

# What's the Big Idea? The Sin of Autonomy, Part 2

1 Samuel 15: 9-22

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August 30, 2015

## Introduction:

### Review:

- Last week we began a consideration of autonomy
- We looked at the word and its etymology
- We considered King Saul – one of a great many Biblical characters who acted autonomously
  - His qualifying attributes to be King were
    - Youth, handsome, wealthy, from a good family and physically imposing
    - We choose our own leaders by much the same criteria
  - His predisposition was to reconstruct God's commands and act as a law unto himself
  - Saul's effective reign over Israel was 7 days

## The Take Away

- The sin of autonomy is a heinous sin
  - 2 Cor. 10: 5 – taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ
  - When we step outside of the umbrella of God's expressed will for us, we flirt with trouble
  - Dr. Robert Palmer & Albert Camus
  - Rom. 8: 29 – “to be conformed to the image of His Son.”
- It is in our nature and in the nature of governments to co-opt power and act autonomously
  - James Madison – “If men were angels . . .”
- The sin of autonomy was not unique to Saul
  - In fact it was the very first sin
    - Genesis 3: 6 – “. . . the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit . . .”
    - Autonomy is a gateway sin
- The story of Saul, in spite of his autonomy, is a great picture of God's ultimate plan:
  - Deuteronomy 17: 5 – “You may indeed set a king over you . . .”
  - God's ultimate intention was for that King to be born in a humble state
  - Without beauty
  - Whatever king reigned over Israel was a fabulously imperfect shadow of the real King
  - The Bad News
  - The Good News

## **Other Relevant Quotes**

### **What's the Big Idea? – Autonomy part 2**

**1 Sam. 13: 13, 14 – And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”**

**2 Corinthians 10: 5 – destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.**

**Albert Camus – “A man’s worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes.”**

**Romans 8: 29 – For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son.**

**Genesis 3: 6 – So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.**

**Deut. 17: 15 – You may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you.**

**Is. 53: 2,3 – He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and as one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised and we esteemed Him not.**

**Romans 3: 10 – There is none righteous, no not even one.**

**Matthew 5: 48 – You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**

**Romans 3: 20 – For by works of the law [good deeds], no human being will be justify in His sight.**

**Galatians 3: 10 – For all who rely on works of the law [good deeds] are under a curse**

**Galatians 2: 16 – Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ**

**John 3: 16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

