

The Roots of Disobedience

Good morning Calvary Chapel Stone Mountain! We're glad you're here! Let's open up the Word of God to 1 Samuel 15. If you don't have a Bible... USHERS... Let's pray...

Last week, Pastor Sandy left us all on a cliffhanger question, is God through with the Jews? Well... You'll just have to come back next week and find out! We'll be back in Romans next Sunday with Pastor Sandy. If you don't know me, my name is Andrew Taylor. I am the high school youth pastor here at Calvary.

The other part of my role here at the church is maintaining the building. There is constantly something breaking, or getting old in need of replacement! Not to mention, managing the outdoor yard that is soaking up the springtime rays. I truly do enjoy getting to work with my hands and see the results!

But I must be honest... There is one part of my job that I really can't stand! Relentlessly annoying, the origins of my nightmares, always bouncing back to taunt me... what is it? **WEEDS! They just never leave me alone! They're always growing back bigger and badder, no matter how many times Allen and I treat, pull, and chop them away!** I'm not sure which is going to take more years off my life, the stress caused by the unending weeds OR the unknown amounts of Roundup weed killer I've absorbed into my body!

This past week I was pulling weeds (again) on the pine straw hill in the front of the building. And at first glance, the weeds didn't look too bad! They weren't very tall or substantial, all you could see was small shoots of green peaking through the straw. Eh no big deal right! **Well the thing I didn't realize was that the root systems for those "small" weeds were massive and ran deep! I was pulling up mounds of dirt and ruining the finished pine straw.**

Above the surface, the weeds were seemingly small, but below the surface, the roots ran wide. This concept of "things aren't always as they seem" proves itself true in many areas of our lives. We have a problem on the surface, but it seems small enough to manage/deal with or hide, yet we neglect to deal with the deep-rooted issues **under the surface!** This is unfortunately an accurate description of Israel's first king, Saul.

Saul had a weeds problem! It was not garden weeds though, but gross spiritual weeds of **disobedience against God.** Spoiler alert: Saul is going to blatantly disobey God here in 1 Samuel 15. But on the surface, Saul's disobedience seems small to him. Manageable! Almost like it doesn't even exist! **But he fails to deal with the Roots of Disobedience against God in his heart. This ultimately leads to his death.**

God is challenging us now to dig below the surface into our hearts! We need to honestly see if there are any deep-rooted attitudes of disobedience we've been managing and hiding for some time. We've been called to a life of simple, submissive obedience to the will of God!

Our text will present 5 Roots of Disobedience that we must deal with, before they lead us to destruction... Join me in verse 1 of 1 Samuel 15, it reads, **Samuel also said to Saul, "The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord. 2 Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. 3 Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.'** "

Here's the message from Samuel: Go and punish the Amalekites, Utterly destroy everything of theirs, sparing nothing. Kill man, woman, child, animals... Reign down God's complete judgment onto this people.

The Amalekites were the thorn in Israel's side since they came out of Egypt. These people hated the Jews! In Deuteronomy 25 we're told how Amalek attacked Israel on the road. Attacking the rear of Israel's convoy... They targeted the weak, sick, young, pregnant women, elderly... They were cruel! 400 years later, God tells Saul to wipe them out.

Critics of the Bible have a hard time with passages like these regarding the violent judgment of God. Why does God have to go that far in killing them all, women and children included? The problem with this question is that we try to box God up within human reasoning, and we can't! I don't know why God does all the things He does, I'm not God. But I do trust His wisdom. His nature. I know He is protecting his nation, and ultimately guarding the lineage of Jesus. Anytime nations persecute Israel throughout history, it usually doesn't go too well for them! Even today...

So the command to utterly destroy is clear, let's see what Saul does in verse 4, **4 So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. 5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley. 6 Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt."** So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

Great! So far so good Saul! He let the innocent leave, organized the battle, surrounded the city, and is ready to strike. Verse 7...

And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. Wow! All seems according to God's plan... verse 8, He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive (UH OH), and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. 9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

God told Saul and the people to destroy everything, and yet Saul spares Agag and his people follow suit and spare all of the best livestock and treasures... Why? Verse 9 tells us they were **unwilling to utterly destroy them. Oh but of course they destroyed all of the worthless things! Doesn't this describe our disobedience too, we become unwilling.** They walk away from the battle happy excited about their treasures, thinking this is a great day! This did not display God's heart in this judgment at all, this was not supposed to be a joyous occasion! God brings judgment reluctantly without pleasure. He's not willing that any would perish but that all should come to repentance. But God told them to destroy everything...

