

20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.  
21 For **from within**, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.  
23 All these evil things come **from within**, and they defile a person.”

Mark 7:20-23





## The **HEART** :

- in Greek : cardia  
: the heart  
+thoughts,  
+feelings+;

The **heart** is always about

- The control **center** of the will;
- The **seat/ throne** of desires;
- The **source** of decisions;

DESTRUCTIONS FROM THE HEART

# FROM WITHIN



  
EVERY NATION  
CHURCH · MALAYSIA

**EVIL AND WICKEDNESS**

**SEXUAL IMMORALITY  
SENSUALITY  
AND ADULTERY**

**PRIDE AND FOOLISHNESS**

**ENVY AND MURDER**

**DECEIT AND SLANDER**



**BACKGROUND :  
DEBATE ON  
PURITY**

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, **2** they saw that some of his disciples **ate** with **hands** that were **defiled**, that is, **unwashed**.

**3** (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not **eat** unless they **wash** their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, **4** and when they come from the marketplace, they do not **eat** unless they **wash**. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the **washing** of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.)

**5** And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “**Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?**”

**Mark 7:1-5**



**HYGIENE**  
**Vs**  
**HYPOCRISY**  
**Vs**  
**HOLINESS**

**6** And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you **hypocrites**, as it is written, “This people **honors** me with their **lips**, **but** their **heart** is far from me; **7** in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of **men**.’ **8** You leave the commandment of **God** and hold to the **tradition** of men.”

