

## 1 Sam 15:22-23

***So Samuel said: 'Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.'***

How often do we give to the Lord, whether it's money or time, wanting to earn favor with the Lord? We think things like:

*"Maybe I'll give 15% instead of 10%, God will really be real proud of me then."*

Or

*"Maybe I'll serve in the shelter this weekend instead of going golfing or to the amusement park, so that God will bless me."*

Now don't get me wrong, these are good things to do for the Lord, but what does God really delight in? Verse 22 spells it out for us plainly.

† ***So Samuel said: 'Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.'***

You can give all your money and all your free time to help others, but if you are disobedient to the Lord, it all means nothing.

Remember Jesus spoke of this when He said:

† ***Matt 7:21-23 Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"***

I think of these worldly musicians and actors and actresses who will give a huge amount of money, or spend a little time with those in need, but they obviously are disobedient to the Lord, and teach others to do the same in what they sing about or portray on the big screen or TV. Yet, we think how great they are and how nice they are for doing these things.

Just because a pig gives a string of pearls to a poor person does not make him any less of a pig. Neither does someone who gives a bunch of money, or time, make them any less of a sinner, and it won't get them one step closer to heaven, because the Psalmist says that:

† ***Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.***

If all I did was work and provide for my family, but never said a word to them other than “hello” or “goodbye” as I walk in or out the door, they would not be pleased with me at all, because wouldn't they rather spend time with me instead of just having nice things with no husband or dad around to be a part of their lives?

God want us all to do those things He has called us to do to minister to others, but if we spend all our time with others and forget about Him, He takes no pleasure in that.

† ***Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD?***

So do those things that the Lord has called you to do. But have time with the Lord before you spend time with anyone else, doing anything else. Also do them in obedience to the Lord, not to earn brownie points with Him!

† ***Luke 6:12-13 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:***

† ***Galatians 4:9-10 (NLT2) So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years.***

† ***Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.***