



## A Bad Example, King Saul

1 Samuel 15:22

Hope Chapel Tokorozawa

### Theme Scripture

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, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

(1 Samuel 15:22, NIV)

### Introduction

There is a very interesting figure in the Old Testament. That is Saul, the first king of Israel. He made a spectacular debut, but in the second half of his life, he is increasingly lost. Saul, the dark, lonely king. Let's take him as a bad example and explore the image of a Christian leader we should have.

#### 1. Good-looking king (1 Samuel 9, 10)

Saul was the son of an influential man, tall and handsome. (9:2)

God's values are different from the world's values. Above all, the heart of the leader is the criterion of judgment.

"Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

#### 2. Fallen king - From humility to pride (1 Samuel 13, 15)

As Saul grew in power, he gradually became prideful and relied on his own judgment rather than asking God's guidance. This is in contrast to David, who asked the Lord's guidance every time.

#### 3. A lonely king who is mad with jealousy (1 Samuel 16, 18, 28)

In contrast to David, Saul had no friends. He became jealous and hostile toward David. Then, the Spirit of God leaves him and he becomes frightened of evil spirits. A miserable and dark second half of his life.

**Application:** All is God's grace. (1 Cor. 15:10) Apart from Christ, we can do nothing. (John 15:5)



**BIBLE VERSES OF THE WEEK: 1 Samuel 15:22b**

Behold, to hear and obey is better than sacrifice...

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