LESSONS FROM SAUL AND AMALEK

* History of the Amalekites
  + Likely descendants of Esau – Gen. 36:12
    - But see, Gen. 14:7
  + Cowardly attacked Israel – Deut. 25:17-19
    - “Did not fear God”
  + Israel’s first battle – Ex. 17:8-16
  + Nomads who continued to harass Israel – Jdg. 3:12-13; 6:3-5
* God’s Judgment of Amalekites
  + Original command to blot them out – Deut. 25:19
  + Direct command given to King Saul to “utterly destroy” them – 1 Sam. 15:2-3
  + Saul attacked them (from Havilah all the way to Shur) – 1 Sam. 15:7
* Saul’s Disobedience (1 Sam. 15)
  + Took King Agag captive – v. 8
  + Spared the best of Amalek’s flocks– v. 9
  + Blamed others – v. 21
  + Others apparently escaped – 1 Sam. 30:1-5
* Saul’s Misunderstanding
  + “I have performed the commandment of the Lord.” – v. 13
  + Animals to sacrifice “which should have been utterly destroyed” (v. 21), “and the rest we have utterly destroyed.” – v. 15
  + “But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord… and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.” – v. 20
* Consequences of Saul’s Actions
  + Disappointment to others – 1 Sam. 15:11, 35
  + Cost him his kingdom – 1 Sam. 15:23-26
  + Later put out of misery by Amalekite – 2 Sam. 1:8-10
  + Agag not spared – 1 Sam. 15:32-33
  + Others had to finish the job – 1 Sam. 30:1-5, 17-19; 1 Chron. 4:43
  + Haman’s plot against Jews – Est. 3:1, 6
* Lessons for Us
  + We must utterly destroy sin in our lives – Col. 3:2-10
  + We can’t pass the buck to others – 2 Cor. 5:10
  + God wants full obedience – 1 Sam. 15:22
    - Not our place to question why…
    - Must worship how God has authorized – Jn. 4:24
    - Can’t neglect any duties – Mt. 25:14-30