

Are You a Witch? Rebellion

1 Samuel 15:19-23 HCSB So why didn't you obey the LORD? Why did you rush on the plunder and do what was evil in the LORD's sight?" (20) "But I did obey the LORD!" Saul answered. "I went on the mission the LORD gave me: I brought back Agag, king of Amalek, and I completely destroyed the Amalekites. (21) The troops took sheep and cattle from the plunder--the best of what was set apart for destruction--to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal." (22) Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention *is better* than the fat of rams. (23) For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has rejected you as king.

When Mindy saw the title of the sermon she was momentarily stumped as to what to put on the front of the bulletin. "Do we seriously want to put a witch on the front of our bulletin?" she wondered. That would really raise some eyebrows in the community wouldn't it?

When she came and asked me, I told her no – to not put a picture of a witch on the front of the bulletin. Not because I'm worried someone who gets one of our bulletins will use it to spread the word that we're some kind of occult group, but because I don't want to spread the ignorant perception that witches are in black dresses, with pointy hats and warts on their noses. Witches do not look like [this](#)...



Any more than the devil looks like [this](#)...



We keep passing these stereotypes (i.e. good guys are good looking, bad guys are ugly; good guys wear white hats, bad guys wear black hats, etc.) on to our children and as a result we sometimes put them and ourselves in danger. [This](#) is the face of evil...



This is Ted Bundy – serial killer of over thirty people. He would bludgeon his victims and then strangle them to death. Then he would rape their bodies. Look at him. Does he "look" evil? No more than you or I.

1. External appearances don't matter. What matters is the heart. (1 Samuel 16:7; Hebrews 4:13)

External appearances don't matter. What matters is the heart. What matters is the motive of the person. What matters is are they rebellious to the Lord or not?

- **1 Samuel 16:7 HCSB** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature, because I have rejected him. Man does not see what the LORD sees, for man sees what is visible, but the LORD sees the heart."
- **Hebrews 4:13 HCSB** No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account.

Some of you may look at the title of the sermon today; may look at the heading on the bulletin today; may read the question "Are you a witch?" and think to yourself "I most certainly am not. I don't wear black. I don't even own a straw broom. I don't sacrifice animals in strange night-time rituals. I wouldn't know a Shabbat feast from a poltergeist if it walked up and bit me."

2. If you know what is right and choose to rebel against it you are of your father the devil. (John 8:43-45; James 4:17)

May I suggest to you that if you know what is right and choose to rebel against it you are of your father the devil? Listen to Jesus:

- **John 8:43-45 HCSB** Why don't you understand what I say? Because you cannot listen to My word. (44) You are of your father the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and has not stood in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of liars. (45) Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.

Listen to James, Jesus' half brother:

- **James 4:17 HCSB** So, for the person who knows to do good and doesn't do it, it is a sin.

3. If you are doing the devil's works you are his. You are a witch. (1 Samuel 15:23)

If you are looking at something that the Bible is telling you to do and refusing to do it, you are looking into the eyes of God and spitting in His face. You are gazing on the crucifixion of His Son, who died to pay the penalty of your sins, and you are shrugging your shoulders and turning away. You are rebelling just as your father the devil rebelled. You are doing his works and so you are his. You are a witch.

- **1 Samuel 15:23 HCSB** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry...

4. What matters is not the form of government that rules our country but the spiritual state of our hearts. (1 Samuel 12:14-15)

God tried to warn us. He tried to tell us that what mattered was not the form of government that ruled our country but the spiritual state that ruled our hearts.

- **1 Samuel 12:14-15 HCSB** If you fear the LORD, worship and obey Him, and if you don't rebel against the LORD's command, then both you and the king who rules over you will follow the LORD your God. (15) However, if you disobey the LORD and rebel against His command, the LORD's hand will be against you and against your ancestors.

God does not change. He is eternally, immutably holy. If you are on the right side of that, it is a good and beautiful thing. Get on the wrong side of that and it becomes a terrible, calamitous, scary thing.

5. There is a comforting side and a scary side of God. (Proverbs 1:23-33)

- **Proverbs 1:23-33 HCSB** If you turn to my discipline, then I will pour out my spirit on you and teach you my words. (24) Since I called out and you refused, extended my hand and no one paid attention, (25) since you neglected all my counsel and did not accept my correction, (26) I, in turn, will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when terror strikes you, (27) when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when trouble and stress overcome you. (28) Then they will call me, but I won't answer; they will search for me, but won't find me. (29) Because they hated knowledge, didn't choose to fear the LORD, (30) were not interested in my counsel, and rejected all my correction, (31) they will eat the fruit of their way and be glutted with their own schemes. (32) For the waywardness of the inexperienced will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. (33) But whoever listens to me will live securely and be free from the fear of danger."

a. Rebels can't be used by God. (Matthew 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:1; 1 Peter 5:5)

- **Matthew 6:24 HCSB** "No one can be a slave of two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot be slaves of God and of money.
- **1 Timothy 6:1 HCSB** All who are under the yoke as slaves must regard their own masters to be worthy of all respect, so that God's name and His teaching will not be blasphemed.
- **1 Peter 5:5 HCSB** Likewise, you younger men, be subject to the elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**

b. Rebels will suffer for their foolishness.

c. They will end up living in a scorched land. (Psalm 68:6)

- **Psalms 68:6 HCSB** God provides homes for those who are deserted. He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a scorched land.

d. Their spirits will be broken; they will stumble and will not find help. (Psalm 107:11-12)

- **Psalms 107:11-12 HCSB** because they rebelled against God's commands and despised the counsel of the Most High. (12) He broke their spirits with hard labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

e. They will be the butt of God's mocking. (Proverbs 1:25-26)

- **Proverbs 1:25-26 HCSB** since you neglected all my counsel and did not accept my correction, (26) I, in turn, will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when terror strikes you,

f. They will plan but not succeed, make alliances that will crumble. (Isaiah 30:1)

- **Isaiah 30:1 HCSB** Woe to the rebellious children! *This is* the LORD's declaration. They carry out a plan, but not Mine, They make an alliance, but against My will, piling sin on top of sin.

g. They will be the subject of God Almighty's wrath. (Romans 13:5)

- **Romans 13:5 HCSB** Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience.

If you are on the wrong side – if you are rebelling against what you know to be right, true and holy –

6. You need to replace rebellion with submission to God's chain of command.

a. Submit to the governing authorities. (Romans 13:1-2)

- **Romans 13:1-2 HCSB** Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those that exist are instituted by God. (2) So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command, and those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.

b. Submit to your parents first, to your bosses later. (Colossians 3:20-24; 1 Timothy 6:1-2)

- **Colossians 3:20-24 HCSB** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing in the Lord. (21) Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won't become discouraged. (22) Slaves, obey your human masters in everything; don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but *work* wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. (23) Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord--you serve the Lord Christ.
- **1 Timothy 6:1-2 HCSB** All who are under the yoke as slaves must regard their own masters to be worthy of all respect, so that God's name and His teaching will not be blasphemed. (2) And those who have believing masters should not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers, but should serve them better, since those who benefit from their service are believers and dearly loved. Teach and encourage these things.

c. Submit to your spiritual leaders. (1 Peter 5:5-7)

- **1 Peter 5:5-7 HCSB** Likewise, you younger men, be subject to the elders. And all of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because **God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.** (6) Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you in due time, (7) casting all your care upon Him, because He cares about you.

Study Questions

Why is it difficult for a rebellious person to be used of God? 1 Timothy 6:1; 1 Samuel 15:23-24; 1 Peter 5:5

Describe the negative consequences that rebellion produces in a person's life

Romans 13:5

Proverbs 1:25-26

Psalms 68:6

Psalms 107:11-12

How does the enemy influence and control a person who is rebellious?

What spiritual qualities should replace rebellion in our hearts?

Colossians 3:20-22

1 Timothy 6:2

Romans 13:1-2

Describe how spiritual problems develop out of rebellion. 1 Samuel 15:23; Isaiah 30:1