

AT THE WHEEL – WHATS DRIVING YOUR LIFE? PART 3

“SERVANTS AND MASTERS”

SCRIPTURE: 1 SAMUEL 10-14; 1 SAMUEL 15; PROV 3

SPEAKER: SAT: PASTOR JOEL SANCHEZ

SUN: SR. PASTOR SHANE CARROLL

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INTRODUCTION

- Fear can quietly replace obedience as the authority guiding our lives.
- Fear of rejection and pursuing the acceptance and approval of others can become a rival authority to the voice of God.
- Last week's question, "Will I have enough?"
- This week's question is, "Am I enough?"
- 1 Samuel 10:18-19 NLT, "...This is what the Lord has declared...I rescued you from the Egyptians...you have rejected your God today and have said, 'No, we want a king instead!'"
- 1 Samuel 14:47;48 - Under Saul's monarchy Israel was protected – one weakness compromised it all.
- Saul's Insecurity – He never felt worthy of the role.
- 1 Samuel 15:22b-23, "...Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. ²³ Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, He has rejected you as king."

I. COMPETING FOR AUTHORITY

- Saul's story doesn't begin with failure – it begins with a calling and a promise.
- He was chosen by God, empowered by the Spirit, and called to lead.
- Saul's biggest failure didn't happen when he disobeyed, but when he began to doubt.
- 1 Samuel 15:17, "And Samuel told him, "Although you may think little of yourself...The LORD has anointed you king of Israel."
- 1 Samuel 15:24, "...I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded."

- Fear elevates the opinions of others into a voice of authority over us.

II. COMPROMISE

- When we compromise, we usually deny then justify.
- 1 Samuel 15:13, "...I have carried out the LORD's command!"
- Fear in the driver's seat allows us to feel justified while still being disobedient.
- 1 Samuel 15:15, "It's true that the army spared the best..." "But they are going to sacrifice them to the LORD your God..."
- Fear will distort obedience into compromise.
- But partial obedience is still disobedience.
- Fear doesn't usually push us to abandon God - it invites us to minimize Him.

III. WHO DO YOU SERVE?

- When we ignore, avoid or reject the voice and Word of God we're actually rejecting Him.
- 1 Samuel 15:30-31, "Then Saul pleaded again, "I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people ...³¹ So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the LORD."
- The thing is: You serve the voice you obey.
- 1 Samuel 15:28, "And Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you."
- Saul isn't rejecting God outright - he's just divided in his loyalty.

CLOSE

- Fear is never an absence of trust – just trust in the wrong thing.
- Fear of people turns opinions into authority, approval into identity, acceptance into something we serve.
- Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."
- You cannot control what people think of you.
- But you can decide who gets to lead you.