

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

a Production of

Precept Ministries International

P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218

1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 3 – A Matter Of The Heart

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever been in a contest with someone else or running for an office and you lost, and it was crushing, wasn't it, absolutely crushing? And yet, when you stop and you thought about it, you looked at the other person and you knew, hey, I really should have lost, because they had a heart for what they were doing, and I was simply running to get the position. We're going to talk about God searching for a heart that is fully His.

PART ONE

I wonder Beloved, if you realize how important the heart is? Because in the lesson today, God is going to turn His back on Saul, and He's going to walk away because God is searching for a man after His own heart. Why is the heart such an issue? God is looking for a man after His own heart so that God might use that man to fulfill His purposes in his generation. And I know that it's no accident that you have tuned into this program because God is

searching for you. But God is only going to take you and only going to use you and you're only going to know that sense of fulfillment and purpose if you determine that you're going to be a man or a woman after God's own heart. This is a phrase that we hear and we always hear it in connection with King David. And yet, as you know about King David, you know that David blows it. And yet, even after David blows it, after he sins with Bathsheba, God still says of him in the New Testament that he was a man after his own heart. He says it in Acts 13:22, ["Who fulfilled God's purpose in his generation."] (Acts 13:22 Paraphrase) I want to take us to 1 Samuel, chapter 15. And as we go to 1 Samuel, chapter 15 we have God telling Saul that he is to go to the Amalekites and he is to slay all of them. He is to get rid of everything. He is to utterly destroy everything. And he is to utterly destroy it by being obedient to God, by taking that stuff that he is destroying and giving it to God as an act of obedience. Well, if you've been listening to the program then you know Saul did not do what God told him to do. Instead, Saul spared Agag the king of the Amalekites and he saved the best of the cattle and he saved the best of the livestock. And he told Samuel, "Listen, I did it because I want to come here to Gilgal and I'm going to give these sacrifices to God." Well you remember what Samuel said and what the Lord spoke through Samuel. Samuel was the prophet. The prophet was God's mouthpiece. Let's go back and pick it up, put ourselves into context and see God move from Saul to David and I'm in verse 22 of chapter 15 of 1 Samuel, "[And] **Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices...?'**" (1 Samuel 15:22a) That's what he came to do. He said, "I saved the best for You, God and I'm coming to make a burnt offering and I'm coming to make a sacrifice." He says, "Does God have delight in that as much as He has in obeying the voice of the Lord?" He says, "It's not the sacrifices I want. I want obedience, see." And there is a sacrifice of obedience. And the sacrifice of obedience means this, that even though you don't think you should, even though you don't think it's good for you,

even though you think it could be done a better way, because you know that God is God, you're going to sacrifice your way for His way and you're going to obey Him totally, absolutely, completely. That is a heart for God. Now watch what he says. **"Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices [and] As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold....,"** behold, listen, get it: **"...to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed....,"**(1Samuel 15:22a-b) To heed means to listen. And when you listen you're listening so that you can obey. **"...And to heed than the fat of rams."**(15:22c) That was part of the sacrifice that they would give to the Lord. **"For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry."**(15:23a) Insubordination means when your officer tells you what to do you don't do it. When your officer says go this way, you go that way. When your officer says stop, you keep going. When he says keep going you stop. When he says do that, you say it's too hard. That's insubordination. And one of the problems in our society today is insubordination. We are living in a day and time like the days of Judges, when every man is doing what's right; now watch, in his own heart. In other words, man becomes the parameter. Man becomes the commander, and God says, "Oh no, that's not what I'm looking for. I'm looking for a heart that is fully Mine, a heart that will obey. I don't want rebellion. Rebellion and insubordination are like iniquity and they are like idolatry." And it's idolatry because you have put something else between you and God. You're not obeying God. And he says, **"Because you have rejected the Word of the Lord, [the Lord] has...rejected you from being king."**(15:23b) How very, very, very sad. Now Saul heard this message earlier, and we're going to look at it in just a minute. But now watch what happens. **"Then Saul said to Samuel, 'I have sinned; [and] I have indeed transgressed the command of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and I listened to their voice.'"**(15:24) Now I think that while he's saying that he's got his fingers crossed you know, "I promise you that this is what I did," but I've

