**1 Samuel 15**

**1 Samuel 15:1-3 – Introductory discussion about the Amalekites**

**How could a loving God command the death of the Amalekites, including men, women, children, and animals?**

**Opponents of our faith use this chapter to cast doubt on the character of God. Significantly, God deliberately included it in the Scriptures and, for all the questions it raises, Jewish leaders never sought to amend the Bible to omit it.**

* **Don’t make the mistake Job and his friends made.**
* **They didn’t know what was transpiring “behind the scenes” and made incorrect assumptions. We do that, too.**
* **God’s love has been proven**
* **Dt. 1:39 – God spared everyone 20 years old and younger**
* **Jonah 4 – God had no desire to kill little children and animals, in spite of the fact that they were the enemies of Israel**
* **Mt. 18 – Last week: Jesus makes clear that 1) children are important to God, 2) their angels are in His presence, 3) He doesn’t want even one of them to die 4) He showed that by dying for them and 5) He seeks them out for salvation.**
* **There are many reasons God may have for this command, some possible, some probable**
* **Genetic issues originating with Gen. 6?**
* **Dangerous hygiene issues from perverse lifestyles?**
* **Influencing Israel to idolatry and defection, like Solomon?**

**There are others, but the bottom-line is that God has proven His goodness and His love. He is both righteous and sovereign. There is no reason to doubt Him and every reason to embrace His rule.**

**2**

**Main Idea: When we allow our insecurities to grow,**

**they cause us to value man’s approval over God’s.**

**Definition of insecurity**

**1. Uncertainty or anxiety about oneself; lack of confidence.**

**2. The state of being open to danger or threat; lack of protection.**

**1 Samuel 15:4-21**

**1.** **One of the most common issues in life: Insecurity and the need for the**

 **approval of others – Proverbs 29:25**

**Pleasing God vs. Pleasing People - vv. 3, 8-9, 20-21**

**2. Acting on our insecurity leads to blaming, rationalizing, and making excuses.**

 **Saul wanted to please people so badly it kept him from honesty with God –**

 **Proverbs 28:13; John 12:42-43**

**3. Feelings of inferiority and inadequacy**

* **My inadequacy vs. God’s adequacy - 2 Cor. 3:5**
* **Can create a *fear of failure* - Lk. 19:20ff.**
* **Weaknesses are *training ground* - 2 Cor. 12:7-10; David and the 400 – 1 Sam. 22:2**

**1 Samuel 15:22-23**

**4. When we rebel, we’re acting like those who practice witchcraft - v. 23a**

**Those who disobey are like those who turn to supernatural forces which oppose God.**

**When you disobey, you’re taking the wrong side!**

**3**

**5. Disobedience is also like idolatry.**

* **Idolatry is foolish and reflects stubbornness – Isa. 44:9-20**
* **Stubbornness is arrogant (NIV) and does not reflect wisdom – Dt. 21:18; Ps. 81:11; Ex. 2:3-5**
* **Stubborn people are like those who follow idols – v. 23b**
* **When we are stubborn and disobey, we put ourselves in the place of God; we think we know best**

**6. Saul’s sin is treated like idolatry and sorcery**

* **These are among the most serious sins in the Bible**
* **Covetousness is also compared to idolatry – Col. 3:5**
* **These are listed in Galatians 5:19-20 among those sins whose practice causes one to lose inheritance in the Kingdom**

**1 Samuel 15:24-35**

**7. Saul’s life could have been different. Saul’s legacy vs. David’s could be**

 **summed up in one word: *obedience* - v. 11; 13:13-14**

**When we allow our insecurities to grow,**

**they cause us to value man’s approval over God’s**