

23 August 2015 : Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: A Man After His Own Heart (II)

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 15

1. King Saul was a man after his own heart as he practiced situational ethics, blame others for his sins and merely had a form of godliness. He was selfish and self-promoting. In 1 Sam 15, he showed it by being a man who does not hear. The word "Hearken" is very clearly mentioned in the chapter which is to hear and obey.
2. In v.1-9, we see the failure of Saul to hear the Word of God. The command was simple and clear for Saul to destroy the Amalekites totally including their sheep and oxen. But Saul was disobedient to keep the Amalekite king Agag alive and the best of the sheep and oxen.
3. When prophet Samuel confronted Saul of his sin, he gave excuses not to hear (v.10-35). Saul tried to cover up his sin by telling Samuel that he obeyed the commandment. When Samuel heard the bleating of the sheep, Saul gave the excuse that it was the people who wanted to keep the sheep for sacrifice.
4. For Saul, obedience means keeping most of the commandment. But true obedience is 100% and even 99% obedience is called disobedience in the eyes of God. The Bible says to obey is better than sacrifice. While service is important to do for the Lord, we must never use service to cover up our sin of disobedience to the Lord.
5. Saul pretended to repent by saying he has sinned. He merely wanted Samuel to be with him so that he would appear religious before the people. He was more concerned for Samuel to honour him. Samuel showed to Saul what is true obedience by killing Agag. Saul had failed in listening to God's Word. How do you hear God's Word today?