

THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF

1 SAMUEL

[PART 21]

HOW TO GET ON GOD'S WRONG SIDE

Reading: 1 Samuel 12:24 - 25 & 13:5 - 15

Introduction

- Saul, the son of Kish began so well as Israel's first king.
- Good pedigree, chosen by God, handsome, wealthy, anointed.
- In his first test against the Ammonites he **'scored well'** leading by example.
- But he proved to be just a shooting star and begins to **'fizzle'** out.
- **NB.** The Christian life is a daily going on with God to the end.

1 Saul Couldn't Handle Power

- The power he had soon began to go to his head.
- In [13:1 - 4] he takes the glory that should have been his son's, Jonathan.
- The humility he began with is now being replaced with pride.

2 Saul Treated Obedience Lightly

- Obedience to God is one of the greatest evidences a person is truly saved.
- The wind and the waves obey Christ, sadly not some of his professing followers.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: **'One act of obedience is better than listening to a 100 sermons.'**

- Obedience is an act of faith whilst disobedience is the result of unbelief.
- Saul had been told to wait [10:8] 7 days for Samuel to come to sacrifice before the battle with Philistines.
- When Samuel didn't show, he took it upon himself to sacrifice.
- He was not only disobedient; he was impatient too.
- Consider, [Hebrews 10:36], [James 1:3/4], [Psalm 27:14], [Isaiah 40:31].
- Is there a command from God that you are ignoring?
- **NB.** Disobeying God is what sin is all about.
- Saul's failure to obey Samuel was indicative of the decline in Saul's spiritual life.

3 Saul Stopped Fearing The Lord

- Notice [12:24] ***'Only fear (reverence) the Lord.'***
- When Saul was challenged, rather than put his hands up he blamed others for his actions.
- He blamed Samuel for being late and he blamed the people who were tired of waiting. [13:11].
- He stopped fearing the Lord and ended up fearing people.
- Preachers/churches, don't fudge truths and sell out to crowds.
- [13:13/14]. Because of Saul's act of sin, he forfeited his kingdom and eventually his soul.
- **Warning:** Don't be another Saul.

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