

# **Standing Tall, Falling Hard, 1 Samuel 15:17-26**

**Pastor Daniel Schumm**

## **Introduction**

- The Lion King: "...Oh, I just can't wait to be king."
- Like Simba, we also want to be king!

### **I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of King Saul (1 Samuel 15:20-23)**

#### **A. Standing Tall**

- 1 Samuel 9:2 – Saul was ...an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites—a head taller than any of the others.
- 1 Samuel 15:17 – "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.

#### **B. Falling Hard**

- Proverbs 16:18 – Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.
- Exodus 20:3 – "You shall have no other gods before me."
- Proverbs 14:12 – There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

### **II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of King Jesus**

- Philippians 2:6-8 – Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.
- Philippians 2:9-11 – Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name...

## **Application**

- Let us learn from Saul about wanting to be the rulers of our own lives.
- Let us celebrate God's giving us Jesus to live and rule in our hearts.

**Standing Tall, Falling Hard**  
**Digging Deeper**  
June 8/9, 2013

**OPEN:** Share about a time when you had to admit that you were wrong. Was this easy or hard?

**DIG: 1 Samuel 1-15** (*The Story*, Chapter 10, pp.129-143)

1. Eli's encouragement (1 Samuel 1) helped Hannah move from deep sadness to hope. Share about a time when someone deeply encouraged you.
2. What can we learn about prayer from Hannah (1 Samuel 2:1-11) and Samuel (1 Samuel 7:3-13)?
3. Compare the three fathers in the story: Elkanah (1 Samuel 1), Eli (1 Samuel 2:12-25) and Samuel (1 Samuel 8:1-3). What were their best and worst traits? Which of these traits do you wish you had more of?
4. Samuel was probably about 12 years old when God called him to be a prophet to Eli and all of Israel (1 Samuel 3). He was required to speak the truth in love to his mentor and friend (1 Samuel 3:17-18). Have you ever been in this position?
5. The Israelites and the Philistines both treated the Ark of the Covenant more like a good-luck charm than the sacred presence of the LORD (1 Samuel 4-7). How might people today try to manipulate God for similar gain?
6. Samuel is hurt when he sees that the Israelites want a king like other nations, instead of recognizing God as their king (1 Samuel 8). Do you ever struggle with a desire to be like the culture around you, instead of letting God rule your life?
7. You are on the search committee for the first king of Israel. What would you look for in your applicants? What were Saul's actual qualifications (1 Samuel 9)?

8. How do you think Samuel would have described the “state of the union” at the end of his time as judge (1 Samuel 12)? Where do you see God’s grace in his statement after the battle with the Ammonites (1 Samuel 12:20-24)?

## REFLECT

1. Imagine you have a friend like Saul, who keeps taking matters into his own hands and ignoring what God’s word teaches him. What advice would you give him?
2. 1 Samuel 10 opens with the beautiful story of Elkanah’s love and leadership of his family. The chapter closes with the story of Saul’s poor leadership of Israel and his self-love. Compare and contrast the leadership styles of these two men. In what ways is your leadership style similar to either one? In what areas can you improve?
3. Consider the stories of Hannah, Elkanah, Eli, Samuel and Saul. In what way(s) are their stories also your story?
4. In light of this, where do you see God’s story—especially His story of mercy, grace and redemption—at work in your life?