

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Saul take credit for destroying the Philistine garrison?
2. How do we react when God appears to respond slowly to our urgent needs?
3. What attributes were showing when Saul offered the sacrifice himself?
4. Does God often use delays to test our obedience and patience? Why?
5. What kind of excuses do we use for disobedience?
6. Why did Samuel react to Saul's disobedience in such a harsh way?
7. How do we respond when our sins are pointed out to us?
8. Why did God command that the Amalekites be utterly destroyed?
9. When God said he repented that he had made Saul king (1 Sam 15:11) was He saying He made a mistake?
10. Why is rebellion considered as the sin of witchcraft and stubbornness considered as iniquity and idolatry?
11. Why is obedience better than sacrifice?

SUMMARY:

Early in his reign as king, Saul went against the Lord's commandment in Gilgal by offering a burnt offering. God later gave Saul a specific commandment to destroy the Amalekites and all that they had because of their evil against the Israelites. Saul saw an opportunity to retrieve his error by obeying God, gaining God's favor again. However, King Saul followed his own plan, contrary to God's commandment. Saul not only disobeyed God, but first tried to hide his sin from Samuel, then blamed the people. Only when told that God had rejected him did Saul admit that he had sinned. God is merciful, but there is a time when He must reject all who refuse to submit themselves to His will.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

June 11, 2023

Second Quarter

SAUL'S SELF WILL

LESSON TEXT: *1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-35*

LESSON SETTING: King Saul ruled the nation Israel, which was endangered by the Philistine army.

TIME: About 1079 B.C.

I. THE PERILS OF IMPATIENCE. 1 Samuel 13:1-14

- A. Faith Tested by Delay. Psalm 13:1, 5; John 11:6, 21
- B. Yielding to Temptation. (vs. 9) Numbers 20:11
- C. Divine Displeasure. Psalm 2:5; Zechariah 1:15; Malachi 2:2

II. THE GRAVITY OF DISOBEDIENCE. 1 Samuel 15:1-15

- A. Self-will (vs. 9) Deuteronomy 1:43; 2 Peter 2:10
- B. Self-righteousness (vs. 13) Proverbs 12:15; 2 Corinthians 10:12
- C. Exposure of Sin (vs. 14) Numbers 32:23; Luke 12:2

III. THE PENALTY OF TRANSGRESSION. 1 Samuel 15:16-35

- A. Rejection by God (vs. 28) Deuteronomy 31:17; Isaiah 59:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:12
- B. Death (vs. 33) 1 Chronicles 10:13; Romans 5:12

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD, TO OBEY IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE, AND TO HEARKEN THAN THE FAT OF RAMS.*

1 Samuel 15:22

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: 1 Samuel 28:1-25

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Deuteronomy 18:9-14;
Isaiah 8:19-22

QUARTERLY THEME: Samuel and Saul - 1 Samuel

TOPIC: SAUL'S VISIT TO THE WITCH

INTRODUCTION:

How low Saul had fallen in his sins! God hid His face from him and he could not find an answer to his desperate plea as to what the future holds. How foolish of Saul to try to find the answer elsewhere, when the Lord had refused to give the answer. Why hadn't Saul repented for his evil ways and opted to walk closer with God again? Then he would not have found himself in this desperate situation. Only destruction could be the ultimate end of one who had continually disobeyed God, as Saul had. It grieves us to know that Jonathan also had to give up his life because of his father's sins. How careful each child of God should be in his obedience to Him, that he honors and worships God as his Lord, so that his end will be a glorious entrance into life eternal.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Saul went to the wrong source of help.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BELOVED, BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TRY THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD.* 1 John 4:1

We know that there is one great evil spirit, which is Satan himself, and also one Holy Spirit, who is of God. Then too, there are many spirits which can influence man, either from God or from Satan. John wrote of the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (1 John 4:6) "How," we might ask, "can we try the spirits which cannot be seen?" Are not spirits the ones giving us our very thoughts which fill our hearts and minds? Here each of us can discern the good and the evil. With the instruction in the Word of God and the guidance of His Spirit we can surely discern which thoughts will motivate us to that which is good, and which to evil and sin. We truly need God's help to "abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good." (Romans 12:9)

As the Psalmist wrote, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalms 139:23-24)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 12 – 18

Mon. *An Old Enemy. 1 Samuel 28:1-6
Tue. *Saul's Visit to the Witch. 1 Samuel 28:7-14
Wed. *Samuel Speaks to Saul. 1 Samuel 28:15-20
Thu. *A Meal Prepared. 1 Samuel 28:21-25
Fri. Warnings Against Witchcraft. Deuteronomy 18:9-14
Sat. No Light but Darkness. Isaiah 8:19-22
Sun. The Works of the Flesh. Galatians 5:17-21

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