

**Sermon Notes of
Assistant Pastor Manuel Hamme's Sermon on August 30, 2015
"What Is Your Objective?"**

[In today's sermon, Assistant Pastor Manuel Hamme shows us that no matter what our objective is in life, it is best accomplished by having a love inspired relationship with God.]

Notes:

Introduction:

- It's the beginning of a new school year and our young people need to be thinking about what do they want to accomplish.
- And for those who are out of high school or college, we too need to think about what we want to accomplish, as well.

- Here is a partial list of what people tend to accomplish during their life
 - To be a Singer/Actor
 - To be a Professional Sports Player
 - To obtain Professional skills
 - To obtain Wealth
 - To develop Leadership skills

What would you do to accomplish being:

- A singer/actor:
 - Father humorously tells his son: "Yes, I won an award because of my services for modern arts. I quit acting, singing, writing and painting."
- A Professional Sports Player:
 - Have 10,000 hours of training
- Having professional skills – these are the acquired skills of Manuel Hamme:
 - Associate in Risk Management (ARM)
 - Associate in Risk Management for Public Entities (ARM-P)
 - Associate in Risk Management – Enterprise Wide (ARM-E)
 - Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter – (CPCU)
 - Master of Business Administration – Option Finance
- Wealthy:
 - Instead of working hard, win the lotto.
 - But that's not easy – there's a 1 in a 176 million chance of winning

- Can you believe it?? This guy wins \$181 million dollars in the lottery on Wednesday and then finds the love of his life just 2 days later! Talk about LUCK!!!
- Words of encouragement: Plenty of people don't win the lottery the first few thousand times they play.
- It takes Careful planning: Investor says, "My roller derby name is 401 (k). After my last quarterly statement, it's the scariest thing I could think of."
- A leader:
 - It takes a lot experience using management skills
 - But there is no one way to acquire leadership skills
 - For example, there are 15 people seeking to be Republican nominee for president and no two have the exact same experiences.

Biblical background about becoming a leader:

Judges 8: 22, The Israelites said to Gideon, "Rule over us – you, your son and your grandson – because you have saved us from the hand of Midian." 23) But Gideon told them, "I will not rule over you, nor will my son rule over you. The Lord will rule over you."

- As we will see, Israel really didn't want God to rule over them.
- They wanted to have a human king rule over them.
- That is why they made the request to Gideon after they entered the Promise Land.
- And they continued to seek a king after Gideon died.

Repeated Request:

1 Samuel 8:5, They (Israel) said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." 6) But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord.

7) And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. 8) As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods.

A Human King:

1 Samuel 8:10, Then Samuel explained everything the Lord had said to the people who were asking for a king. 11) "This is how the king will rule over you," Samuel said: "He will take your sons, and will use them for his chariots and his cavalry and as runners for his chariot.

12) He will use them as his commanders of troops of one thousand and troops of fifty, or to do his plowing and his harvesting, or to make his weapons or parts for his chariots. 13) He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, or bakers. 14) He will take your best fields, vineyards, and olive groves and give them to his servants. 15) He will give one-tenth of your grain and your vineyards to his officials and servants.

16) He will take your male and female servants, along with the best of your cattle and donkeys, and make them do his work. 17) He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and then you yourselves will become his slaves! 18) When that day comes, you will cry out because of the king you chose for yourselves, but on that day the Lord won't answer you."

19) But the people refused to listen to Samuel and said, "No! There must be a king over us 20) so we can be like all the other nations. Our king will judge us and lead us and fight our battles."

- God revealed to Israel through Samuel how a physical king would act.

Qualification of a King:

1 Samuel 9: 2) ... Saul, who was a handsome young man. No one in Israel was more handsome than Saul, and he stood head and shoulders above everyone else...

15) Now the day before Saul came, the Lord had revealed the following to Samuel:

16) "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the Benjaminite territory. You will anoint him as leader of my people Israel. He will save my people from the Philistines' power because I have seen the suffering of my people, and their cry for help has reached me." 17) When Samuel saw Saul, the Lord told him, "That's the man I told you about. That's the one who will rule my people."

- The qualifications of Saul were strictly physical – his handsomeness and height.
- Yet God is still showing His love to rebellious Israel by allowing Saul to become king.

1 Samuel 10:6 (Samuel talking to Saul), Then the Lord's spirit will come over you, and you will be caught up in a prophetic frenzy right along with them; it will be like you've become a completely different person. 7) Once these signs have happened to you, do whatever you would like to do, because God is with you.

