



FOLLOW
THE DONKEY
The Continuing Journey

Simple and Clear

Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.

1 Samuel 15:3

It was direct and it was deeply uncomfortable.

Saul reasoned:

“Why waste what looks valuable?

Why destroy what could be useful?”

But that’s the danger, selective obedience always makes sense to us



The Problem with Partial Obedience

It was direct and it was deeply uncomfortable.

We start editing God's commands instead of executing them

**In that tiny gap between what God said and what Saul did,
an entire kingdom began to crumble**

**Saul didn't rebel like a villain,
he compromised like a worshiper**

**He obeyed almost
everything and called
it faith**



The Donkey Dilemma

The donkeys stand as quiet witnesses to Saul's disobedience



What “donkey” are you still feeding; something small and ordinary, yet slowly carrying you away from obedience?

Sometimes the hardest test of obedience isn't what God asks you to do, it's what He asks you to let go of



If we're not careful, the thing we refuse to release can cost us the future God intended for us

Who's In Charge?

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so, listen now to the message from the Lord.

1 Samuel 15:1

This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt

1 Samuel 15:2

**The instructions left
no room for interpretation**



Who's In Charge?

Saul wasn't called to analyze; he was called to obey

We love God's Word until it confronts us

We highlight promises, underline blessings, and post encouraging verses

But when Scripture says forgive, surrender, or wait; suddenly, we "need to pray about it"

Obedience doesn't begin with understanding; it begins with trust



Partial Obedience Is Full Disobedience

But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

- He saved what looked good

1 Samuel 15:9

- He made decisions by sight, not faith

- Ninety-nine percent obedience is still rebellion at the root

And when Saul got caught, he didn't repent, he reasoned



The Excuses of Religious Disobedience

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.”

Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

1 Samuel 15:13

1 Samuel 15:15

**He blamed the people,
spiritualized his disobedience,
and tried to sanctify sin**



The Excuses of Religious Disobedience



He made rebellion sound like worship, note the details:

Saul mentions the cattle and sheep, but not the donkeys

The donkeys couldn't be used for sacrifice; they were unclean

He doesn't even justify them, their presence is just lost in his disobedience

Don't baptize rebellion and call it worship

Sometimes our "sacrifice" is just a disguise for stubbornness



Obedience Over Sacrifice



But Samuel replied: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than

the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king.”

1 Samuel 15:22-23



Obedience Over Sacrifice



God doesn't measure faith by sacrifice but by submission

Rebellion isn't weakness; Samuel calls it witchcraft and idol worship

Rebellion puts your will in God's seat

**Sacrifice says, "Look what I gave."
Obedience says, "Look who I follow"**

True worship begins not at the altar of offering but at the altar of surrender



Don't Spare Your Donkeys

Saul's story didn't end because he stopped believing in God, it ended because he started believing in himself

He served God on his terms and called partial obedience "good enough."

It cost him EVERYTHING!

**He kept his donkeys
but lost his destiny**



Don't Spare Your Donkeys

And if we're honest... Saul's story hits closer than we'd like to admit



Because we don't usually reject God outright, we just revise Him

We reason our way out of obedience and call it faith

But obedience doesn't need explanation, it needs execution



A Call to Christlike Obedience

**Saul shows us what partial obedience costs,
but Jesus shows us what full obedience looks like**

**Saul spared what he wanted to keep;
Jesus surrendered everything**

**Jesus didn't negotiate with the Father's will,
He submitted to it completely**

**When obedience meant suffering, He didn't
edit the command, He embraced it**

**Jesus rode into the city on a donkey,
but He left that city carrying a cross**



A Call to Christlike Obedience

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:8

Jesus didn't Obey 99%

**He didn't obey when it was easy and
hesitate when it was costly**

**He was obedient all
the way to the cross**



**Saul kept the donkeys
and lost his future...
Jesus carried the cross
and secured it.**

