

A PICTURE OF THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Introduction

1. The attitude we have toward sin will either lead to our salvation or condemnation. God has promised that if we confess our sin, then “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9; cp. Job 33:27-28; Proverbs 28:13). If we refuse to confess our sins and repent, then we will suffer death (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 10:25-26; James 1:15).
2. We all have to face judgment after death (Hebrews 9:27), but even while we yet live we are judged (Mark 16:15-16)! The difference is this: the judgment that rests upon us now is dependant on our attitude, which is subject to change. The judgment after death is final and irrevocable.
3. Throughout this lesson I have used individual pronouns (e.g., you) rather than collective pronouns (e.g., we), not to exclude myself, but to emphasize the truth that we will all be judged individually, not as a group (Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; cp. Genesis 3:8-19; Acts 5:1-10).

Text: 1 Samuel 15:1-35

Outline:

1. Saul’s Mission (15:1-5).

Saul was to be an instrument of God in judging Amalek. He was to go and totally destroy the Amalekites.

2. Saul’s Disobedience (15:6-9).

Saul did two things wrong: (i) while He destroyed everyone, he spared the king, Agag, and (ii) he kept alive the best of the livestock.

3. Samuel’s Distress Over Saul (15:10-11).

God informed Samuel of His displeasure in Saul's disobedience. Samuel was greatly grieved.

4. Saul’s Deceit (15:12-13).

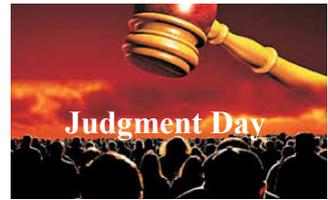
When Samuel came to Saul, he claimed to have kept the commandment of the Lord. When Samuel confronted him, Saul tried to shift the responsibility on to others.

5. Declaration About Saul (15:14-31).

Of God's Displeasure (15:14-23) and off the loss of the Kingdom (15:24-31).

Observations:

1. Your partial obedience is disobedience (As seen with the case of Saul).
2. Your denials of disobedience will expose you as a liar.
 - a. Perhaps some people may believe your denials, but to deny sin in the presence of God (at the judgment) or in the presence of one of His prophets is futile; because God sees into our hearts (1 Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 17:10; 20:12; Psalms 44:21; 1 Kings 8:39) and knows all our thoughts (Psalms 139:2).
 - b. God has said that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and to deny this is to call God a liar (1 John 1:10).
 - c. To deny one has sinned is to deceive one’s self (1 John 1:8). If you deceive yourself in this respect, then you cannot repent because you consider yourself free of sin; making repentance unnecessary. The person who maintains this denial is certainly lost.
3. Your attempts to shift the blame on to others for your disobedience will be unsuccessful. Attempting to shift the blame for your sin may work with some people, but to try and shift the blame in the presence of God (at the judgment) or in the presence of one of His prophets is futile. Adam and Eve sought to shift the blame for their sin (Genesis 3:8-19), and Aaron sought to blame the people for the making of the golden calf (Exodus 32:21-24; cp. Deuteronomy 9:20).



4. Your confession after judgment and condemnation comes too late (cp. **Genesis 27:30-40; Philipians 2:9-11**).
- a. Yahweh's judgment against Saul was first announced to the prophet Samuel: "It repenteth Me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following Me, and hath not performed My commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto Yahweh all night" (**1 Samuel 15:11**).
 - b. After confronting Saul and listening to his excuses, Samuel pronounced God's judgment: "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of Yahweh, He hath also rejected thee from being king" (**1 Samuel 15:23**).
 - c. Saul finally confessed his sin (**1 Samuel 15:24-25**), but it was too late and Samuel once again pronounced Yahweh's judgment: "And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of Yahweh, and Yahweh hath rejected thee from being king over Israel" (**1 Samuel 15:26**). Likewise, on the Day of Judgment, God's judgment will be announced, and it will be final and irrevocable. The judgment announced is already known while you yet live! Think about that! Consider, for example, this verse: "He that believeth on the Son **hath everlasting life**: and he that believeth not the Son **shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him**" (**John 3:36**).
5. Your disobedience and rebellion will result in your rejection. The previous point emphasizes that it will be too late to confess your sins and repent after your judgment is announced. Here we wish to emphasize that the judgment against all that reject God will be rejection by God (you reject God and God will reject you).

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not**" (**Matthew 25:1-12**).

"Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity**" (**Matthew 7:21-23**).

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: and I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And **cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**" (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

Applications:

1. Complete Obedience. If Jesus is truly your Lord, then you will do what He says (**Luke 6:46; Hebrews 5:9; John 15:10**). This means (i) doing *all that He has commanded* (**Matthew 28:19-20**), and (ii) obeying *all the details* of a particular command (**Deuteronomy 12:32; Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19**).
2. Confession of sin. It is vital that you continually confess your sins and repent to ensure you remain in fellowship with God:

“He [God] looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light” (**Job 33:27-28**).

“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (**Proverbs 28:13**).

“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (**1 John 1:8-9**).
3. Accept responsibility. When you sin, it is essential to take full responsibility for it. This means confessing that you have sinned without offering excuses or trying to shift the blame on to other people, your circumstances, or the devil. Consider: David committed adultery with Bathsheba and then sought to avoid being caught by killing her husband, Uriah. When Nathan the prophet confronted him and exposed his sin, David did not deny he had sinned and he did not seek to blame others
4. Once you have been convicted of your sin, it is essential that you confess it and repent of it immediately. Each time you deny that you have sinned or pass the blame on to others or on your circumstances, you keep hardening your heart, which can become so hard that repentance becomes impossible! Remember, your failure to confess your sin and repent results in judgment now! Think about that! I do not doubt that many will stand before the Lord on the Day of Judgment pleading for forgiveness: “Please, just give me a second chance”. It will be too late, though.
5. The author of Hebrews says, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (**Hebrews 10:31**). Jesus, too, said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (**Matthew 10:28**). Remember, the judgment against us is final, irrevocable, and eternal – a sobering thought!

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (**2 Corinthians 7:1**).

“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure” (**1 John 3:3**).