

1  
Samuel  
15



SUMMER 2011 SERMON SERIES

# I DID IT MY WAY

AUG 21, 2011  
GRAND CENTRAL  
ALLIANCE CHURCH  
10:30AM



August 21

## I Did it My Way

*Summer Series: Life of Samuel*

# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Setting

- Israel enjoyed Samuel's leadership for many years (including victory over Philistines)
- Israel rejects God as their king and asks for a king to rule over them
- Samuel anoints Saul as king
- Samuel gives his farewell speech to the people
- Saul disobeys God by making the sacrifices rather than waiting for Samuel
- Saul's kingdom will not continue after him



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### The Rest of the Story

- Israel in big trouble... (last week)
- Jonathon, Saul's son, attacks the Philistines
  - “nothing can hinder the Lord from saving,”
  - With only his armor bearer, causes soldiers to flee
- God causes the Philistines to panic
- Israel attacks – Philistine camp in confusion
- Israel routs the Philistines
- Israel at war with Philistines all of Saul's life



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Today's Story (1 Samuel 15)

- Samuel approaches Saul with a message/mission from God, “totally destroy the Amalekites”
- Saul summons 200 000 men





# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### 1 Samuel 15

<sup>7</sup> Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt.  
<sup>8</sup> He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. <sup>9</sup> 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.



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Today's Story (1 Samuel 15)

- Samuel approaches Saul with a message/mission from God, “totally destroy the Amalekites”
- Saul summons 200 000 men and defeats them
  - Spares Agag (king) and the best livestock
  - Saul “unwilling” to destroy them
- Saul sets up a monument in his own honour
- God grieved that he made Saul king because he turned his heart away from God
- Samuel confronts king Saul



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### 1 Samuel 15

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’s instructions.”

<sup>14</sup> But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

<sup>15</sup> 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.”

<sup>16</sup> “Enough!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”  
“Tell me,” Saul replied.





# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war against them until you have wiped them out.’ <sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

<sup>20</sup> “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. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

<sup>22</sup> 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.



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

<sup>23</sup> 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.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I  
violated the LORD’s command and your  
instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave  
in to them. <sup>25</sup> Now I beg you, forgive my sin and  
come back with me, so that I may worship the  
LORD.”



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

<sup>26</sup> 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!”

<sup>27</sup> As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup> Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbours—to one better than you. <sup>29</sup> He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”





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## 1 Samuel 15

<sup>30</sup> Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honour me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.” <sup>31</sup> So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Lessons from Story – Why God Rejects Saul

#### 1. Rebellion

- a. Saul is reminded that although king, he is required to submit to God – he is only king because God decided to make him king (v.17-19)
  - Saul's role as king was to listen to God – he cannot decide for himself and refuse to listen to/obey God



# I Did it My Way

1 Samuel 15

## Lessons from Story – Why God Rejects Saul

- b. Saul blames the people for his rebellion and sin (v.21)
- c. God delights in our obedience (v.22)
- d. Rebellion and Divination



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Lessons from Story – Why God Rejects Saul

1. Rebellion
2. Arrogance
  - a. King Saul started well – humble and compliant to God (v.17... “small in his own eyes...”)
  - b. Became arrogant – evidenced by his rebellion and determination to do things his way rather than God’s
  - c. Arrogance and idolatry





# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Lessons from Story – Why God Rejects Saul

1. Rebellion
2. Arrogance
3. Rejected God's Word
  - a. Saul chose to obey God on his own terms (“I did obey God”)
  - b. Because Saul did not listen to God's instructions, he is no longer the anointed one of God
  - c. As Saul rejected God's ways, so God rejects him as king



# I Did it My Way

## 1 Samuel 15

### Lessons from Story – Why God Rejects Saul

1. Rebellion
2. Arrogance
3. Rejected God's Word
4. Sorry but Unrepentant
  - a. Saul finally admits his sin (confesses guilt)
  - b. Pleads with Samuel to return to worship with him (to save face with the people)
  - c. Worships God, but does not repent of his sinful ways (as evidenced in the rest of 1Sam)



# I Did it My Way

1 Samuel 15

## Lessons for Today

### 1. Rebellion

- a. We rebel against God when we don't listen/obey
- b. Jesus is our King and unlike Saul, his life was dedicated to listening to his Father
- c. "I did it my way" is rebellion against God



# I Did it My Way

1 Samuel 15

## Lessons for Today

1. Rebellion
2. Arrogance
  - a. We tend to think of ourselves higher than we should
  - b. Jesus practiced a humble life evidenced by his willing to listen and live his life God's way
  - c. "I did it my way" is evidence of arrogance





# I Did it My Way

1 Samuel 15

## Lessons for Today

1. Rebellion
2. Arrogance
3. Rejecting God's Word
  - a. How are we at listening to God's word and putting it into practice?
  - b. Are you guilty of "selective hearing" when it comes to the Bible?
  - c. "I did it my way" is ultimately a rejection of God's word and desires for our lives



# I Did it My Way

1 Samuel 15

## Lessons for Today

1. Rebellion
2. Arrogance
3. Rejecting God's Word
4. Sorry but Unrepentant
  - a. Our culture excels in this area – we're usually sorry because we got caught
  - b. Sorry + repentant = turning from our sin towards Jesus
  - c. "I did it my way" is a sorry statement of an unrepentant life



# I Did it My Way

1 Samuel 15

**Isaiah 66:2b**

These are the ones I look on with favor:  
those who are humble and contrite in spirit,  
and who tremble at my word.

