**HEAR AND DO:** This lesson is part of a series of getting back to basics lessons. Last was, “Who Do I Follow?” Today is, “Hear & Do”. Some have mentioned certain verses in 1 Samuel chapter 15, but I would like to the read the chapter to get the entire context this morning. Please follow along with me in your Bibles. Read **1 Samuel 15:1-34** (NKJV).

Saul was given clear directions and commands from God (**1 Samuel 15:3**). He decided to give into his own and man’s reasoning in order to justify not doing what God had told him to do.

Saul became “too big for his own britches” in making a monument to himself (**1 Samuel 15:12, 17**).

“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed (listen-ESV) than the fat of rams, for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft (divination-ESV), and stubbornness (presumption-ESV) is as iniquity and idolatry” (**1 Samuel 15:22-23**). King Saul and the people, through their own rebellion, presumption, and stubbornness, thought they could change God’s will and His commandments and be acceptable to Him. **This can happen to any one of us!** Maybe sometimes we do not want to hear or do what God expects of us or we might think too highly of ourselves like Saul. Sometimes we may be tempted to do what we want and then presume God will accept us anyway. That is when the attitudes of rebellion, stubbornness, and presumption can creep into our lives.

God did not accept Saul or the people, but rather took the Kingdom away from Saul and then had Samuel carry out His will. It is better to obey than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. They had claimed they spared the choicest of the spoils to sacrifice to God. But God says it is better to hear and do rather than sacrifice.

**James 1:21-25:** James encourages all to Hear and Do, using the Bible as our perfect mirror. When we sincerely look into it, we can then truly examine how we are doing in God’s eyes (**2 Corinthians 13:5**).

**Matthew 7:21-29:** It is significant that Jesus concludes His sermon on the mount with a focus on hearing and doing what God commands. Jesus says the wise man is one who hears and does. Not like the Pharisees of **verse 22**. As Nate and Steven have reminded us recently, our righteousness needs to exceed that of the Pharisees.

**Matthew 28:16-20:** Notice the focus of the last instructions Jesus leaves the early disciples; (1) To make disciples of all the nations and (2) teach them all of His commands. Today this is still a focus of the Lord and should continue to be a focus of the church here in Oak Ridge!

For those of who are Christians, let us be aware of how powerful the attitudes of rebellion, presumption, stubbornness, and thinking too highly of ourselves can be. I do not know about you, but sometimes I am tempted in these areas. We need to pray for help from God to not give in to these attitudes. And if we give in, we need to be quick to repent. As one of my daughters told me recently, “we are a work in progress”. We **all** are indeed a work in progress! Each day trying to be more like Jesus!

If we can help you become a follower of Jesus Christ by repenting of your sins, confessing that He is the Son of God, and being immersed in water to wash away your sins, please let us know. If you are a Christian that needs help, you can also let us know your needs now.

No matter who we are, it is clear that to please the Lord we must Hear & Do!