

1 Samuel Lesson 19 Saul's Disobedience Part 2

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Israel and the Philistines: At this point in time, the Philistines have 3 garrisons inside of Israel. One of them is at Geba or Jeba. It was in the neighborhood of Gibeah and opposite Michmash. The Philistines had overwhelming military superiority to the Israelites. They had a huge amount of chariots and horsemen. The Israelites had none. The Israelites did not acquire chariots until the time of Solomon. In addition the Philistines had outlawed blacksmiths in Israel so no iron weapons could be forged.

Saul's Dilemma: Offering a sacrifice before an impending battle to gain the favor of the deity was common in the ancient Near East. It was actually considered part of the military strategy. In Saul's case the need for the ritual was interfering with the strategic element of military timing.

The Relationship between Yahweh, the King and Prophet in Israel: Even though Israel transitioned to human kingship, the Theocracy remained. God still ruled His people. The prophet was the "voice of God" to both the king and the people. The king was expected to listen and obey the words of the prophet.

Key Words:

foolishly: Strong's H5528 "sakal" to act like a fool usually in a morally or spiritual sense.

fool: Strong's H191 "ewil" foolish ; one who despises wisdom and discipline: (Proverbs 1:7) one who does what is right in his own eyes and does not listen to advice; (Proverbs 12 :15) one who is useless to instruct (Proverbs 16:22),

Saul and the Israelites he had gathered to help fight the battle with the Philistines were in Gilgal waiting for Samuel. He was due to arrive at the appointed time that he, Samuel, had set. When Samuel was late in arriving, Saul took matters into his own hands and offered a burnt sacrifice himself in direct disobedience to the Lord's command through Samuel.

Read 1 Samuel 13:8-22

1. According to 1 Samuel 13: 11-12 what did Samuel ask Saul when he arrived? What excuses did Saul give for not obeying Samuel's command? What do Saul's list of excuses reveal about his relationship with Yahweh and his regard for the word of the Lord? Where did Saul put his trust?

Application: When confronted with his failure, Saul simply made excuses. We often do the same. How should Saul have handled his sin and failure and how should we?

2. How does Samuel further rebuke Saul in 13:13-14? What were the consequences of Saul's disobedience? How does this relate to the words of Samuel in 12:13-15?

3. According to 1 Samuel 13:14, what did Samuel tell Saul the Lord was going to do in regards to a new ruler and why? Samuel uses the expression, "a man after His (Yahweh's) heart". What does Acts 13:22 say is meant by this expression? In John 4:34 What does Jesus, God's divine, anointed King, say about his own heart?

4. One of the themes of 1 Samuel is "God opposes the proud and exalts the humble"
Relate this theme to Saul's sin, Samuel's rebuke and the consequences of the sin. Looking over the whole of chapter 13 what do you see of the three other themes we are focusing on in this study?

Application: After Samuel departed we see in 13:15 that Saul was again numbering the people. Who was he continuing to rely on to win the battle. What does scripture say about those who are unable to take instruction? Proverbs 1:7, Prov. 10: 8, 17. Are you able to take instruction well or do you often find yourself making excuses?