**Mark 7:6-8**

**HYGIENE**

**Vs**

**HYPOCRISY**

**Vs**

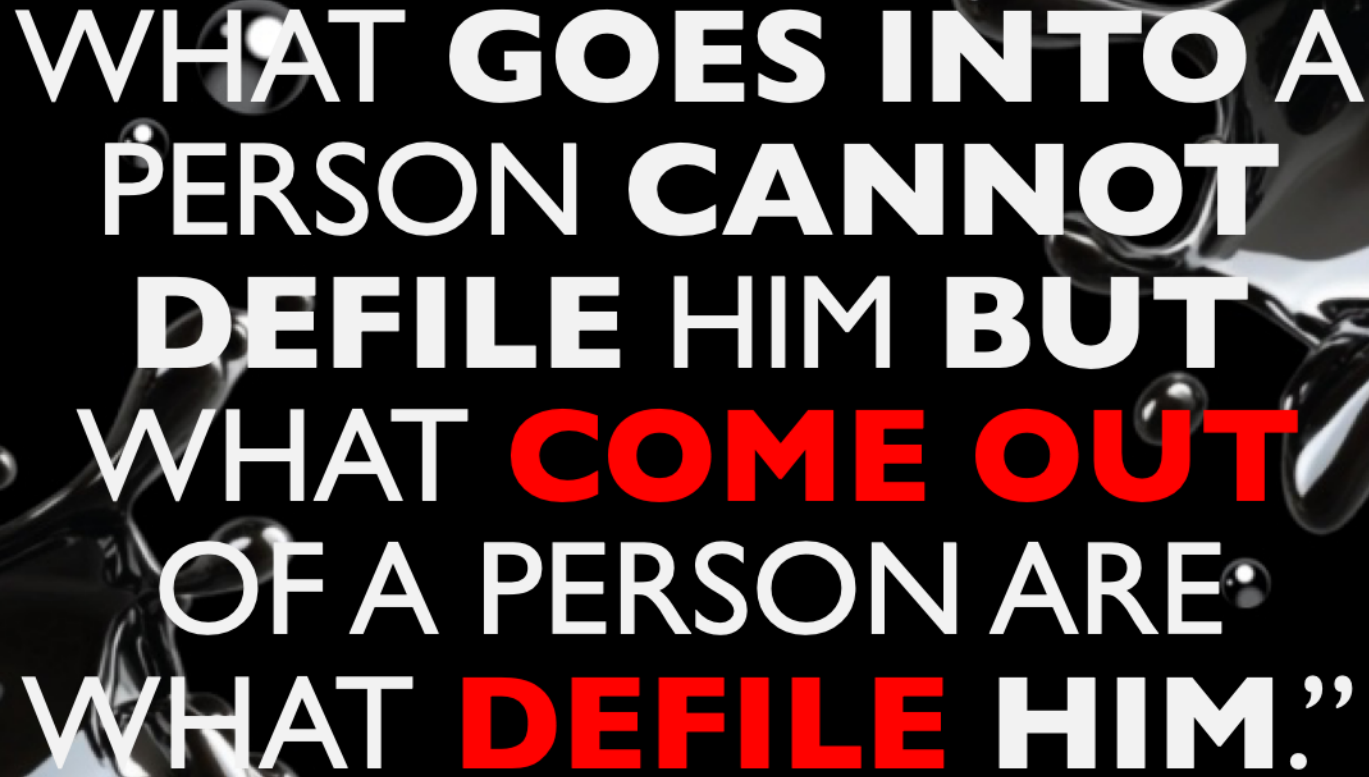
**HOLINESS**

**14** And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: **15** There is **nothing outside** a person that by **going into** him can defile him, **but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.**”

**17** And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable.

**18** And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that **whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19** since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.)

**Mark 7:14-19**



WHAT GOES INTO A  
PERSON CANNOT  
DEFILE HIM BUT  
WHAT **COME OUT**  
OF A PERSON ARE  
WHAT **DEFILE HIM.**”

20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him.  
21 For **from within**, out of the heart of man, come **evil**  
thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting,  
**wickedness**, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.  
23 All these evil things come **from within**, and they defile a  
person.”

Mark 7:20-23



**JESUS SHIFT **EXTERNAL****  
**COMPLIANCE TO **INTERNAL****  
**TRANSFORMATION and**  
**THIS IS DEFINITELY**  
****A **HEART** ISSUE****”

A dynamic splash of black liquid, possibly paint or ink, is the central focus. The splash is captured in mid-air, with several droplets of varying sizes floating around it. The liquid is highly reflective, showing bright highlights and dark shadows. A thick, red ribbon-like shape cuts across the center of the image, partially obscured by the splash. The word 'EVIL' is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters on the upper part of the red ribbon. The word 'AND' is written in smaller, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters on the lower part of the red ribbon, positioned directly below 'EVIL'. The word 'WICKEDNESS' is written in the largest, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters on the lower part of the red ribbon, positioned below 'AND'. The background is a plain, light gray color.

**EVIL**  
**AND**  
**WICKEDNESS**



# **IT ALWAYS START SMALL**

Wickedness begins as  
partial obedience - a small  
compromise.



## **WHAT IS EVIL?**

- In Greek :“*kakoi*” : bad, evil, wicked, harmful : inwardly foul, rotten/ poisoned, inner malice flowing out of a morally-rotten character;

## **WHAT IS WICKEDNESS?**

- In Greek :“*poneria*” : wickedness, evil, malice : depravity, pain-ridden evil;
- It is active and intentional rebellion, manipulated obedience.

## **WHAT IS DEFILE?**

- In Greek :“*koinoo*” : to make common, to defile, to consider unclean : polluted, contaminated, corrupted.







## **HOW DO THEY RELATE?**

- EVIL = internal corruption ;
- WICKEDNESS = intentional rebellion;
- DEFILEMENT = contamination/  
polution/corruption that spreads;

**EVIL DISTORTS THE HEART;  
WICKEDNESS DEFIES GOD  
AND DEFILEMENT SPREADS  
ALL OVER CORRUPTED  
FROM WITHIN.**



# **THE STORY/ CASE STUDY OF KING SAUL**

I SAMUEL 15

And Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore **listen** to the words of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what **Amalek** did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now **go and strike Amalek** and **devote** to destruction **all** that they have. **Do not spare** them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

