



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
February 10, 2008
What Lies Beneath?
(Getting to the root of my problems)

“Self-Deception” (1 Sam. 15:1-26)

What’s wrong with the human race? Why are we so wicked and evil? Our problem is sin.

Genesis 3: Spiritual Alienation -> Psychological Alienation
-> Sociological Alienation -> Physical Alienation.

For The Wages of Sin Is Death:

- ◆ It is not our sin that kills us, as much as our denial about our sin.
- ◆ Self-deception is not the most wicked thing that we can do, but it is the reason we can do the most wicked things. (Jer. 17:9; Ps. 51:6)

1Samuel 15:1-6 – God sent King Saul to the kill the Amalekites as an act of justice not imperialism. Don’t do what they do. Take no prisoners or processions.

Verses 7-9 – King Saul disobeys God and in so doing becomes just like the Amalekites. He has done the very thing that God hates.

Verses 10-14

WHAT IS SELF-DECEPTION?

1) It is the act of causing yourself to believe what is not true.

It is to know the truth and yet at the same time not know the truth because you don’t want to know the truth. (Tim Keller)

1 Cor.3:18; Gal. 6:3; James 1:22, 26; 1 John 1:8

2) It is to see a truth but because it is too painful to accept I smother it with another technique.

John 3:19; Psalm 36:2

Verses 15-21

HOW DOES SELF-DECEPTION WORK?

- 1) Blaming** (It’s not my fault) v15a “The soldiers brought them...”
- 2) Balancing** (My good out weighs my bad) v15b “...they spared the best...to sacrifice to the Lord...”
- 3) Belittling** (It’s no big deal) v20 “I completely destroyed the Amalekites...”

Verses 22-26

HOW DO I KEEP MYSELF FROM BEING SELF DECIEVED?

1) Identify the ways you try to make yourself big.

When we find a strategy to make ourselves big, anything that gets in the way of that we have to suppress. We don’t deceive ourselves about all truths only painful truths. Saul rejected the grace of God making him big by trying to make himself big (see vv12 & 17).

2) Surround yourself with Samuel’s who will point out the bleating sheep in your life. v14

3) Remember God doesn’t want my sacrifices He wants my heart. To give Him your heart is to obey Him unconditionally. Anything less is rebellion (Satanic) and arrogance (Idolatry). V23

4) Let God make you big by His Grace. V17
(Heb. 10:5-10; 2 Cor. 9:8)

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. [24] See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Next Weekend:	“Skin”	(Selected Scripture)
Feb. 24	“Distrust”	(Jeremiah 17:5-13)
March 2	“Pride”	(Matthew 16:1-12)



Growing

February 10, 2008

desert breeze community church

- 1)** In this new teaching series “What Lies Beneath” we are getting to the root of our problems. How big of an issue is self-deception in dealing with personal or interpersonal problems? How do these verses relate (Jer. 17:9; Ps. 51:6)?

- 2)** What does God ask King Saul to do (1 Sam. 15:1-6) and how does he respond (vv7-9)? What role does Samuel play (vv10-14)? Define self-deception?

- 3)** What are King Saul’s defense mechanisms in his effort to play with the rules of reality (vv15-21)? What issues currently or in the past have you found yourself using the same techniques?

- 4)** We don’t deceive ourselves about all truths only painful truths. Explain. How does that relate to identifying the ways I try to make myself big? Why is it important to surround myself with Samuel’s who will point out the bleating sheep in my life?

- 5)** What does it mean that God doesn’t want our sacrifices but our heart (v22)? What does it mean to let God make you big by His grace (Heb. 10:5-10; 2 Cor. 9:8)? What’s your next step in overcoming self-deception? Pray Psalm 139:23-24.