

# SAUL

**Text:** I Samuel 9:1-10,17 / 10:1,6 / 11:6,15 / 16:14  
**Subject:** How Not To Forfeit What You've Been Given By God.

## Introduction

- ◆ Saul's story begins with Israel's cry for a king.

**"Make us a king to judge us like all the nations" (I Samuel 8:5)**

**Question:** Why did Israel cry out for a king?

**Answer:** Three reasons clearly stand out:

- #1. **Division:** "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6; 21:25)
  - A. Israel was a loosely organized confederation of tribes.
  - B. Israel needed to be united to become a strong nation.
- #2. **Danger:** "And when ye saw that Nahash, the king of the children of Ammon came against you, ye said unto me (Samuel), nay but a king shall reign over us". (I Samuel 12:12)
  - A. The enemy (Ammonites) was about to attack.
  - B. The loosely group of tribes were not organized or prepared to fight against a well prepared army.
- #3. **Defilement:** "Samuel made his sons judge over Israel, and they walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes and perverted judgment". (I Samuel 8:1-3)
  - A. Leadership decay took over.
  - B. Samuel's sons accepted bribes and were serving for the purpose of making money.

## In I Samuel, Saul Was So Promising (He Had It All)

1. He was from a leading family, (the tribe of Benjamin) (9:1)
2. He was physically strong and attractive. (9:2)
3. He was obedient to his father Kish. (9:3 & 4)
4. He was submitted to delegated authority. (9:5)
5. He was teachable (willing to visit Samuel at the advice of his servant). (9:6-10)
6. He was promised he would find 2 lost animals. (10:2)
7. He was assured his needs would be supplied. (10:3 & 4)
8. He was guaranteed the Spirit's enablement. (10:6)
9. He was provided the laborers he needed. (10:26)
10. He was the recipient of a double portion of the Spirit. (11:6)
11. He was courageous to fight against the Ammonites. (11:11)
12. He was a great forgiver of his critics. (11:12,13)

## I Samuel 12 Outlines Samuel's Great Sermon

- ◆ In verses 1-5, Samuel rehearses his integrity.
- ◆ In verses 6-11, Samuel rehearses God's faithfulness.
- ◆ In verses 12-25, Samuel rehearses a solemn warning.

## **(And Then Saul's Life Begins To Unravel)**

- ◆ Samuel has just preached, exhorting Saul to be faithful to God.
- ◆ Saul has established himself as Israel's first king.
- ◆ Saul has had his great public coronation at Gilgal.
- ◆ Saul looked so victorious and was well on his way.

**(But How Does Saul Go From This:)**

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**“God is with you Saul...and the Spirit of God came upon him” (I Samuel 10:7-11)**

**(To This?)**

**“God is departed from me and doesn’t answer my prayers any more” (I Samuel 28:15-17)**

**Question:** How did Saul receive a special anointing from God (and abuse it?)

**Question:** How could Saul be respected by the people (yet be rejected by God?)

**Question:** How was Saul able to wear the crown of leadership (after he lost God’s approval?)

**Question:** And, what are the life applications from Saul’s rise and fall that speak to you and me today?

**(Perils To Avoid)**

**I. Too Proud (To Be Corrected)**

“And Samuel said, what have you done? And Saul said, the people were scattered from me and you didn’t show up on time.” (I Samuel 13:11)

- ◆ Saul blames Samuel for his own impatience.
- ◆ Saul blames the people for being scattered abroad.
- ◆ Saul makes excuses because he acted out of fear (when he saw the Philistines gather at Michmash).

**Question:** What is Saul’s problem?

**Answer:** He blames the people and Samuel for his own disobedience.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Saul’s pride won’t allow him to be corrected.
- ◆ Saul’s pride won’t accept responsibility for his actions.
- ◆ Saul’s pride is the devil’s stronghold to work from. **(Why?)**
- ◆ Because pride causes Saul to justify his behavior (disobedience) that God wants to change.

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ As long as I blame someone else for what’s inside of me (then I cannot and will not be changed). **(Why Not?)**
- ◆ Because blaming someone else will not allow me to accept responsibility for my own actions.

**(Memory Verses To Engraft)**

“He that refuses reproof erreth in his way”. (Proverbs 10:17)

“He that regards reproof is prudent” (Proverbs 15:5)

“Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way, and he that hates reproof shall die”. (Proverbs 15:10)

“He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul, but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding”. (Proverbs 15:32)

“Hear counsel and receive instruction that you may be wise in thy latter end”. (Proverbs 19:20)

**II. Too Outward (To Be Sensitive)**

“I have not made supplication unto the Lord, therefore I forced myself and offered this burnt offering” (I Samuel 13:12)

**Question:** What happened to Saul when his work interfered with his walk?

**Answer:** His enemies on the outside became bigger than God on the inside.

- ◆ Saul became **afraid** when the Philistines came to do battle. (I Samuel 13:6)
- ◆ Saul became **impatient** and offered the sacrifice before Samuel arrived. (I Samuel 13:8,9)
- ◆ Saul became **anxious** when he saw the people scatter from him. (I Samuel 13:11)

Why the slide? Because Saul “failed to make supplication unto the Lord, (meaning, he failed to entreat the face of God”). (v. 12)

**(In Other Words)**

1. Saul became **distracted** in his prayer life.
2. Saul failed to **prioritize** his calendar.
3. Saul was **tempted** to go on momentum.
4. Saul was **deceived** into self-dependency.
5. Saul neglected his quiet **time** and, thus lost his quiet **spirit**.
6. Saul forgot where his **strength** came from.
7. Saul’s **branches** went out farther than his **roots** went down deep.

**(Memory Verses To Engraft)**

“Men (and women) ought always to pray or they will faint”. (Luke 18:1)

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength”. (Isaiah 40:31)

**III. Too Egotistic (To Be God Glorifying)**

“And the men of Israel were distressed that day; for Saul had adjured the people, saying, cursed be the man that eateth any food until evening, that I may be avenged on mine enemies”. (I Samuel 14:24)

**Question:** What is Saul’s motive as he hinders the battle Jonathan is fighting?

**Answer:** Saul’s motive is vengeance and pride, not the glory of God.

◆ When Jonathan spoke about the battle, God was magnified:

“The **Lord** will work for us; for there is no restraint to the **Lord** to save by many or by few”. (I Samuel 14:6)

**(In Other Words)**

◆ Jonathan gave God the glory (while Saul tried to glorify himself)

**Question:** Why would God want to answer our prayers if we take the credit for what He does?

“I am the Lord, that is my Name, and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images”. (Isaiah 42:8)

**Question:** What did Jonathan say about his father’s carnality?

“Then said Jonathan, my father hath troubled the land”. (I Samuel 14:29)

**Question:** How did Saul “Trouble the land”?

**Answer:** Because his ego got in the way of God’s glory.

#1. He wanted to be the big cheese!

#2. He wanted to get even with his enemies!

#3. He wanted everyone to know who he was!

**(Memory Verses To Engraft)**

“That no flesh should glory in His presence” (I Corinthians 1:29)

“God Resists the proud but gives grace unto the humble” (James 4:6)

“He that exalts himself shall be abased” (Matthew 23:12)

**IV. Too Shallow (To Be Repentive)**

“Go smite Amalek and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not”. (I Samuel 15:3)

“But Saul spared Agag and the best of the sheep, oxen, fatlings, lambs and all that was good”. (v. 9)

“Then came the Word of the Lord unto Samuel saying, it repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king, for he is turned back from following me”. (v. 11)

**Question:** What did God tell Saul to do?

**Answer:** Utterly destroy the Amalekites, take no booty or spoil and burn everything burnable.

**Question:** What did Saul do?

**Answer:** Saul spared the king of Amalek and spared the best of the spoil.

**Question:** What was the result of partial victory?

**Answer:** ♦ God was angry (v. 11) Samuel was grieved (v. 11) Saul was rejected (v. 23)

### **The Amalekites Hated The People Of God**

1. They fought with Israel in Rephidim. (Exodus 17:8-13)
2. They attacked Israel in Hormah. (Numbers 14:43)
3. They joined Moab and ambushed Israel again. (Judges 3:13)
4. They joined the Midianites and raided Israel's crops and livestock. (Judges 6,7,10)

#### **(So God Said "Utterly Destroy Them")**

- ♦ But Saul spared the king and the spoil and had the nerve to lie to Samuel.
- ♦ And God said this about Saul, "He is turned back from following Me". (v. 11)

#### **The Problem?**

Whenever we allow something to remain that God said "Get rid of", we have turned back and forfeited the favor of God.

#### **(Case In Point)**

"But if you will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come to pass, that those which you let remain of them shall be **pricks** in your eyes, **thorns** in your side, and shall **vex** you in the land you dwell" (Numbers 33:55)

**Question:** Why was Saul rejected as king?

**Answer:** Because Saul refused to repent and get rid of something that God said to get rid of!

#### **(Memory Verses To Engraft)**

"For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation and will not be regretted". (II Corinthians 7:10)

"Search me O God, and know my heart...and see if there be any wicked way in me" (Psalm 139:23,24)

"Wash me thoroughly from my sin". (Psalm 51:2)

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. (Proverbs 28:13)

#### **V. Too Insecure (To Be Obedient)**

"And Saul said, I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice" (I Samuel 15:24)

**Question:** Why did Saul transgress against God?

**Answer:** Because he feared the people's opinion (and disapproval) more than God's!

#### **(Samuel Asked Saul)**

"Why didn't you obey the voice of the Lord? (v. 19)

#### **(Saul replied)**

"I have obeyed the Lord, ...but the people took the things that should have been destroyed" (Vs. 20,21)

#### **(And Samuel Responds)**

"To obey is better than sacrifice...for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft". (vs. 22,23)

- ♦ Saul kept some spoil for sacrificing.
- ♦ But, God didn't want the spoil for sacrifices.
- ♦ God wanted obedience (so He could trust Saul).

#### **(Memory Verses To Engraft)**

“The fear of man bringeth a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25)

“Now therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and in truth” (Joshua 24:14)

**Question:** What overcomes our insecurities?

**Answer:** The fear of the Lord!

**Question:** What is the blessing (reward) of obedience?

1. You will enjoy a great anointing (John 14:21)
2. You will have clearer direction (Matthew 5:8)
3. You will see answered prayer (I John 3:22)
4. You will build a storm proof life (Matthew 7:24-27)

## VI. **Too Plastic (To Be Transparent)**

“And Saul said, I have sinned, yet honor me now before all the elders (so that I look good)”  
(I Samuel 15:30)

**Question:** What was Saul’s great concern throughout his career?

**Answer:** “What do people think of me?”

### **“Honor Me Now Before The People” (Why Is This Deadly?)**

1. Because, thinking only of your reputation will lead you to cut corners and make **excuses**.
2. Because, if you live to be **praised** by **people**, you will forfeit the fear of **God**.
3. Because, wanting reputation before man (instead of God) will destroy your **character**.
4. Because phoniness will lead to hype (which is energy without sincerity).

**Question:** How is it possible to live transparent, and not bow down to the snare of compromise?

**Answer:** By living with our eyes upon Jesus, “Who made Himself of no reputation, humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phil. 2:7-8)

## VII. **Too Jealous (To Be Supportive)**

“Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands...and Saul became angry and eyed David from that day forward”. (I Samuel 18:7-9)

- ◆ Saul became jealous at another’s ministerial success.
- ◆ Saul’s jealousy saw David as a rival (competition).
- ◆ Saul’s jealousy revealed his own insecurities (and wouldn’t allow him to support David any longer).
- ◆ Saul’s jealousy caused him to fall prey to Satan’s snare of anger, deceit, competition, rivalry, fear, and malice (and ultimately rejection by God).

**Question:** Why does the flesh become jealous over the success of others?

**Question:** Why is it difficult for some to rejoice with those who do rejoice?

**Question:** Why do some people resent others who seem more blessed than they are?

### **(Notice)**

“They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands ...and Saul cast the javelin, for he said, I will smite David to the wall with it”. (v. 11)

- ◆ In Saul’s heart, David became the enemy!
- ◆ In Saul’s view, David became the rival!
- ◆ In Saul’s plan, David had to go!

### **(Why?)**

Because Saul Couldn’t handle David getting the praise from war that Saul wanted.

### **(In Other Words)**

- ◆ Saul wanted all the credit and glory that was really due to God.
- ◆ Saul was jealous (and fearful) of losing his grip and influence as king.

**(Fact:)**

- ◆ Whatever you attempt to gain in an unholy way, you will eventually lose (and suffer in the process).