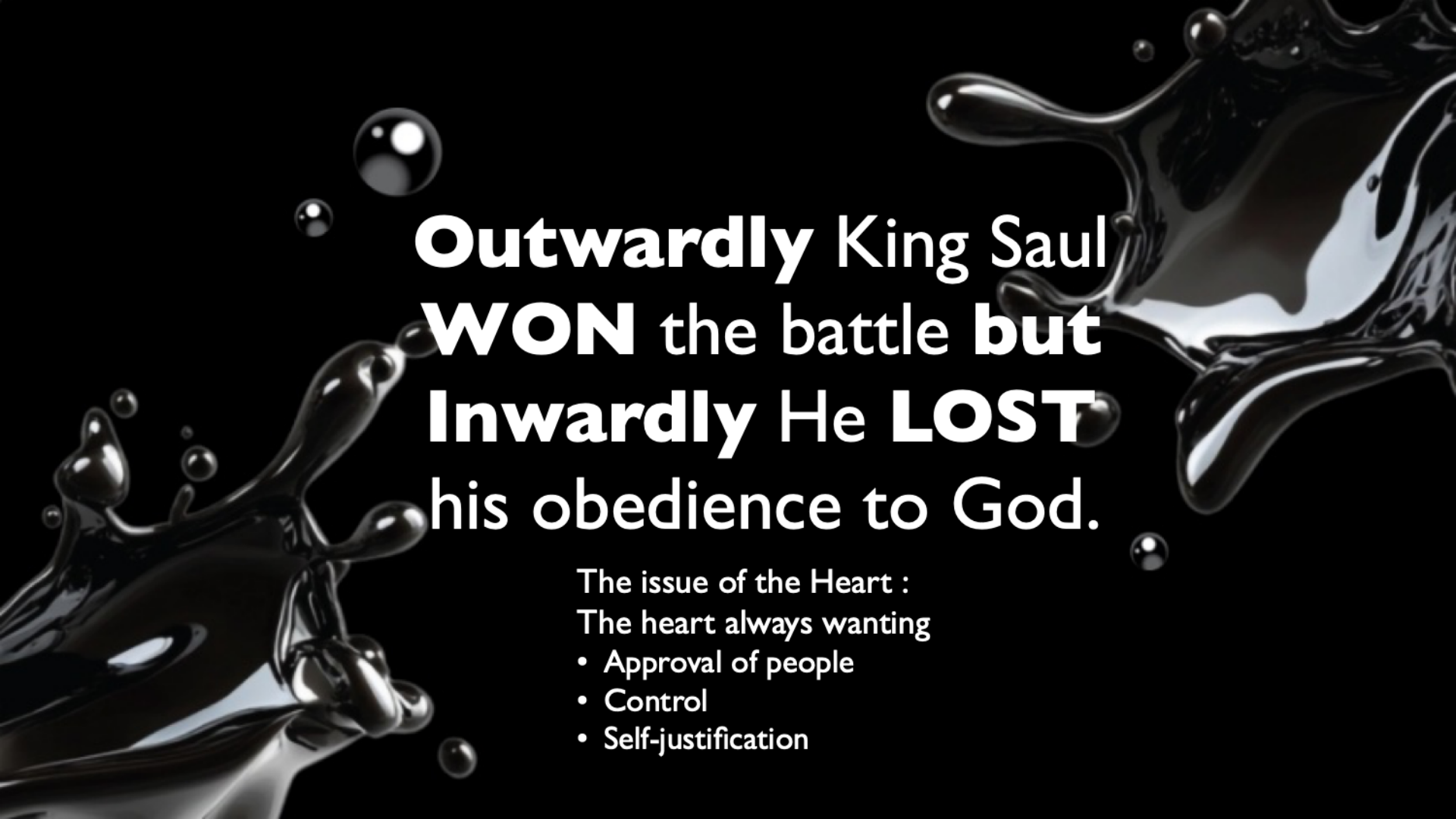
**1 Samuel 15:1-3**



**4 So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah. 5 And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley. | Samuel 15:4**

**7** And Saul **defeated** the Amalekites from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. **8** And he **took** Agag the king of the Amalekites **alive** and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword. **9** But Saul and the people **spared Agag** and **the best of the sheep** and of the **oxen** and of the **fattened calves** and the **lambs**, and all that was **good**, and would **not utterly** destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

**1 Samuel 15:7-9**



**Outwardly** King Saul  
**WON** the battle **but**  
**Inwardly** He **LOST**  
his obedience to God.

- The issue of the Heart :  
The heart always wanting
- Approval of people
  - Control
  - Self-justification

**SAUL  
SAYS  
Vs  
SAMUEL  
SAYS**

**10** The word of **the Lord** came to Samuel: **11** “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night. **12** And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.” **13** And Samuel came to Saul, and **Saul said** to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord. **14** And **Samuel said**, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?”

