



Series: 1 Samuel
Week 9: Obeying when we disagree

Questions

Ice-breaker question (to get people talking): Have you ever been in a situation where you had to do something you disagreed with? What did it feel like? How did the situation turn out? Was it better or worse than you anticipated?

- 1) Our focus for this week was 1 Samuel 9:1-10:16. This was a very long reading, but if you read through it, you can pick up on what was happening. Here we see an obedient Samuel and a clueless Saul. Samuel disagreed with the idea of a king for the nation of Israel. Saul had no idea that a king was even needed! In this passage God tells Samuel to anoint Saul and he duly obeys.

Has God ever asked you to do something you felt uncomfortable with? If so, what was it? Did you do it and what was the outcome?

- 2) **Read Philippians 2:12-18.**

Part of Samuel's obedience was characterised by a lack of complaint. When we are asked to do something which we clearly disagree with, our first instinct is to complain, is it not? However, we do not see that with Samuel; he simply obeys. Here Paul exhorts the believers in Philippi to obey him in his absence and to 'Do all things with out grumbling.' How can we stop ourselves from complaining all the time? What will the result be? (See verses 15-16)

- 3) Obedience is not a popular concept in our contemporary society. The phrase, "Rules are meant to be broken," is commonplace today and is usually adhered to. However, believers in Christ are held to a different standard. Samuel and Saul both allowed God's will to happen. Samuel played his part and Saul went along with it. Sometimes we simply have to do what God asks of us. How is that possible in today's world? What scripture references can you point to which support your suggestion?

- 4) The chief result of our obedience is transformation. Saul was anointed, given a new heart and was blessed by being overcome by the Holy Spirit. **Read Acts 2:1-21.** Suddenly life has taken on a new meaning for the church. Now they are empowered and emboldened to speak the praise of God to the rest of the world. They are given hearts of flesh and not of stone. When we obey, this is what happens, we are strengthened by the Spirit. Have you noticed this in your own life? If so, please share a testimony with the group. If you haven't noticed this in your own life, what are some of the things you can do, as a group, to hold each other accountable? In other words, how can we encourage one another to be obedient to God's calling?