

The Point of No Return

1 Samuel 15.1-35

What does God look for in leaders?
a readiness to obey him 13.14

1. The Test is Set, vs1-7

- ***Saul – appointed by God v1***
called to listen
- ***A herem – total destruction vs3,18***
as judgement from God Ex 17.8-16

2. The Failure to Obey, vs 8-11

- ***a life spared vs8-9***
“I’m one of them”
- ***livestock taken v9***
beware of greed Lk 12.15; Col 3.5
we can hide nothing from God v10
Ps 139.1-3
pick ‘n mix obedience won’t do

- **Samuel is troubled v11**
 - by Saul's failure 1 Cor 13.6**
 - by his own involvement**
 - by the nation's future**
 - by God's 'regret'**
 - so he prays all night**

3. A Deadened Conscience, vs 12-23

- **no earlier repentance 1 John 1.10**
- **the warning signs**
 - **his own prestige v12; Ps 115.1**
 - **false piety vs 13-14**
 - **shifting the blame v15**
 - **a cover-up story v15**
 - **a state of denial v16**
- **the searching question vs17-19**
 - **why didn't you obey God?**
 - **condemned out of his own mouth vs20-21**
 - **shameful hypocrisy vs 22-23**

4. The Point of No Return, vs 24-35

- **half-hearted confession v24**
 - **still blaming others**
 - **a mere “oversight”**
- **God can't be bought v25**
 - **Samuel finishes the job v33**
- **a sad parting of the ways vs34-35**

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Saul – no genuine repentance

Samuel – mourned Saul's ‘death’

God – grieved by man's stubbornness