

The Fall of Saul 1 Samuel 13:1-14

INTRODUCTION

If you have a Bible, turn with me to 1 Sam 13:1-14. If we are really honest with ourselves and with our text, we will admit that Saul's actions do not seem to be all that bad. **On the surface**, it appears that Samuel is late, that the survival of Saul and the nation is doubtful unless someone acts very quickly, and that Saul certainly seems to be the man to do so. **What is so wrong with Saul's actions, given Samuel's tardiness and the Philistine threat?** God, however, takes Saul's attitudes and actions quite seriously, and we must take them seriously as well.

As we study this text, we should seek to discern why this is so evil in God's eyes and determine what happened with Saul. **Let us further seek to learn and apply the principles and lessons our text conveys to Christians, for Saul's sin is significant enough to cost him and his heirs his kingdom forever.**

I. Trouble _____: _____ in the hearts of the
_____ and their _____ (13:1-7)

A. Israel's _____ (13:2)

B. _____ with the Philistines (13:3-4)

C. _____ strength (13:5)

D. Israel's _____ (13:6-7)

II. The _____ and the _____ : Saul's _____
and Samuel's _____ (13:8-15a)

A. Saul's _____ (13:8-9)

B. Samuel's _____ (13:10-14)

Don't miss it...**Saul's disobedience was primarily and essentially a failure to _____ in the Lord. The Bible often mixes obedience and faith, disobedience, and unbelief together in this way. True obedience is _____ an act of faith, it is _____ in action. Disobedience is always, fundamentally, a _____ of faith, an _____ of unbelief.**

Choose to sin...choose to suffer...with disobedience come consequences: (read 13:14). The expression "**a man after [God's] own heart**" has entered Christian jargon, usually as a statement about the qualities of the person. In 1 Samuel 13:13, however, the expression is literally, "**The Lord has sought for himself a man according to his own heart...**"

Here's the **point**: This is about the place this _____ had in _____ heart rather than about the place _____ had in the _____ heart. It was a way of saying that God had _____ this man according to His own will and purpose.

Here the point to be emphasized is that repeatedly the people had been presented with Saul as the king the people had asked for and had chosen for themselves (see 1 Samuel 8:10, 18; 10:19; 12:13). **Things were about to change.** The Lord had chosen a king for Himself, a king on whom He had set His heart. While it is true that Saul had been described as "**him whom the Lord has chosen**" (1 Samuel 10:24) and "**his anointed**" (1 Samuel 12:3, 5), this was always in the context of the people's demands. The striking new thing is that the Lord would choose a king "**for himself,**" "**according to his own heart.**" These things were never said of Saul.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? **Why all the fuss about this one incident, this one mess up?**

- Like Saul, when we have no sense of our _____, we are headed for _____.

- God's _____ serve as a _____ of our faith and obedience.

- Emergencies are not _____ for disobedience to God's commands, but a _____ of our faith and obedience.

Emergency situations, where disaster seems imminent and breaking the rules seems expedient, may make us willing to make exceptions to God's commands, but God is not. Let us beware of allowing a crisis to become the excuse for our disobedience.

- God's judgment may be _____ long before its _____ are apparent.

- God works through less than _____, less than _____ people.

All through history, God has chosen to use the "weak and foolish" things of this world, confounding the wise and bringing glory to Himself. If God can use a man like Saul, we can be assured that He can use us too. **How grateful we should be that God is not limited to using perfect people.** This does not excuse our imperfections or our sins, but it does give us hope that God can and does use frail, sinful people to accomplish His purposes.