They could've thought, "well we sort of obeyed, God gave us a list of things to do, we did some of them, don't we at least get some credit for that? NO! Saul disobeyed God obviously here... The weeds are clearly seen above the ground, I mean King Agag, an Amalekite is alive! But this brings **us to our first root cause of disobedience under the surface in our lives, ROOT #1, Partial Obedience. Realize friend, selective obedience is complete disobedience! We try to mix God's interests and our OWN interests together, and find some comfortable spot in the middle!**

(NEXT SLIDE) I'm a visual learner, so here's a Venn diagram for us. One side is God's will for my life, the other side is my own will for my life. And the place we feel okay obeying God is right in the middle! God I will do your will as long as it aligns with my will too! Often we're only willing to obey up to a point... As soon it starts to cost me something, oh well no I draw the line there! No we need to obey all the time!

Verse 10, **Now the word of the Lord came to Samuel, saying, 11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments."** And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the Lord all night. Saul's disobedience hurt the heart of God and of Samuel... How did God see Saul's partial obedience? God says that Saul has turned from following Him! God doesn't grade on a curve! But God, I did MOST things right, I should at least get a 90 on this exam right! No, partial obedience is complete disobedience.

So verse 12, **So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal."** 13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord."

Get the scene here, we've got our old prophet Samuel, tall skinny guy, big white beard, walking with staff in hand early in the morning to go confront Saul, our proud haughty king and warrior standing beside this monument he built to honor himself and the great victory he had in the Lord! Saul sees Samuel and says "Samuel I'm so sorry I disobeyed God..." NOT AT ALL! He says "Blessed are you of the Lord! I have performed the commandment of the Lord." Saul puts on his God talk! Sammy! God bless you brother! How's your heart brother? I've been serving the Lord a lot, I'm doing His work and man praise report! God is blessing me! God bless you to brother, (I'm walking in the flesh but you won't know it)!

It's shocking to hear Saul say this, but don't we do this too... We all have our hyper-spiritual voice right... From the distance from our parking spot to the front doors of the church our personality changes! Our tone changes. Shake hands, "God bless you brother (I'm walking in addiction to porn) but you'll never know..." "God bless you sister, I'm sorry to hear that, I'll be praying for you... (actually you were just gossiping about her yesterday about this very thing).. We do these things...

But HOW? How can Saul say this when it is so clear he was being partially disobedient? Saul wasn't brokenhearted over his sin, he was pleased with himself! He built a monument! What deep-rooted issues cause this attitude on the surface... Well, the second root of disobedience we deal with, ROOT #2, is Pride. In pride we deceive ourselves into thinking we are actually being obedient! I bet Saul actually believed the words coming out of his mouth!

Look verse 14, the evidence of his pride gets worse, But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" What a moment here! Saul was told to go and wipe out all the Amalekites, and everything they owned including the livestock! Saul comes to Sam and says "Blessings bro, I have obeyed the commandment of the Lord" BAAAAA, and the lowing the oxen LOOOWW (sorry I've been practicing my oxen lowing all week it sounds more like a dying whale but you get the point!) Saul was proud of what he did, honestly thought he obeyed God, but the evidence of his disobedience could be seen, smelled, and heard all around him. Pride blinds and deceives us.

Like Pastor Matt taught a few weeks ago, Numbers 32:23, "...be sure your sin will find you out." You can't keep sin quiet! Sin is always loud! You may not say anything about it, you may convince your co-conspirator in sin to be quiet, but all of a sudden you hear, BAAAAA and LOOOWW!

Verse 15, And Saul said, "THEY have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord your God; and the rest WE have utterly destroyed."

What a pile of garbage! Lame excuse Saul! He says THEY (pointing at his people) are the ones that were disobedient Samuel! THEY disobeyed there, but WE utterly destroyed the rest! Naturally he includes himself in the part where they did obey... He blames his problem on the people, and then claims they decided to keep the best sheep and oxen for good spiritual reasons! We kept them to sacrifice to God, duhhh.... Isn't that what you like to do Samuel, make sacrifices to God... It's like saying well yeah I stole the money but I did it to put it in the offering box! God can have 90, I'll keep 10!

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." Samuel has had enough! Be quiet, Shut it! I won't listen to this anymore! You need to listen to what God has to say about your "obedience". And Saul in his proud arrogance says, "SPEAK ON (peasant)." I'm king I'll allow it, speak. Saul felt that he must remain in control! As if God's prophet needs permission from you to speak! Oh trust me, Sam has things to say, you best believe!

