

Obedience is Better than Sacrifice

The design that our Father had in mind as far as establishing His community is a marvelous design, a predetermined design, obviously. He is establishing His community and a community is not just what we know from the word *church*. *Community* means commonness of being, *koinonia*, joint communication. There shouldn't be any hypocrisy in the community, no pacts, like an underground (“Don't tell on me when I tell you this...”).

We used to go to church and people would pray these righteous prayers or these prayers of thanksgiving. But if we had lived with them, they might not have prayed because others would have known their lives and known that that man could not have a good conscience to give thanks or pray so righteously.

Ps 116:14,18 — That fellow had a good conscience. I think that is written down for our times. The design of community is that we can live an open life before each other.

1 Sam 15:17-35 — The story starts in the beginning of the chapter. Verse 24 — He feared what the people would say, rather than YHWH. There was kind of a pressure put upon him by the people.

Verse 3 — You see what he was commanded to do. He had to kill all of the flesh. All of our flesh has to die in order for us to enter the kingdom. If we don't do it when we have the means to do it, it is like practicing witchcraft. We have the power of Ruach ha Kodesh to do it. If we don't do it now in this age we will spend many hours in the next age weeping, gnashing our teeth, regretting, putting our flesh to death (Mt 25:30).

Saul could not repent from it. He sinned a sin unto death. He went to silence. He didn't have true praises. He probably regretted. Then he pursued David who was anointed king in his place, for many years.

These things are our foundation. They should be taught here. You cannot have community apart from this.

1 Sam 15:3 — They had to kill them so they wouldn't grow up again. Saul was killed by one of those babies that weren't destroyed. Saul went on reasoning. It was almost like the sin of Achan, since these things were under the ban, devoted to destruction.

What we can learn here is that the greatest of our Father's demands on us is not that we bear the cross or serve or deny ourselves, but that we obey. To obey is better than anything else you do. Even in sacrifice and offerings there can be an element of self will. Jn 14:21-24 — This is one of the first things that our Father ever spoke to my heart — obedience is better than sacrifice. This is the most marvelous form of worship — to obey Him. Jn 8:51 is left for a whole generation.

Reasoning — Did you ever have a child who reasons with you? It is not a child anymore. Unless the parents put it into the child, a child hasn't developed that faculty yet. We have to become like little children.

Saul reasoned. Where is Saul today? Did he wait for our Master to deliver him? Has he hope that he would be delivered when our Master comes a second time? Did he go to the bosom of Abraham? Where is Solomon?¹ There is a lot we can learn from Saul.

It was in Saul's means and power to do what he was asked to do. He could have done it. We can do it. Andreas [our new brother] has certain innate abilities. He could have used those things in the world but it wouldn't have done any good. In the Body our Master gives us grace and faith to add to our abilities to use them (Mt 25; 1 Sam 15:22). It would only be stubbornness if we wouldn't use our abilities in this way. That is why we would have to pay the penalty for stubbornness. Only those who obey Him will not see death — a correctional death, a separation from God in a place He calls death. He gave us Ruach ha Kodesh, His commandments, our brothers and sisters, the community, and daily encouragement to do it. It is only stubbornness that would cause us to fail. 1 Cor 10:11 was written for that generation that will be born some day prophetically (Ps 102:18).

¹ [See also, Morning Sacrifice, Sus House, Boston: *Indifference and Love* (940131A).]

If we are able to praise, our conscience is perfect — no witchcraft, rebellion, stubbornness — only willingness to obey.

The blood is for sin. It is the means by which we can be forgiven for our present sin. But rebellion, sinning willfully, there is no sacrifice for this. Saul feared the people. He tried to justify himself in front of the prophet. He could have gotten away that day if that prophet wouldn't have been in the Spirit that day. But Samuel cut that wicked man Agag, who didn't deserve to live, in pieces. Those Amalekite children at least have the chance to go to the nations now, instead of growing up and becoming so wicked that they would have gone to the second death.

Rom 15:4 — This is all written down and this all happened for our sake. We have hope. It is written to people who have a good conscience. 1 Pet 3:21 — Before we were baptized our conscience was becoming dull; now we can detect things. We are talking about people who have received a good conscience and Ruach ha Kodesh so they can detect things, so we can understand these things from the old covenant.

1 Cor 10:6,11; 1 Pet 2:9 — We praise Him by our lives. We proclaim by our lives the excellencies of our King (Ps 102:18).

We have to profit by Saul's error. We need to detect anything from Saul's error in us. If I sin and I detect it I have to confess it. If I do this the wages are already paid for it by Yahshua. If I don't confess it then it starts piling up and guilt comes in and we have to pay for our sins. Be sure your sin will find you out. Someday it is going to come into the open. He has given us all we need in order to be worthy to marry our Master Yahshua when He comes back. It talks about marriage like that so we can know what it means to be worthy of marrying our Master.

If it wasn't for Saul's sin we wouldn't know much. We are not just working — work, work, work — or doing rituals. We do things because of obedience. I hope to see Saul someday in the eternal kingdom.

1 Jn 2:4-5; Jn 14:15,21-24

The greatest guru ever possible, the guru of all gurus, the king of all kings is Yahshua.

We are His disciples.

Let's gather together and give Him our bodies. Jn 15:5 — We can do nothing apart from Him. We need His grace.

We have eternal life. Everyone here in this room whose name is written in the Lamb's book of life has eternal life. We received eternal life by trusting in our Master, but we have to obey Him in order to not see a correctional death.

Gidon: I learned that Amalek is like our flesh. Like Saul had to kill the Amalekites, in the same way we need to kill our flesh. We have the means to do away with the flesh like Saul did. We only wouldn't do it because of rebellion.

If we are not encouraging one another, we won't have the means to do it. We need encouragement in order to put our flesh to death. Heb 3:13 — If we are not encouraging one another we are going to death. If we are not encouraged we are not praying. It is our responsibility to encourage one another. We need to encourage Gidon and Gidon needs to encourage his brothers.