



21-DAY FAST Devotional #11- BLESSINGS FOLLOW OBEDIENCE

By Pastor Darren L. Chilson

1 Samuel 15:22 (NIV) “Does the Lord delight in burn 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”

My oldest son Hudson is privileged to have a very wise and caring preschool teacher who teaches and invests in him. Perhaps the wisest and simplest thing I have heard her say is “***Blessings follow Obedience***”. As you can imagine, this is a phrase that is often used with a classroom full of 3 & 4 year olds. What amazes me is not only the simplicity of that statement, but also, the truth of it. As we obey those in authority over us, there are rewards. As we disobey, there are consequences.

In 1 Samuel 15, we see Saul, the anointed King of Israel, going against the command of the prophet Samuel to utterly destroy the Amalekites (a pagan nation). Rather than wiping them out, Saul chose to keep the best of the cattle and flocks, and even the rival king alive. He explains to Samuel that his intentions were to save the best to use as a sacrifice to God. Saul chose to “**set up a monument in his own honor**” (v12), so that he could look good, rather than obey God’s instructions.

So often we try to make ourselves look alright. We do our best to look good on Sundays, and do and say the right things on Facebook. However, when we hear the prompting of the Holy Spirit, to step out of our comfort zone and share Christ’s love, we make excuses, and shrink back in fear. **To win within, we must learn to fight the battle of choosing Obedience over Excuses. The result of Saul’s disobedience was rejection as king by the LORD.**

Question for today: What blessings have you missed out on because of your disobedience?

Verses to look up: Deuteronomy 28:1-2, John 15:7-14, Jeremiah 7:23-24

Prayer for this week: Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me, giving your life, rising again, and for giving me your Holy Spirit. Help me this day to not drift from the vine and into vice. I know that there is a power that comes from staying connected to You which enables me to bear fruit. Help me to walk in Your power! May others see the fruit that is being produced in my life, through my relationship with You, and that they will desire to do the same. I pray for my church that we will see breakthrough! Help people to come to you through my witness and through my congregation. I pray for breakthrough in marriages, health, finances, emotions, habits, and all areas. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen