

# Lessons from Saul: Stubborn Hearts

## Background:

**1 Samuel 8:** Israel rejects God as King.

**1 Samuel 9:** An incredibly handsome and tall young man from a wealthy family is introduced. His name is Saul, and he's searching for his father's lost donkeys.

**1 Samuel 10:** Saul is anointed King. Coincidentally, Saul receives instructions to wait 7 days for Samuel to come and make offerings and give instructions (pointing to chapter 13). God is said to have given Saul another heart. God is helping Saul, but as we'll see, not forcing him. Then Saul is proclaimed King, but he hides among the baggage. This shy man still fits the bill because he is tall and handsome.

**1 Samuel 11:** Saul defeats the Ammonites. The people reaffirm their commitment to Saul.

**1 Samuel 12:** Samuel's farewell speech, which included their history, God's mighty salvation, and their sin. He encourages them to trust and obey God.

## 1 Samuel 13: Saul's Unauthorized Sacrifice

- Vs. 1-4: Saul and Jonathan have 3,000 soldiers accompany them. Jonathan defeats the Philistines, and Saul calls the Hebrews together.
- Vs. 5-7: Philistines gather tens of thousands of troops. Israel feared, hid, and fled.
- Vs. 8-15a: Saul becomes impatient and makes the sacrifice.
  - Saul:
    - "I did what was needed due to danger!"
    - "You were late!"
    - "I forced myself!"
  - Samuel:
    - "You've acted foolishly!"
    - "You have disobeyed God!"
    - "You've lost your kingdom!"
    - "The Lord has chosen someone after His own heart!"

## 1 Samuel 15: Saul's Stubbornness

- Vs. 1-3: Saul is instructed to utterly destroy the Amalekites because of their past sins against Israel.
- Vs. 4-9: Saul allows the Kenites to escape. Saul defeated the Amalekites but spared Agag and the best of the livestock.
- Vs. 10-23: Samuel confronts Saul
  - Saul:
    - "I basically did what God commanded!"
    - "They wanted it!"
    - "I feared the people!"
  - Samuel:
    - "You've forgotten your place!"
    - "You've disobeyed God!"
    - "You've lost your kingdom!"

- "God is giving it to someone better than you!"

**Thoughts:**

- What's the difference between Saul & David? The heart, not the sin.
- Take responsibility. What you do says something about who you are.