Verse 17, So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel? 18 Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?"

Samuel is blunt, here's your sin Saul! BUT Why did you do this? Samuel is urging Saul to stop managing his sin on the surface of his life! We need to get to the root issues here, and he draws his attention to his pride... Saul wasn't always this prideful! He was once little in his own eyes, but no longer...

Friend, **the bigger you are in your own eyes, the smaller God becomes in your eyes!** Isn't this so true? The more you focus selfishly on YOU, your problems, your cares, your feelings, then you become less inclined to seek God! You seek for answers within your own might, forgetting that God is the one who has the answers to your problems, your cares, your feelings. **Five words for you: "It is not about you."**

Verse 20, **And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."**

"Umm... Hello Samuel I'm innocent! I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites! I obeyed God, look here's King Agag!" "Wait Saul, isn't he an Amalekite..." "Well yeah, but..." Some look at this and think, "Saul what WACKY DRUGS are you on man you are messed up in the head!" , but look I don't think Saul is crazy here... I think he believed that he really did obey God... Even with Agag standing right behind him and all the farm animals making a ruckus, he believed he did things right! **Pride has an amazing power to deceive us... We tell ourselves everything is fine, this is an acceptable amount of disobedience, when it's not...**

Verse 22, **So Samuel said:**

**"Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.**

23

**For rebellion is as the sin of [d]witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
He also has rejected you from being king."**

Grasp the scene, Saul comes up, "Sammy! Let's have a sacrifice to God! I have all these NICE sheep, the best sacrificing animals... I kept them all for God. God will be pleased with me! Let's do it!" Samuel says no, to obey is better than sacrifice! **Our third root issues we have in our disobedience to God, is we often prefer to sacrifice rather than obey!**

Now I don't think any of you are practicing animal sacrifices (hopefully)... but if you're like me, and you are because you're a human, you have gotten pretty good at practicing religiosity! We know how to cover up disobedience with religious observance. Because on the surface to others around us, religious observance looks like obedience!

We try to so hard to put on a show, and make sure it is known that we are sacrificing a lot to God! I go to church every time the doors are open, I give more of my time to God than anybody else I know! I do this, and I offer up so much to God! But God says he's concerned with your obedience... But the problem is Obedience costs us far more than sacrifice.

Doesn't cost much to throw \$100 in the offering box. Doesn't cost much to go serve at church in ministry. What costs me, is to have a proper attitude towards my wife. What cost me, is to have a proper attitude about my time. What costs me, is the way I choose to be when I'm alone at home and nobody is watching... Are you faithful in the small things? They're not small things to God.

Friends realize, this is not an issue of some legalistic, rigid, robotic obedience, the issue is having a surrendered heart to God! It is far easier to give, perform, and do good things than to actually give your heart to God!

When we “play the part of the Christian” with a hardened heart, all we are doing is offering up sacrifices of DISOBEDIENCE to God. He doesn’t accept this sacrifice! If you or I come here and raise our hands in praise and worship to God in the midst of disobedience and unrepented sin in our lives, realize God doesn’t receive that offering of praise! Instead He’d rather you deal with the conviction of sin, and stop trying to clear your own conscience!

Don’t think 5 hallelujahs, a few praise sessions, 20 church attendances are going to cover up your sinful disobedience! Though there’s not really a ratio here, think of it this way: **One act of obedience, repenting, is more valuable than 1000 days of fake worship and sacrifices to God!** Realize that’s good news!

God makes it easy. Repent, and obey. Religion makes it hard. Be Good, Worship better. Be a good tither. Do more good deeds...

BUT WE SEE that Saul’s heart has become rebellious and stubborn to God... This can’t be fixed by religiosity! Samuel is trying to crack through Saul’s hard exterior to dig below the surface to the root problem. Don’t miss it at the end of verse 23, **Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.** Woah... God don’t you think that’s a bit too much? SO Saul was just too nice, Spared Agag, maybe Saul recently got woke to **animal rights as a part of the “Justice for Sheep” movement**, I mean God, it’s just a little garden weed, we can manage that! But no, God is concerned with the rooted issues in Saul’s heart. So God rejected Saul as king over Israel.

