

The Importance of Total Obedience

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of total obedience to God's commands and the dangers of becoming big in our own eyes, which can lead to losing the anointing of the Spirit.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 10:21, 1 Samuel 16:13-14, 1 Samuel 16:23, 1 Samuel 18:8, 1 Samuel 31:6, Psalm 75:6, Galatians 1:10

Topics: "Spiritual Pride", "Godly Obedience"

Description

Zac Poonen preaches about the rise and fall of King Saul, emphasizing how Saul's humility turned into pride as he allowed his own reasoning and the opinions of others to influence his decisions, leading to the loss of God's anointing. The sermon highlights the danger of clinging to positions of authority and suppressing those who may threaten our status, like Saul did with David. It serves as a warning that God may allow individuals to continue in ministry even after losing His anointing, relying on the discernment of others rather than God's rejection.

Transcript

Saul was another man whom God chose to lead Israel. Saul never wanted to be a king. It was God Who placed him on the throne of Israel. And when the Israelites came to make him king, Saul hid himself, saying, "Who am I to be the king? My family is the least of all the families of Israel" (1 Sam.10:21,22). What a humble man he was!

But it wasn't long before Saul became big in his own eyes and God had to take away the anointing from him.

In 1 Samuel 15, we read that Saul modified God's commands and did not kill everything of Amalek, as God had commanded him to. He followed his own reason, and did what pleased the people. This is what happens when anyone becomes big in his own eyes. And here we see two of the greatest snares that every servant of God faces - the opinion of his own reason and the opinion of other people. Saul lost his anointing because he allowed himself to be influenced by these two factors. We have no right to modify any of God's commands according to our own wisdom. And if we seek to please men, we "cannot be servants of Christ" (Gal.1:10).

If Saul had remained small in his own eyes, he would have retained the anointing until the end of his life. But he began to love his throne. And that is how many another servant of God has lost his anointing too.

Standing repeatedly before people, as God's spokesmen, has a way of going to our heads, if we are not watchful.

But Saul did not only cling on to being king. When he saw an anointed younger brother (David) coming up, and others having confidence in him, he schemed to suppress him. He was jealous of David, because David had a faith that Saul did not have. And he wanted to kill David because the people admired him.

But does God ignore the actions of such Sauls - who stick to their thrones, even after God has rejected them? For a long time God may spare them. In Saul's case, God spared him for 13 years. David was about 17 years old when he killed Goliath. But he became king only when he was 30. For 13 years after David had been anointed by God, God allowed Saul to continue to rule as Israel's king.

What lesson does all of this have for us?

God may allow us, even after we have become backsliders, to stay on in a ministry, long after we have lost the anointing of the Spirit.

Others may not recognise that we have lost the anointing, because of their lack of discernment. So they may continue to accept us as servants of God, because they respect our age or Bible knowledge or experience. But we must not imagine that such acceptance by the people is sufficient for us to remain as God's servants.

What is the use of man accepting us if God Himself has rejected us? It is a terrible tragedy when a man continues to serve the Lord or to lead a church, even after the anointing has gone from his life.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/zac-poonen/the-importance-of-total-obedience/>

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