

SIN AS SELF-DECEPTION

1 Samuel 15:10-26

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. WHAT SAUL DID WRONG
2. WHAT LED TO SAUL'S FAILURE
3. HOW WE CAN AVOID THE SAME FAILURE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Saul's failure was rooted in self-deception. Self-deception is the human heart's ability to know something at one level but not know it at a deeper level because we really don't want to know it. Can you describe a time when you've witnessed self-deception in yourself or someone you love? What did it lead to?
3. Three symptoms of self-deception that we can see in Saul's life are 1) Blame-shifting, 2) Fake Religiosity and 3) Self-absorption. Which of these symptoms have you seen in your own life?
4. Blame-shifting is one of the symptoms of self-deception. The opposite of blame-shifting would be taking ownership when you do something wrong. When is the last time you took radical ownership of something you did wrong without any kind of excuse or explanation? What did it feel like for you? What was the result of you owning your mistake?
5. Saul sacrificing to God while directly disobeying his commands shows he was thinking of God in purely transactional terms (i.e. like a husband who has an affair but thinks his wife shouldn't be upset because he does the dishes). Do you tend to think about God in transaction or relational terms? What is the difference?
6. When we are looking for our identity or sense of self-worth outside of God we will end up making the same sort of mistakes Saul did. What are some of the reasons that an identity in Jesus is unique from every other type of identity?
7. Finding your identity in Jesus is not something accomplished by technique or a step-by-step program. What does it look like to put on the identity we have in Jesus?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: We need an identity that is not dependent on performance, that gives us the security to own our mistakes, that is received rather than achieved. We need an identity in Jesus.