person will never obey God or the authority that God has placed over him. The warnings of God that came towards Saul should have been a pushing force for him to obey. From this we can understand that God is not pleased in punishing us but rather expects us to repent and live with Him. Dear brother/sister if you've been warned by God for a mistake; repent, learn and be cautious not to repeat the same.

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you". Hebrews 12:5

Prayer

Heavenly father, thank you for giving us the grace to repent. We too will give opportunities for others to repent of their mistakes. Amen