*1 Samuel 15:10-14*

# SAMUEL QUESTIONS SAUL

**16** Then **Samuel** said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Speak.”

**17** And **Samuel** said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.

**18** And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’

**19** **Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord?**

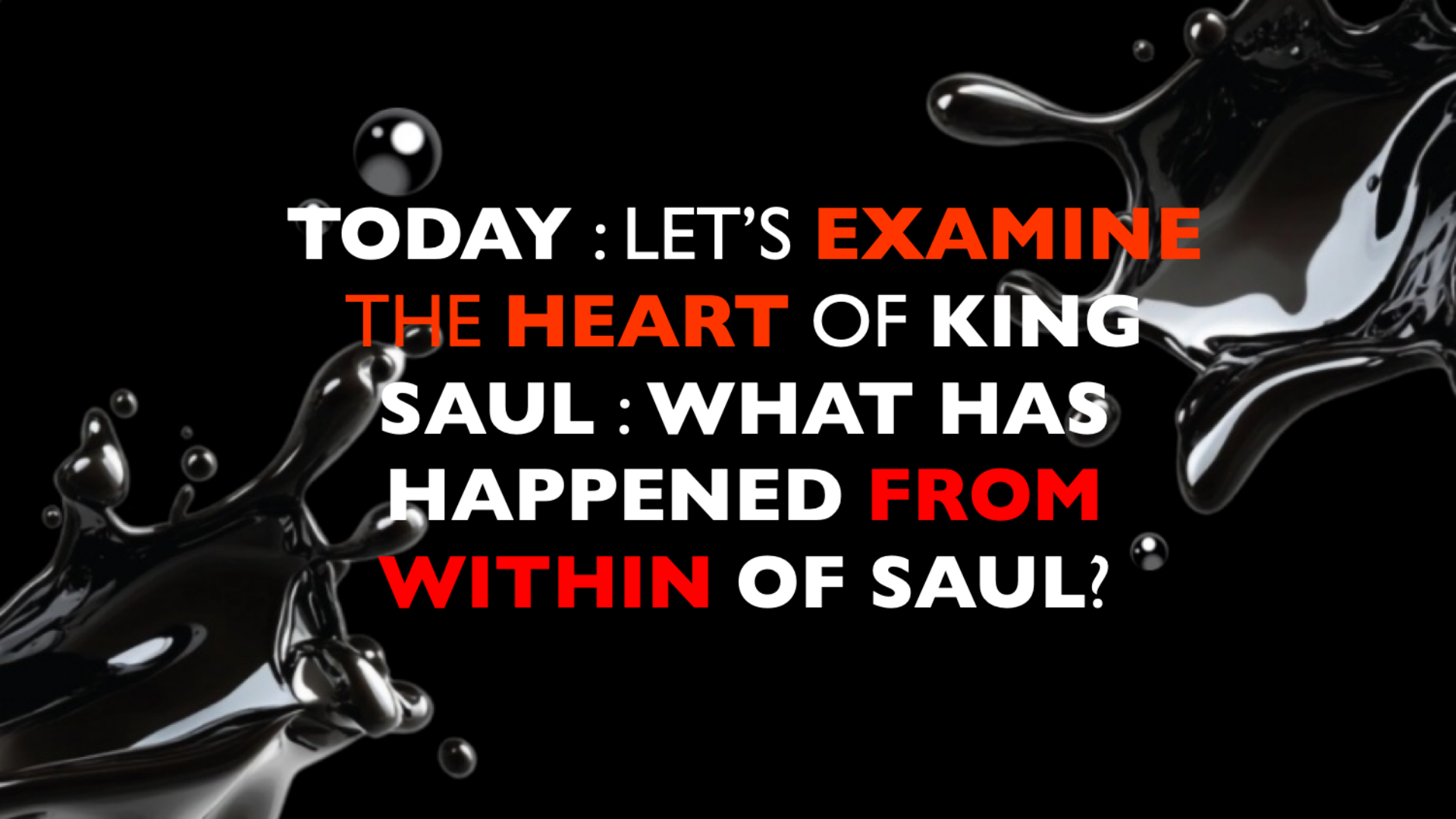
*1 Samuel 15:16-19*

## **SAUL REPLIED**

**20** And **Saul said** to Samuel,  
“I **have obeyed** the voice of the Lord.  
I have **gone** on the mission on which the Lord sent me.  
I **have brought** Agag the king of Amalek, and  
I **have devoted** the Amalekites to destruction.

**21** *But* the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen,  
the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice  
to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

*I Samuel 15:20-21*



**TODAY : LET'S EXAMINE  
THE HEART OF KING  
SAUL : WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED FROM  
WITHIN OF SAUL?**

# #1 : HE FEARED THE PEOPLE

**24 Saul** said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, **because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.**  
**25** Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the Lord.”

*1 Samuel 15:24-25*

**#2 :**  
**HE**  
**RATIONALIZED**  
**DISOBEDIENCE**

**15** Saul said, “**They** have brought them from the Amalekites, for **the people spared the best** of the sheep and of the oxen **to sacrifice** to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.”

**21** **But the people took** of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, **to sacrifice** to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

*1 Samuel 15:15 & 21*