In verse 24 Saul responds, **“I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words,** (sounds like repentance but his heart is revealed,) **because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. 25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord.”**

It just seems like Saul thinks this is a little too easy... Sammy just pray for me, and everything will be better. Pardon my sin so I can go worship God before the nation... But a simple “please pardon my sin God” wouldn’t fix the deep issues going on in Saul! But Saul doesn’t really seem concerned about his heart as much as he does his outward image!

Up to this point we’ve dealt with (SLIDE BUILDS) ROOT#1: Partial obedience. #2: Pride. #3: Preferring Sacrifice. AND now our (#4) fourth root of disobedience is our Obsession over Appearance. Obedience is between you and God! Not you and people! But so often we are far more concerned with appearing obedient to our peers rather than humbling being obedient to God. If we’re gonna be obedient, we want people to know it, put the spotlight on me, this is my moment! Being obedient for the sake of appearing obedient is not really obedience. True obedience doesn’t throw itself a party!

Recognition is what we want though, so we puff ourselves up and show off our obedience when talking in small groups. We put on these “woe is me” sob stories about how much we sacrifice for God on the daily. I just am so busy for God, I don’t have time for anything else. I’m so obedient, Woe is me! And if you aren’t sacrificing as much as I am, I guess that means you just aren’t as obedient as I am... We’ve all been there, I must confess God convicted me of this a couple weeks ago!

On Thursdays I handle the yard work up here at the church. I started bright and early at 8am and had a long day ahead of me outside. We had some additional tasks that were out of the norm, which resulted in me being out there until around 3pm. Now about 1pm or so, I was starting to get a little attitude problem... Why am I still out here! I have so many more things I need to do inside, and it’s hot out here, I haven’t eaten lunch...

my focus started shifting off of serving God to serving my pride! I was tired, and honestly I wanted somebody else to know how tired I was, how hard I was working!

Then I remembered... Pastor James runs carpool for the school at 2:45 outside in the parking lot... I was using the leaf blower up at the cabin when this realization struck me.. So when 2:45 rolled around I started walking back down towards the church cranking that leaf blower as loud as I possibly could! Swinging it around! Look at me! Look at how much I'm sacrificing out here Pastor James!

It didn't take long for the Holy Spirit to convict me, and tell me to check my attitude! God reminded me, "Andrew you're not serving/leaf blowing for the church, for Pastor Sandy, you're doing this for Me! Change your attitude, it is not about you!" **One of my favorite verses Colossians 3:23-24 came to mind, it's the motto verse for the Calvary Intern Crew - 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.**

My ego deflated pretty quickly after that! When we obey God we shouldn't be doing it in a way where we are seeking the attention of man. We have to stop obsessing over our appearance. Saul pleads with Samuel to pray with him so that he can go and worship **before the people, I mean God...**

And verse 26 things start heating up in our story, **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 over Israel."** Samuel says I will not feed into your appearance obsession Saul, honestly I have nothing more to say to you. Unless you're ready to really repent, this conversation is over...

Verse 27 **And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. 28 So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you.** And all the young people in the church said in response - **sheeeeeesh!** In other words, WOW! I am telling you, this chapter of the Bible is ready to be turned into a major motion picture! I haven't seen a good movie in theaters in awhile, Spielberg and Tarantino need to get on this!

Picture it, the proud king and the old prophet talking with some distance in between each other... Samuel says, "The Lord is rejecting you as king of Israel".. Sam starts walking away, NOO don't leave! Saul reaches out and tears the edge of Samuel's robe and is left with a piece in his hand. Samuel turns back, with fire in his eyes and tears probably streaming down his face (he loved Saul) says, Just as you have torn my robe The Lord has torn the kingdom from you and all you're going to be left with to your name is this rag!

Verse 29 **And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."**
30 **Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God."**
31 **So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord.**

Even at this point in the conversation, Saul's pride is so apparent, but Samuel does return with Saul to worship God... Why? Samuel knew it wasn't his job to dethrone Saul. God would do that... Samuel didn't need to start a defund Saul campaign with the people. But you see Saul's wickedness in full display, Samuel please honor me in the people's sight, if we don't my approval rating will tank, please im uncomfortable let me just appease my conscience and worship God.

But there's still one unresolved issue...

Verse 32, - **Then Samuel said, "Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me."** So Agag came to him cautiously. And Agag said, **"Surely the bitterness of death is past."**
33 **But Samuel said, "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women."**
And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

The word cautiously is not translated very well, here for in the Hebrew it means cheerful delight! I like the Living Bible translation of verse 32, Then Samuel said, "Bring King Agag to me." Agag arrived all full of smiles, for he thought, "Surely the worst is over and I have been spared!"