got my fingers crossed so I'm really let out of it. I don't believe that he feared the people. He was the king. I mean you don't see him at other times fearing the people. You don't see him at other times listening to the voice of the people. But you know what? It is so easy to excuse ourselves from total obedience. And we want to put the blame on Mame. I don't know if you're old enough to remember that song, but let's put the blame on Mame boys. It's her fault. It's really not our fault. I mean we're just boys. And so this is what he's doing, he's putting the blame on the people. And he says, **"Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me, that I may worship the Lord."**(15:25) Forgive me; I've sinned. Now look, come on, let's go back with me. We're at Gilgal. Let' go back, you go back with me so that I can worship the Lord." "But Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you; for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king....'"(15:26) I want you to know that I can't go back with you. I can't go with you and do those sacrifices, because you've rejected the Lord and you've rejected the word of the Lord and God has rejected you from being king. And, **"As Samuel turned to go, Saul seized the edge of his robe....,"**(15:27a) I mean here is Samuel walking away, Saul reaches out, grabs his robe, because he didn't listen to him. He wants him to obey and he grabs his robe, and the minute he grabs the robe, the robe tears. That's a bad sign. I mean a real bad sign. Listen to what God says. **"So Samuel said to him, 'The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you.'"**(15:28) There's a man that is better than you. And as I said in the opening of this program, sometimes Beloved, sometimes we're running for a position or we want to achieve something because we want it for us and somebody else wins, or somebody else gets the position, somebody else gets to lead. But then when we stop and we really analyze it objectively we say, "You know, they should have it because they are better than me, and because they're better than me they should be there." Now listen, what made this man that

God is going to choose better than Saul? Well this is something that we want to watch as we continue to move through 1 Samuel, because you're going to see it. And what you want to do is you want to keep a column on Saul and you want to keep a column on David whom we're going to meet in the next chapter of 1 Samuel. You want to keep a column; you want to compare these two men. You want to contrast them. And as you do you want to say, hey, am I more like Saul or am I more like David. Because the man that is better than Saul is David. Well, let's finish this chapter because I have something very important that I want you to see that will help you remember Saul at this point. And **"So Samuel said to him...,**" in verse 28, **"...‘The Lord has torn the kingdom from you today and has given it to your neighbor, who is better than you. Also the glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind.’”(15:28-29)** In other words, "Look, it is settled, I am not going to change my mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind." You know, you and I can manipulate others, you and I can fast talk, you and I can persuade, you and I can cajole and try and win somebody over and maybe we do and we get them to do what we want, but Samuel wants Saul to know something. He wants him to know that this One, this God who is the glory of Israel is not going to lie and He's not going to change His mind. He's not a man. He is not going to do that. You cannot manipulate God. **"Then he said, ‘I have sinned...;’”(15:30a)** So Saul has said, "I have sinned." Now remember, we're marking the text and we're learning how to pick out key repeated words. And any time you see sin, any time you see iniquity, any time you see transgression, I mark them, although there are exciting shades of difference between sin and iniquity and transgression, they all are rebellion against God. They are all words that talk about disobedience from God, going over the line when God says, don't go over the line, turning away, failing to reach the mark the standard that God says. And so you want to mark every reference to sin. Now how do I mark it? I simply color it brown. Now what happens as a result of this? Samuel, remember is walking

away. Saul has grabbed his robe. He has torn his robe and God says, “The kingdom is gone.” But there’s more to learn and we’ll learn it when we come right back.

PART TWO

Welcome back beloved of God. Well I left you marking the word sin. And what I wanted to tell you is this; you need to go to our website preceptsforlife.com. And what you want to do is you want to download the study guide that we have on this portion of 1 Samuel, because it’s going to be so vital, because you’re going to get to know a lot about what it means to have a heart that is fully the Lords. And so you don’t want to miss that. Well let me take you back now to 1 Samuel, chapter 15. And in 1 Samuel, chapter 15 Saul says again to Samuel, “...**‘I have sinned; ...,’**” and I’m in verse 30; excuse me. “**“...but please honor me now before the elders of [the] people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.”**”(1Samuel 15:30b) Isn’t that interesting, “the Lord your God? I want to go back and worship the Lord your God.” Now he says, “I want you to honor me in front of these people. Don’t walk away. Yes, I’ve got a piece of your robe. Yes, I heard that He’s going to take the kingdom, but please don’t leave me here. If I go back there and you’re not with me, in other words, what is it going to look like? Please honor me and go back with me. And this is the graciousness of Samuel. “So Samuel went back following Saul, and Saul worshipped the Lord.”(15:31) Isn’t it ironic, he will not obey God, but he will worship Him? You know sometimes I get concerned because a lot of times we spend most of our time in a church service worshiping God, singing because we love to sing and because it brings joy to our heart, and sometimes it brings tears to our eyes, and there’s an emotion there. But what happens when the singing is over? And the thing that distresses me so much is sometimes there is so much singing that we don’t worship the Lord by listening to His Word, and then we don’t know