**25** Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the Lord.” **26** And **Samuel** said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.” **27** As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore. **28** And **Samuel** said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. **29** And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.”

*1 Samuel 15:25-29*

**#3 :**  
**HE WANTED**  
**HONOR**

**30** Then he said, “I have sinned; **yet honor me** now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the Lord your God.”

**31** So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the Lord.

*1 Samuel 15:30-31*



**King Saul Even in  
Repentance, Image/face  
mattered more than Integrity.**

- Saul feared the people more than God.
- Saul did not wake up EVIL. He was slowly shifted his loyalty in his heart

# This is wickedness FROM WITHIN.

## **Outwardly :**

- He fought God's enemies.
- He build an altar
- He spoke the spiritual language.

## **Inwardly :**

- He redefined Obedience
- He preserved what God said destroy
- He elevated himself subtly



# Why Evil From Within is Dangerous?

## Because Evil **hides** behind

- good intentions
- religious lingo
- external success

## At the point of **rebellion** :

- Saul still looks good like king,
- **But** God has rejected him.
- God **rejected** him as king **not because** of failure but because of inward defiance.

**22** And **Samuel said**, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice**, and to listen than the fat of rams.

**23** For **rebellion is as the sin of divination**, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have **rejected** the word of the Lord, he has also **rejected** you from being king.”

