**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 3 – AUGUST 31, 2025**

I Had Good Intentions.

**Key Verse(s):** 1 Samuel 15:15 “And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

God commanded King Saul, through the prophet Samuel, to completely destroy the Amalekites and everything they possessed. Saul gathered his army, defeated the Amalekites, and then chose to spare King Agag and keep the best of the sheep, oxen, and other valuables. When Samuel confronted him, Saul proudly claimed that he had obeyed God’s command, but the sound of the animals clearly showed his disobedience. Saul tried to justify his actions by insisting that the livestock had been spared to sacrifice to the Lord, believing his intentions made up for his partial obedience. Samuel rebuked him sharply, declaring, “To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” Because Saul rejected God’s Word, God rejected him from being king. Saul believed that his action was acceptable before the Lord because he excused his disobedience as being justified by his good intentions. He viewed his intent as more important than his actual behavior.



 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* God had not spoken in ideas. He had spoken with exactness.
* A deed is only good if it aligns with what God commands.
* God’s glory should always be the priority over our gain.
* It is foolish and prideful to think we have knowledge over God.
* The same principle of intent will be shown to the leader.
* He believed that he had done what God generally wanted.
* He figured that God would not be angry with a “good” deed.
* He couldn’t justify the waste of a clear opportunity for gain.
* He saw great purposes that he thought God did not see.
* As a leader, he was willing to accept intent over action.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. Creates a vagueness about the will of the Lord in our lives. (blurs right & wrong)**

**Proverbs 3:5-6** — Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

**2. Causes us to ultimately do whatever we want and view as acceptable.**

**Judges 21:25** — Every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

**3. Constructs a boundary for decisions that is based entirely upon our emotions.**

**Proverbs 28:26** — He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

**4. Casts doubt and even disdain upon that which might actually be right and just.**

**Isaiah 5:20** — “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Mem. Verse:** Luke 6:46 — And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

**Reflective Questions:**

* What is my main intention in life? Is it to glorify and please the Lord Jesus Christ?
* Can I validate all of my current actions with clear Biblical commands and support?

**Commitment:**

* I will obey God’s Word fully, even when my feelings conflict with Its commands.
* I will strive to understand exactly what it is that God wants for me – not just ideas.

Can we find any potential wiggle room in the command from God to Saul?

Is it better to obey with wrong intention or to disobey with good intention?

Is mankind more lenient and accepting of good intent than God is? Why?

Are we setting up others for failure by giving latitude toward good intent, or is it a means for showing mercy?

Is it even true to say that King Saul actually had good intentions?