what He says, and then we don't know how to obey. And I want you to understand that when you read this Book, when you study this Book, and this is why I want you to download the study guide because these are the very words of God, and this is the supreme worship of God. To worship someone is to bow down before them. It is to honor God as God. And so when you do that, Beloved, when you read His Word and obey it, then that is the highest form of worship. That is saying, "God, I'm acknowledging You for who You are. Well it says, **"Then Samuel said, 'Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites.' And Agag came to him cheerfully...."**(15:32a) I mean Agag had a smile on his face, you know, he was just feeling great, because **"...Agag said, 'Surely the bitterness of death is past.'"**(15:32b) I'm not going to die. I escaped this one. **"But Samuel said, 'As your sword has made women childless, so...your mother [shall] be childless among [men].' And Samuel hewed Agag to pieces before the Lord at Gilgal."**(15:33) I mean Samuel just took his sword and he killed Agag and he cut him in pieces in symbolism for what Agag had done to so many women in his battles and making them childless. Now remember Agag was of the Amalekites and it was the Amalekites that attacked Israel from the rear when they were faint and when they were weary. And right after they had come out of the land of Egypt and had entered the wilderness of Sin, this is what the Amalekites had done. So now he's paying for that as a representative of his people. It says, **"Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. [And] Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death; for Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord...,**" and this is so sad. In fact, I colored it yellow. I highlighted it. **"...And the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel."**(15:34-35) Now why did He regret that He had made Saul king over Israel? Well when you think of Saul, I want you just to think of a big, big "S", okay. And when you think of Saul, and that's easy to do because you have an "S" and that's what Saul's name started with. You

think of Saul and you know that Saul sinned, because he did not obey. And when you do not obey that is sin. Now I want to show you something and I want to start at the top of the “S” and I want to start with chapter 13 of 1 Samuel. In chapter 13 of 1 Samuel what you see is you see Saul sacrifices, and you can write this right down in your notes, just drawing a big “S”, that Saul sacrifices at Gilgal. And when Saul sacrifices at Gilgal, in chapter 13 he does it in disobedience to God. Let’s go to 1 Samuel, chapter 13 and let’s just look at it. In 1 Samuel, chapter 13 he does it in disobedience to God because Saul has been told by Samuel, “Go to Gilgal and you wait for me there until I get there so that then I will make the sacrifice.” Well Saul gets to Gilgal and he doesn’t wait. And so in 1 Samuel, chapter 13 in verse 8 it says, **“Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. So Saul said, ‘Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.’ And he offered the burnt offering.”(13:8-9)** Well when he offers this burnt offering then Samuel shows up. And in verse 11 he says, **“...‘What have you done?’ And Saul sa[ys], ‘Because I saw...the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and...the Philistines were assembling at Michmash, therefore I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come against me at Gilgal, and I have[n’t made a sacrifice to] the Lord’....”(13:11b-12a)** I’ve got to do it. What was the bottom line of all this? **“Samuel said to Saul...,”** in verse 13, **“...‘You have acted foolishly...;’”** now listen carefully, **“...‘you have not kept the commandment of the Lord...,’”(13:13a)** In other words, you walked by your own thinking and you did not obey Me. And then in verse 14 he says, **“But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has appointed him...ruler over [the] people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”(13:14)** Now, stop and think. All right let’s go to the swirl in the “S” and let’s come over here to chapter 14.

And in chapter 14 you have Saul wanting to slay his son. You have Saul wanting to put Jonathan to death. And again you have Saul moving according to his own reasoning, moving according to his own logic. God is looking for a man after His own heart. So if you think of Saul, think of a big “S”, think of Saul sinning. Saul sacrifices at Gilgal; it’s a sin. Saul is going to slay his son in chapter 14 and only, only the grace of God, the people stop him from slaying Jonathan. And then you come to chapter 15 and what do you have? You have Saul sparing Agag. And as a result of his sparing Agag you have Saul and Samuel separated from one another. And you have God grieved; God sorrows because He wants a man after His own heart. O Beloved, will you be that man, that woman?