

16. What lessons do we learn about what God requires of us from Samuel's words in 1 Samuel 15:22–23?

How should these lessons help form our decisions and plans moving forward?

17. Why did the LORD respond so strongly to Saul's disobedience? Do you think this response was fair? Why or why not?

In the language of the OT, God is said to "repent" when a change in the character and conduct of those with whom he is dealing leads to a corresponding change in his plans and purposes toward them. His repentance is not to be understood as his regretting his action, nor is it a sign of changeableness. His promises and threats are often conditional (Jeremiah 18:8–10).⁵

18. How does the obedience of Jesus and our submission to Him free us from the need to blame-shift, deny responsibility for our sins and shortcomings, and maintain a certain image?

19. Read Hebrews 10:5–10 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. How does Jesus fulfill our desire and need for a perfect King, and how can we as His followers benefit from His perfect leadership?

Take time to pray, asking God to give you an obedient heart that is quick to trust and obey. Seek forgiveness for your times of partial obedience by taking full responsibility for your sin and revel in the fact that Jesus loves you and forgives you and desires that His people live with humble and contrite hearts so that they are always ready to serve God when He calls.

⁵ <http://bibleoutlines.com/library/pdf/1samuel.pdf>