**(Memory Verse To Engraft)**

“Don’t be selfish and don’t live to make a good impression on others; but in humility think of others as better than yourself” (Philippians 2:3)

**VIII. Too Angry (To Be Rational)**

“But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines”. (I Samuel 18:25)

“And Saul became David’s enemy continually” (v. 29)

“And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David”. (19:1)

“Bring David up to me that I may slay him” (19:15)

“Then Saul’s anger was kindled against Jonathan” (20:30)

“Fetch David unto me, for he shall die” (v. 31)

**Question:** What is anger?

**Answer:** “Anger is unexpressed energy! When your mind interprets a situation as threatening, a biochemical reaction is triggered. This results in the creation of unusually large amounts of energy for you to use in facing the perceived threat. Your emotional (anger) is thus transformed into physical energy” (Dr. Richard D. Dobbins)

**(There Are Two Kinds Of Anger)**

- #1. **Righteous Anger** – which stands up against sin and is exercised against the things that grieve the heart of God.

**“God is angry with the wicked everyday” (Psalm 7:11)**

- #2. **Selfish Anger** – which is that negative emotion we feel when someone or some thing has...

- ◆ ...failed to meet our needs.
- ◆ ...blocked our intended goals.
- ◆ ...offended us in some way.

**Fact:** Unresolved anger has severe consequences:

- #1. It will poison your spirit and attitude towards others. (Hebrews 12:15)
- #2. It will hinder God from forming His righteous character in you. (James 1:20)
- #3. It will cause you to become a slave to your emotions instead of God.
- #4. It will result in bitterness that will cause you to...

- ◆ ...burn up emotional energy and get depressed.
- ◆ ...distrust other people because of being hurt.
- ◆ ...become hypersensitive to your own emotions.
- ◆ ...live with ingratitude and feel the world owes you.
- ◆ ...be argumentive and critical to any correction.
- ◆ ...not allow you to “hear with your heart” what others are saying.
- ◆ ...isolate you from those you were created to love.

**Question;** How can God heal you of anger and strife?

- #1. Admit how you feel in a spirit of good will.
- #2. Listen to understand the other person’s point of view.
- #3. Give permission to others to speak without fear of retribution.
- #4. Accept full responsibility for your feelings, attitudes and actions.
- #5. Fully forgive anyone who has hurt you in any way.

**(Memory Verses To Engraft)**

“Cease from anger and forsake wrath, fret not thyself in any wise to do evil” (Psalm 37:8)

“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry, for anger resteth in the bosom of fools” (Ecc. 7:9)

“For the anger of man does not allow God to form His character in you”. (James 1:20)

**IX. Too Selfish (To Be Serving)**

“All of you have conspired against me...and there is none of you that feel sorry for me”  
(I Samuel 22:8)

**Question:** What happened to Saul here?

**Answer:** He has developed a “poor me” (Martyrs) complex!

**(In Other Words)**

- ◆ He cannot serve others anymore because he has a personal agenda!
- ◆ He wants attention and now cannot live without it!
- ◆ He has become his own worse enemy and has now imprisoned himself!
- ◆ He cannot be sensitive to those around him because he is now ingrown!

**(Fact:)**

Saul doesn't want to be healed, he just wants attention (which is not what he really needs at all).

**(Memory Verse To Engraft)**

“If any of you want to follow Me, you must put aside your selfish ambition and take up your cross daily” (Luke 9:23)

**X. Too Rebellious (To Be Heard)**

“When Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid and trembled. And when Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord answered him not”. (I Samuel 28:5,6)

**Fact:** There came a time when God Answered Saul's prayers no more.

**Fact:** There came a time when God said, “enough is enough”.

**Question:** Why did the Lord refuse to answer prayer from Saul's disobedient heart?

**Answer:** To teach us that there are road blocks to answered prayer we must avoid:

- #1. Unbelief (James 1:6,7)
- #2. Sin (Isaiah 59:2)
- #3. Selfishness (Proverbs 21:13)
- #4. Unforgiveness (Matthew 6:14)
- #5. Disobedience (Proverbs 28:9)
- #6. Pride (Psalm 138:6)
- #7. Impure Motives (James 4:3)

**(Memory Verse To Engraft)**

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18)

**XI. Too Disobedient (To Be Blessed)**

“And Saul answered, I am sore distressed and God is departed from me and answers me no more...and Samuel said, the Lord is departed from you and is become your enemy...because you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord nor executeth His wrath upon Amalek” (I Samuel 28:15-18)

**Question:** What was the bottom line reason that Saul was demoted and disgraced?

**Answer:** Disobedience to the known will of God!

- ◆ God had told Saul to destroy the Amalekites. **(and)**
- ◆ Saul spared what God said to destroy!

**(The Deceptions Was:)**

#1...That Saul disobeyed to offer sacrifices and worship the Lord.

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