**1 Samuel 15:22-23**



**HOW TO OVERCOME  
EVIL & WICKEDNESS  
FROM WITHIN?  
S.L.A.Y.S**

# S.L.A.Y.S. EVIL & WICKEDNESS

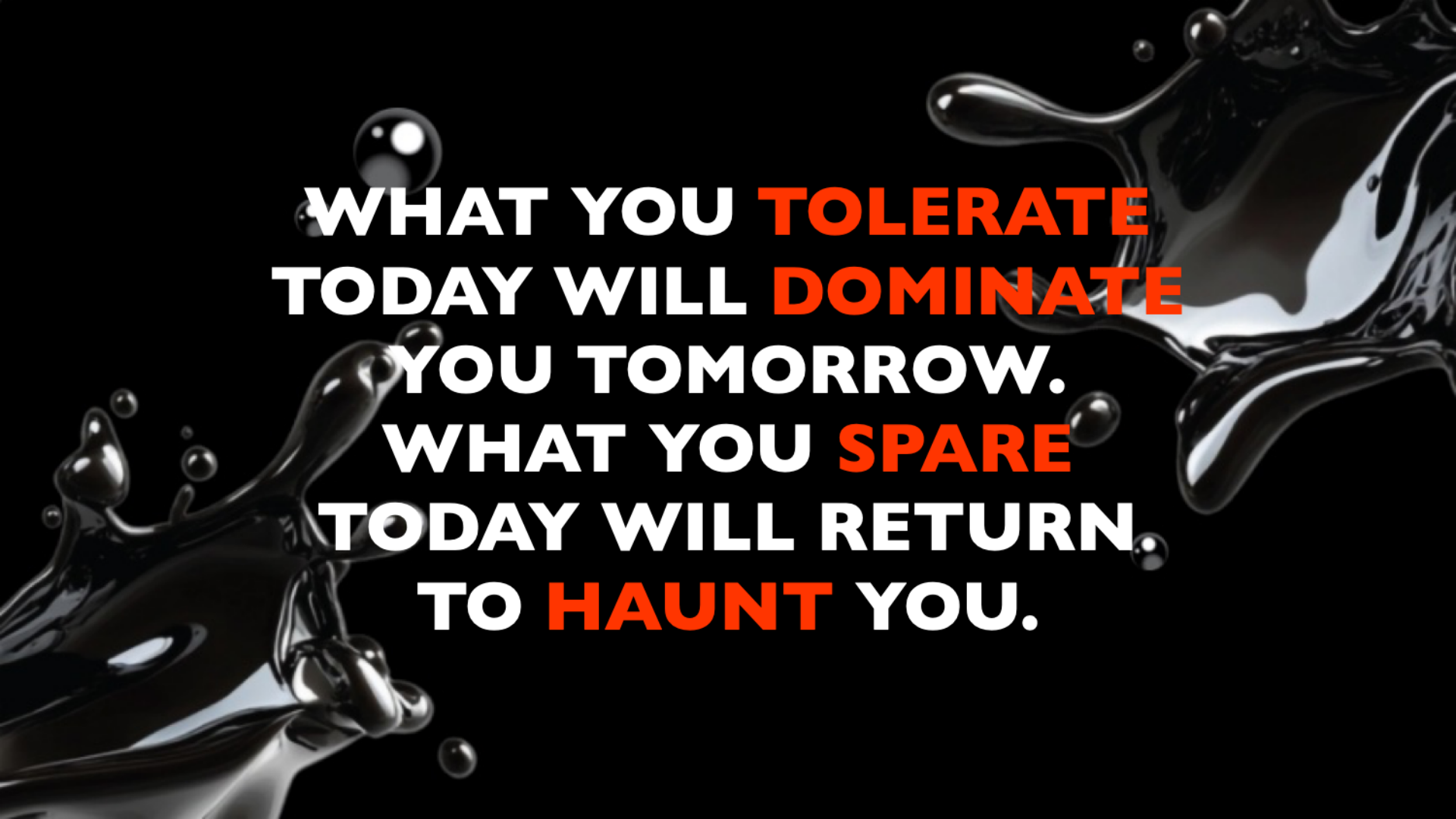
**S : SUBMIT FULLY TO GOD**

**L : LISTEN QUICKLY**

**A : ACKNOWLEDGE HIDDEN SIN**

**Y : YIELD TO GOD'S AUTHORITY**

**S : SEVERE SIN COMPLETELY**



**WHAT YOU TOLERATE  
TODAY WILL DOMINATE  
YOU TOMORROW.  
WHAT YOU SPARE  
TODAY WILL RETURN  
TO HAUNT YOU.**

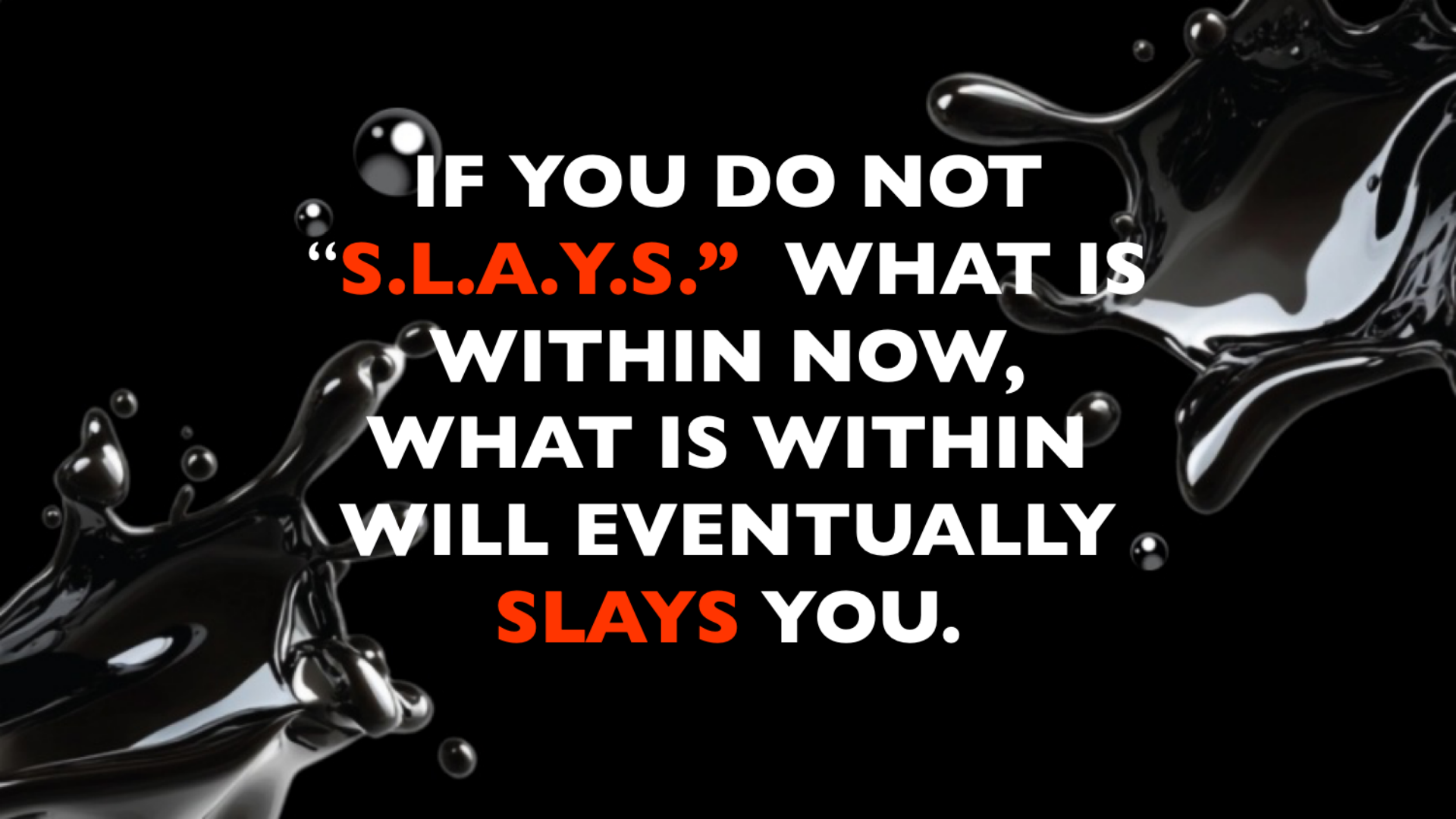
**EXAMINE  
YOUR  
HEART  
REGULARLY**

**Proverbs 4:23**

**Keep/Guard** your heart with all vigilance,  
*for from it flow the springs of life.*

**Psalm 139:23-24**

23 **Search me**, O God, and know my  
heart! **Try me** and know my thoughts!  
24 And see if there be any grievous way in  
me, and **lead me** in the way everlasting!



**IF YOU DO NOT  
“S.L.A.Y.S.” WHAT IS  
WITHIN NOW,  
WHAT IS WITHIN  
WILL EVENTUALLY  
SLAYS YOU.**

# APPLICATION QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

**The danger is not open rebellion but rationalised obedience is.**

**Q1-Is there any area in your life** where you have been selectively obeying God? Why is it difficult to surrender to God fully?

**Q2-When making difficult decisions,** whose approval are you seeking or fear losing? Eg. Social pressure, family expectation, culture or church?