

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 15:9-26

God Desires Our Obedience towards His Word

Yesterday we saw about the love of God. Today we shall see the response of Saul towards that love. Saul attacked the Amalekites and took Agag their king alive and utterly destroyed all the people. But Saul spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs and all that was good, and was not willing to destroy them completely. Looking at this, God greatly regretted that Saul is doing this and is going away from His presence. When Samuel came to Saul and questioned him concerning this, Saul said,

1. This was brought to be given as a sacrifice to the Lord your God.
2. The people have brought them from the Amalekites. (He blamed it on them)

But Samuel said to Saul, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king."

3. Saul replied to Samuel, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the Lord your God."

Question:

Will not God give more than two opportunities? At last we see Saul confess of his sin and plead for forgiveness. Why didn't God forgive?

Answer:

When Peter asked Jesus as to how many times we have to forgive people, Jesus said we have to forgive them seventy times seven and also added that we have to do it whenever they truly repent. Will such a God not forgive Saul...? When we keenly look into the passage we can observe that Saul,

1. Initially said that he had brought those cattle to be sacrificed to God.
2. When Samuel proved him wrong, he blamed the people for doing it. Samuel once again proved him wrong and said that God has rejected him as the king.
3. He immediately confessed his sin and sought for forgiveness. But even then he did not do it because of repentance but rather because of the fear that he would lose his kingship.

But Samuel replied: "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22

Prayer

Lord, we acknowledge our sins, forgive us. We are determined not to commit those same sins again. Amen