



7-26-2026

Christ: From Creation to Caught Up
Part 16b: The Heart of A King

No amount of outward _____ can compensate for inward _____.

1. DON'T SUBSTITUTE _____ OBEDIENCE FOR _____ SURRENDER *1 Samuel 15:22-23*

- A. Samuel doesn't say sacrifice is _____.
He says sacrifice is _____ a substitute for obedience.
- B. Only _____ is obedience. *James 1:22*
- C. _____ have never impressed God.
- D. Saul _____ complete obedience.
Jesus _____ complete obedience. *Philippians 2:8*
- E. Because Jesus obeyed _____... We can be forgiven _____.

2. DON'T CHOOSE _____ OVER REPENTANCE

- A. Sin always _____ our vision. *1 Samuel 16:14*
- B. The problem comes when we use _____ relief to avoid _____ transformation. *2 Corinthians 7:10*
- C. Repentance isn't punishment. It's _____.
- D. When _____ comes ... What's your first response?
- E. The tragedy of Saul wasn't that he sinned. The tragedy was that he never truly let his heart _____ to God.

Follow-Up Study (Do alone or with others)

- o If you could instantly become an expert in one skill or profession, what would you choose—and why?

We often admire what is impressive on the outside. Today's lesson reminds us that God is far more interested in who we are than how we appear.

Read : 1 Samuel 15:22-23

1. Who Is Really King of My Life?

Israel's greatest mistake wasn't asking for leadership—it was rejecting God's leadership. They wanted a king they could see instead of trusting the King they already had.

- 1. Why do you think Israel wanted to be "like the other nations" instead of remaining distinct as God's people?
- 2. What are some modern-day ways Christians can be tempted to trust people, success, or security more than God?

Take a few moments to identify one area where you've been relying on your own strength instead of God's leadership. Pray together, asking Christ to reclaim that area as King.

2. God Looks Beyond Appearance

Saul looked like the ideal king. He was tall, impressive, and admired by others. Yet God wasn't looking for the tallest man—He was looking for the right heart.

- 1. Why is it so easy to focus on appearances, accomplishments, or reputation rather than spiritual character?
- 2. According to 1 Samuel 16:7, what qualities do you think God values most in a person's heart?

This week, intentionally spend more time developing your relationship with Christ than your outward image. Ask God to grow humility, integrity, and faithfulness in your heart.

3. Obedience or Excuses? Repentance or Relief?

Saul repeatedly chose partial obedience and later sought relief from his troubled heart rather than true repentance. Jesus, however, demonstrated complete obedience to the Father and invites us to repent and find lasting freedom.

- 1. Why is "partial obedience" still disobedience? Can you think of examples where people (including ourselves) try to justify incomplete **obedience**?
- 2. When life becomes difficult, what are some common ways people seek temporary relief instead of bringing their struggles honestly before God?

Spend a few quiet moments asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where you've settled for temporary relief instead of genuine repentance. Share only if you're comfortable, then pray for one another that Christ would strengthen you to walk in joyful obedience.

This week, ask yourself one question each morning:
"Who will sit on the throne of my life today—me or Jesus?"