



Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

THE RUIN OF REBELLION

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 15:1-28 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:17 | Numbers 16:1-40 | Matthew 28:18
Psalm 107:17-18

SUMMARY:

God has our best interests in mind.

His commands are for our benefit, not to keep us from enjoying life. In fact, disobeying the Lord usually makes our lives much more difficult and complicated.

The Bible tells us we reap what we sow, more than we sow, and later than we sow. There is no escaping the consequences of rebellion. That's why it is dangerous and costly to resist the Lord's will. When your prayers remain unanswered and nothing seems to go well, check to make sure you are obeying the Lord in every area of your life. Only when we are submitted to Him can we be assured of the full measure of His blessing on us.

SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

The Nature of Rebellion

Rebellion is an act against established order and authority. It can be defiance against God's will or resistance to leadership He has ordained. When we insist on doing things our way, we reveal our pride and selfishness.

Saul, the first king of Israel, paid a price for his rebellion against God. The Lord wanted to punish the nation of Amalek for how they had treated the Israelites. He commanded Saul to destroy the nation completely—putting to death not just their army, but all the people and animals as well. However, Saul spared the king and the best of the livestock. When the prophet Samuel confronted him, Saul declared that he had followed God's

instructions. He passed the blame to his army and claimed that the animals had been saved to use as sacrifices. Saul honored only a portion of God's command. And partial obedience is disobedience.

God's View of Rebellion

Scripture teaches that disobeying God is as serious as idolatry and witchcraft: "Rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king" (1 Sam. 15:23).

Rebellion isn't just limited to disobeying God's specific commands to us. It includes transgressing the moral guidelines given in His Word. The Father's laws and instructions are always the best for us. He's omniscient—He knows everything. He's omnipotent—He has the power to help us through every situation and circumstance. His laws are designed to protect us in every single area of our lives.

God is the ultimate authority (Matt. 28:18). But the Lord delegates leadership to governments, business leaders, parents, pastors, coaches, and others. Without authority, we would have chaos and anarchy.

How We Rebel against God

- **Refuse to obey His calling:** We should follow the specific instructions God gives us.
- **Pursue what He forbids:** Violating the commands of Scripture is rebellion. For instance, a man should not pursue another man's wife.

■ **Pursue the right things, but in the wrong way:** There is nothing wrong with wanting a promotion at work. But if you criticize and gossip about others in order to make yourself look more competent, your actions become rebellion.

■ **Pursue godly goals but on our schedule:** God not only has a correct way for us to achieve our objectives, but a specific time for them. For instance, a 16-year-old may find a wonderful young man she wants to marry, but most teens aren't ready for the life-long commitment of marriage.

Before making any major decision, ask yourself, "What is the wisest thing to do?" Don't make a move until you get a clear answer. Resist the temptation to compare your possessions with those of others. Instead, ask God what *He* wants you to have. When you surrender to the Lord Jesus, you will have life at its very best.

The Reasons for Our Rebellion

■ **Doubting the Word of God:** At particular crossroads, disobedience to the Lord can ruin our lives. He will forgive us but won't always choose to eliminate the consequences. For instance, Eve ate the forbidden fruit because she didn't believe the Lord (Gen. 2:17). Her life changed dramatically because of her choice. Rebellion against God always has its price. Sometimes it will cost us financially, but other times the cost is internal—a lack of peace, joy, and healthy relationships.

■ **Pride:** Arrogant people demand their own way—and want it immediately. The Devil lies to us and says that unless we get something *now*, we will never have it.

■ **Bitterness and resentment:** Some people rebel against God because they have been unable to let go of the past—they have an unforgiving spirit. Instead of dwelling on what went wrong, remember that today is a fresh start. Determine to walk in obedience, and enjoy the awesome future the Lord has planned for you.

■ **Selfishness:** Many people see biblical guidelines as restricting. But no one can live in defiance of the laws of God and have genuine peace.

The Results of Rebellion

The Bible gives us a number of examples of how God responds to our rebellion. When the Israelites refused to fight for Canaan, fearing "giants in the land," the Lord judged that generation and allowed them to die off in the wilderness. When Korah rebelled against Moses, God caused the ground to open up and swallow him and his family (Num. 16:1-40). King Saul paid a high price for his disobedience. Not only did the Spirit depart from him, but he became mentally disturbed. Saul spent his life chasing David, consumed with jealousy and bitterness. There are always consequences for rebelling against the Lord (Ps. 107:17-18).

What happens in your life when you rebel against God? Immediately, fellowship with Him is broken. Second, you will not experience genuine happiness, peace, or joy. Third, you will make foolish mistakes, and as a result, doubt that the Father really loves and cares for you. Finally, you may suffer physically because people tend to make unhealthy decisions when they are living in disobedience to the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

Our choice is simple—submit to the Father or rebel against Him. Either way, we will reap what we sow. No one who is in rebellion against God has true peace, joy, contentment, or success in life. They may look successful from the outside, but they aren't truly satisfied with their lives.

Ultimately, the decision is yours. Wise men and women choose to obey God and leave all the consequences to Him. That's the key to living life at its very best. ✨



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