

The Rise and Fall of Saul (part 3)

1 Samuel 13-15

*Saul's fatal flaw seems to be a lack of reverence
for the Lord, and for His word.*

1. Saul's first failure is disobeying God's word

[disobedience] Ch.13

2. Saul's second failure is adding to God's word

[self-reliance] Ch.13:16-14:48)

3. Saul's third failure is distorting God's word

[partial obedience] Ch.15

For Further Study and Reflection:

- *The Freedom of Self-forgetfulness* by Timothy Keller
- *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis
- *Trusting God* by Jerry Bridges
- *Hearers and Doers* by Kevin Vanhoozer

Small Group Questions:

1. Review Ch. 13 and read verses 13 & 14. What is the result of Saul's disobedience? Does the punishment fit the crime? Why or why not? Now, imagine you are Saul's defense attorney, responding to the consequence of his "disobedience". How would you try to defend him? Why would these arguments fall short? Why is this act of disobedience such a big deal? Why is it important that God gives the consequence that He does?
2. Review Ch. 14. In what way is Jonathan presented as a positive example for us? Read aloud verses 14:24-45. How is Saul's binding oath detrimental to the army, Jonathan, and the mission of God? What is the source of the oath? Where do you spot irony or hypocrisy in Saul in this incident? What does this reveal to us about Saul and his view of God and His word?
3. Review Ch. 15. What difficult order is given to Saul? (Exodus 17:14-16 and Numbers 24:20). Does Saul obey the Lord's order? How does Saul justify his actions? What is the implication of having fully disobeyed God's command? Read verses 22-26. What is Saul's fatal flaw?
4. Overall, what is Saul's attitude toward the Lord's authority, and obedience to His word? (Review 15:10, 11 and 15:22, 23). How does he serve as a foil against David?