(NEXT SLIDE VIDEO) I like to imagine King Agag (in lion king slippers) sitting in the corner of the room, kicking back watching all of this unfold, eating some popcorn, giggling a little bit. Full of smiles! He's thinking Sammy, we good right? I mean I survived the war hero Saul, what's this wrinkly old prophet going to do to me...

Samuel said "As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women." "But if my momma is childless that means that... OH NO!" And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal. Samuel was a priest, he had officiated many sacrifices in his time, so he knew what it was like to kill and shed blood. But he's never raised a knife against a person though. But without hesitation he does what Saul wouldn't do, raises up his priest butcher knife and hacked Agag into pieces!

He did it before the LORD, not Saul, not the nation of Israel! He didn't turn to Saul, and say "look sonny, lemme show you how its done loser" He didn't turn to Israel, and say " You think I'm too wrinkly and old to lead, well I'll show you!" No Samuel was obedient before God in this shockingly violent way. Obedience mattered to him.

I must throw a disclaimer in here, there should be no one that thinks God would call them to do this today... We live by the law of God, not by extraordinary examples/situations...

But this had to be dealt with to the fullest extent, just like pulling up a weed, you must deal with the roots completely. Our final root issue to our disobedience, root #5, is our Contentment with the flesh. The Amalekites are a type/picture of the flesh in Scripture, which makes King Agag the king of the flesh! And like Saul, we are often content to spare the use of our flesh in certain areas of our lives. My old man is dead, but my flesh still remembers how to sin! This is why we must deal ruthlessly with the flesh. We need to hack it to pieces!

Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 5:30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. Now He doesn't mean literally cut your hand off! Your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off, then your left hand causes you to sin so cut that one off too, then how about a foot... NAH instead He means we must cut off the opportunity for fleshly desire to fester in our lives! Cut it OFF! We can't be content with our flesh having any sense of control in our lives...

Let's close the chapter here... 34 Then Samuel went home to Ramah, and Saul returned to Gibeah. 35 Samuel never saw Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him; and the Lord was sorry that he had ever made Saul king of Israel. What a sad ending. Samuel and Saul were close, and Samuel mourned greatly for his friend's poor decisions. Saul never addresses the roots of his disobedience in his life. Again and again he attempts to cover up his sin, manage the weeds, instead of digging deeper.

He ignores God's full command in partial obedience, is blinded by his pride, attempts to make vain sacrifice besides obeying, becomes obsessed with appearances before the people, and spares his flesh instead of dealing with it... The roots ran wide and deep in Saul's heart. His disobedience in wiping out the Amalekites EVEN came back to destroy him, for who was the man who thrust the sword into Saul in his last breath? An Amalekite!

But let me suggest there is an even greater issue that is the primary root behind Saul's disobedience and ours... In most root systems, there is the main taproot which all other roots feed from. It is the largest of all, the root that anchors the pesky weed deep into the ground... So What's the main taproot for our disobedience? (BUILD IN THE SLIDE) a hardened heart. We refuse to fully surrender our lives to God.

Why? None of us like the idea of submission and obedience. We like power. We like self-autonomy. We like control. We would rather have the freedom to live as we please. We want to determine for ourselves what is okay and what isn't okay, what's true or isn't true. I'm fine obeying God up to a point, as long as it doesn't make me uncomfortable. And today's culture in America reinforces that attitude in us...

1 Samuel 16:7 says, "For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Here's the closing statement we need to take time considering as we go home...

God sees your heart... Now this statement either should bring you great comfort, or it should terrify you. "Lord you see my heart, you see my sin from time to time, the ways I fail with people, Lord I am sorry I repent want to be right with You God!" If that's where you are at, then it is comforting to know He sees your heart... But for others, it's terrifying... oh yeah you can cover things up nice on the outside, you can appear obedient to others, everybody thinks you're just a great person, but God sees your hardness of heart. That's scary...

SO where are you? Have you fully surrendered your heart to God this morning? Is there compromise in areas of your life? What if God doesn't want me, I've been too disobedient... Or maybe you're here this morning and your heart is as hard stone towards God, because you don't agree with His will for your life. You don't want to obey. Friend he doesn't want legalistic sacrifice, He wants a simple, loving relationship with You! He paid a heavy price putting His Son on the cross to make that possible! He loves you and is giving you another second chance right now to come, repent, and obey... That's all He wants...

I pray you make that decision to surrender right now... Let's pray...