

When We Make Mistakes

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What To Do When I'm Wrong

Key Text: 1 Samuel 15 (focus: vv. 1–3, 17–24)

Supporting Texts: Romans 3:9–12; Genesis 3:8–13; 1 Corinthians 5:1–7; 2 Chronicles 7:14

Introduction

- Most people struggle with two things:
 1. Admitting we were wrong.
 2. Admitting it with humility, then doing what's needed to move forward.
- Many heartaches could be avoided—marriages protected, friendships preserved, trust repaired—if we learned how to respond when we know we've done wrong.
- 1 Samuel 15 shows a real-life warning: Saul's fall wasn't just one mistake. It was how he handled being wrong.

Big Question: What do I do when I know what I said or did was wrong?

Sermon Outline

I. Don't Justify What God Has Already Condemned

Text: 1 Samuel 15:18–20

1. Saul claimed obedience while practicing disobedience

- God's command was clear: destroy Amalek completely. (1 Sam. 15:1–3)
- Saul says, "I did obey," while admitting he brought back Agag. (1 Sam. 15:20)

2. Partial obedience is disobedience

- Samuel's rebuke hits hard:

- “To obey is better than sacrifice.” (1 Sam. 15:22)
- “Rebellion is as the sin of divination.” (1 Sam. 15:23)

3. Modern form of Saul’s excuse

- “I know what the Bible says, but God understands.”
- “My situation is difficult.”
- “I just feel it should be this way.”
- Feelings don’t rewrite Scripture. Circumstances don’t erase commands.

Application:

- When Scripture is clear, stop arguing with it.
- If you must “spin” your choice to make it sound righteous, it’s already wrong.

Warning:

- Excuse-making is not repentance—it’s the doorway to deeper hardness.
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II. Don’t Shift Blame to Protect Your Pride

Text: 1 Samuel 15:21

1. Saul tried to share the guilt

- “The people took some of the spoil...” (1 Sam. 15:21)
- He may be king, but he’s dodging responsibility.

2. This is the oldest move in the book

- Adam blamed Eve—and ultimately blamed God: “The woman You gave me...” (Gen. 3:12)
- When we sin, pride looks for a scapegoat.

3. Blame never heals anything

- Blame doesn’t restore trust.
- Blame doesn’t repair relationships.
- Blame doesn’t fix the heart.
- Blame only protects the ego while the damage spreads.

Application:

- Say it plainly: “I was wrong.”
Not: “I’m sorry you feel that way.”
Not: “I’m sorry, but you...”
Not: “If you hadn’t...”

Encouragement:

- Owing sin is painful for pride, but healing for the soul.
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III. Don't Fear People More Than You Fear God

Text: 1 Samuel 15:24

1. Saul finally admits sin—but still clings to an excuse

- “I have sinned... because I was afraid of the people.” (1 Sam. 15:24)
- He confesses, but he tries to soften it by shifting the cause.

2. People-pressure can destroy a man

- Saul’s downward path ended in darkness and desperation.
- When a person stops listening to God, they start grasping at anything else.

3. A hard truth

- If pleasing people is your controlling fear, you will eventually disobey God to keep your image safe.

Application:

- Ask yourself:
 - “Am I choosing this because it’s right—or because it’s easier?”
 - “Am I more worried about reactions than righteousness?”

Warning:

- Fear of people is a chain. It makes you do things you know are wrong.

What God Wants When We've Done Wrong

1) Humble confession (no spinning, no dodging)

- God is not impressed with explanations that avoid responsibility.

2) Repentance (a real turn, not a performance)

- Repentance means change—not just regret.

3) Make amends as far as possible

- If you harmed someone, go to them.
- If you broke trust, don't demand immediate restoration—rebuild it.

4) Accept consequences and move forward

- Forgiveness does not erase every earthly consequence.
- But humility keeps consequences from multiplying.

Key Call to Action Text: 2 Chronicles 7:14

- Humble yourself, pray, seek His face, turn from wicked ways.

Conclusion

- We will all make mistakes. (Romans 3:9–12)
- The question is not *if* we will fail.
- The question is: **What will we do when we know we are wrong?**
 - Don't justify it.
 - Don't blame others.
 - Don't fear people.

- **Confess. Repent. Make it right. Accept consequences. Walk with God again.**
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Slide Deck (12 Slides)

Slide 1 — When We Make Mistakes

Main Content:

- What do I do when I'm wrong?
- How should I respond when I know I sinned?

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15

Design Intent:

- Background tone: warm / light
 - Emphasis: serious / honest
 - Mood: reverent / corrective
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Slide 2 — The Real Problem

Main Content:

- Hard to admit wrong
- Hard to admit it humbly
- Hard to do what's needed after

Design Intent:

- Background tone: neutral / light
 - Emphasis: instructive
 - Mood: straightforward
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Slide 3 — Saul: A Warning Example

Main Content:

- Chosen “from among nobody”
- Given stature, a name, a kingdom
- Lost it by disobedience and pride

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15:17–19

Design Intent:

- Background tone: light
 - Emphasis: cautionary
 - Mood: sober
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Slide 4 — God’s Command Was Clear

Main Content:

- “Utterly destroy... do not spare”
- Clear instruction, clear responsibility

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15:1–3

Design Intent:

- Background tone: neutral / light
 - Emphasis: clarity
 - Mood: firm
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Slide 5 — Mistake #1: Justifying Disobedience

Main Content:

- “I did obey...”
- While disobeying in plain sight
- Partial obedience = disobedience

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15:18–20

Design Intent:

- Background tone: light
 - Emphasis: confronting excuses
 - Mood: serious / direct
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Slide 6 — “To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice”

Main Content:

- God wants obedience, not cover-up religion
- You can't use worship to excuse sin

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15:22–23

Design Intent:

- Background tone: light / warm
 - Emphasis: strong statement
 - Mood: authoritative
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Slide 7 — Modern Excuses Sound Like Saul

Main Content:

- “I know what the Bible says, but...”
- “God understands...”
- “I feel it should be...”

Design Intent:

- Background tone: light
 - Emphasis: warning
 - Mood: corrective
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Slide 8 — Mistake #2: Blaming Others

Main Content:

- “The people took the spoil...”
- Pride looks for a scapegoat
- Blame never heals

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15:21

Design Intent:

- Background tone: neutral / light
 - Emphasis: accountability
 - Mood: instructive
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Slide 9 — The Old Pattern: Adam Did It Too

Main Content:

- “The woman You gave me...”
- Sin loves excuses
- Humility tells the truth

Scripture (if applicable):

- Genesis 3:12

Design Intent:

- Background tone: light
 - Emphasis: clarity
 - Mood: sobering
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Slide 10 — Mistake #3: Fearing People More Than God

Main Content:

- “I was afraid of the people...”
- People-pleasing produces disobedience

- Fear of man is a trap

Scripture (if applicable):

- 1 Samuel 15:24

Design Intent:

- Background tone: light
 - Emphasis: warning
 - Mood: challenging
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Slide 11 — What To Do When You're Wrong

Main Content:

- Confess plainly
- Repent genuinely
- Make amends where possible
- Accept consequences and move forward

Design Intent:

- Background tone: warm / light
 - Emphasis: hopeful direction
 - Mood: encouraging / steady
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Slide 12 — God's Call: Humility and Turning

Main Content:

- Humble yourself

- Pray and seek His face
- Turn from wicked ways

Scripture (if applicable):

- 2 Chronicles 7:14

Design Intent:

- Background tone: warm / light
- Emphasis: invitation
- Mood: reverent / hopeful