

ISA 15:1 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. 2 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. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.' "

ISA 15:4 So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim-- two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah. 5 Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. 6 Then he said to the Kenites, "Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

ISA 15:7 Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. 8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. 9 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.

ISA 15:12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal."

ISA 15:13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions."

ISA 15:14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

ISA 15:15 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."

ISA 15:16 "Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night."

"Tell me," Saul replied.

ISA 15:17 Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. ¹⁸ And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' ¹⁹ Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

ISA 15:20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. ²¹ The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

ISA 15:22 But Samuel replied:

"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD?

*To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

*ISA 15:23 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."*

ISA 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. ²⁵ Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."

ISA 15:26 But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!"

ISA 15:27 As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ Samuel said to him, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors--to one better than you. ²⁹ He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind."

ISA 15:30 Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God." ³¹ So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

Chasing Donkeys or fighting Giants Week 2

1. Task Given By God. V1

² 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. ³ Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.' "

Most of the time, we think we need guidance, some of the time the guidance is already there we just have to do it.

Ok this advice is a bit tough and outside our concept of fair play.

God saying wipe them out including women and children and animals. We don't think that way, we have a much greater forgiveness level or tolerance level but hang on, this is God talking, not us making a moral judgement.

How do we explain this by today's standards – we can't. Our culture is different, the setting is different, and God's purposes are for us not for them back then.

So, guidance, when God says to – do it.

The Nike principal – just do it.

Sometimes Scripture tells us how to, yet we ask for guidance.
The Holy Spirit shows us – yet we ask for guidance.
Often we need to address the obedience factor more and asking for guidance less.
Just do it.

2. God knows!!

ISA 15:10 Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: 11 "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

Half way through the event – yet God knows. Note to it says Saul has turned away. God knows the action and the intent. Let's be realistic- you cant hide nothing from God.

The question has to be asked Why don't we behave better?????
Why don't we live like God knows? I have a theory. We know God will forgive, so we don't think sin is a big issue. It is. It is so much of an issue God even punishes the sin of his chosen man – the king.

3. No excuses.

ISA 15:20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. 21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

We all do it. We explain away our reasons – but we are responsible. There are no excuses for sin. We all do.

4. Obedience is the issue.

***ISA 15:22 But Samuel replied:
"Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD?
To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
ISA 15:23 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."***

Better than sacrifice. God would rather have an obedient servant than a martyr.
Nike principal expanded – Just do it. – Just do God's will.

5. Own your mistakes

ISA 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. ²⁵ Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."

ISA 15:26 But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!"

Notice Saul blames the people –
that HE is responsible for.
He sinned not them.
We sin so don't blame anyone else.