24) "Can you see the one the Lord has chosen?" Samuel asked all the people. "He has no equal among the people." Then the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

- God promised that He would give His Spirit to Saul so he would have Godly wisdom.

Dynasty Lost:

1 Samuel 13:1, Saul was 30 years old when he became king, and he ruled over Israel forty-two years...

7) (fighting the Philistines), ... Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. 8) He (Saul) waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel, but Samuel didn't come to Gilgal, and his troops began to desert. 9) So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10) Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

1 Samuel 13:11, Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, 12) I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.”

13) “How stupid of you to have broken the commands the Lord your God gave you!” Samuel told Saul. “The Lord would have established your rule over Israel forever, 14) but now your rule won’t last. The Lord will search for a man following the Lord’s own heart, and the Lord will commission him as leader over God’s people, because you didn’t keep the Lord’s command.”

- Rather than waiting for Samuel, who was a priest, to offer the sacrifice to God, Saul offered up the sacrifice himself.
- This was against God’s laws written down in Deuteronomy as well as it was against the specific instructions Samuel gave Saul (1 Sam. 10:8).
- In reality, Saul had no faith in God, that’s why he took matters into his own hands.

Kingship Lost:

1 Samuel 15:2, This is what the Lord of heavenly forces says: I am going to punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel:...

10) ... Then the Lord’s word came to Samuel: 11) “I regret making Saul king because he has turned away from following me and hasn’t done what I said.” Samuel was upset at this, and he prayed to the Lord all night long...

1 Samuel 15:13, When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.” 14) But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

15) Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

1 Samuel 15:19, Why didn’t you obey the Lord? You did evil in the Lord’s eyes when you tore into the plunder!”

- Saul deliberately disobeyed God and yielded to the demands of his soldiers.
- Notice Saul told Samuel “to sacrifice to the Lord your God.”
- He didn’t say “the Lord our God.”
- Saul’s comment shows he really didn’t have any kind of relationship with God.

22) Then Samuel replied, “Does the Lord want entirely burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as obedience to the Lord? Listen to this: obeying is better than sacrificing, paying attention is better than fat from rams, 23) because rebellion is as bad as the sin of divination; arrogance is like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected what the Lord said, he has rejected you as king.”

- Samuel was inspired to say that “to obey God is better than sacrifice.”

- A sacrifice was a ritual transaction between man and God that physically demonstrated man's relationship to God.
- But if a person's heart wasn't truly repentant or if he truly did not love God, the sacrifice was a hollow ritual.
- Religious rituals are empty unless they are performed with an attitude of love and obedience.

1 Samuel 15:24, Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned because I disobeyed the Lord's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the troops and obeyed them. 25) But now please forgive my sin! Come back with me, so I can worship the Lord." 26) But Samuel said to Saul, "I can't return with you because you have rejected what the Lord said, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel."

- Saul had become both rebellious and arrogant.
- And that's why God finally rejected Saul as king over Israel.
- Rebellion against God is perhaps the most serious sin because rebellion closes door of the person's relationship with God.

Obedience → Faith → Love:

Deut. 10:12, And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13) and to observe the Lord's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good? 14) To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. 15) Yet the Lord set his affection on your ancestors and loved them, and he chose you, their descendants, above all the nations – as it is today.

- Here are the essentials that God asks of us:
 - Fear Him – meaning have a reverence for God.
 - Walk in His ways.
 - Love Him.
 - Serve Him with all of our heart and soul.
 - Observe what He commands us to do.
- The New Testament tells us the same thing.

1 John 2:5, But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6) Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

John 14:23, Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24) Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Galatians 5:6, ...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Philippians 2:8, And being found in appearance as a man, he (Jesus) humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!

- People often get hung up believing they can't be loved by God or receive salvation if they continue to sin.
- But that's not what God tells us in Scripture.

Ephesians 2:4, But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5) made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. 6) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7) in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8) For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – 9) not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Conclusion:

- God did not create robots who must obey God.
- God created us with free moral agency to respond to His love for us.
- When we respond to God's love and mercy, we desire to obey God because of our faith in Him and our love for Him, even though we're not perfect.
- In essence, it's all about our relationship with God.
- Since God loves us, hopefully we will respond to that love.
- God doesn't want to spend eternity with those who don't love Him or want to be with Him.
- We should desire an eternal loving relationship with our God not just eternal life.

2 Tim. 4:7, I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith.

- Let us all continue to love God and serve Him.

Closing Prayer: