



## **Saul's Foolish Decision**

**(1 Samuel 10:5b-8 and 13:8-14)**

# 1 Samuel 10: 5b-8

- And there, as soon as you come to the city, you will meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. <sup>6</sup> Then the Spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. <sup>7</sup> Now when these signs meet you, do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.
- <sup>8</sup> Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

# 1 Samuel 13: 8-14

- <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. <sup>9</sup> So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.
- <sup>10</sup> As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. <sup>11</sup> Samuel said, "What have you done?"
- And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.' So, I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

# 1 Samuel 10:5b-8 and 13:8-14

- <sup>13</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.
- <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you."

**“Everybody Has Choices;  
Everybody Makes Decisions”**



# Old Testament Sacrifices

- <sup>8</sup> Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer **burnt offerings** and to sacrifice **peace offerings**. (1 Samuel 10:8)
- The purpose of a sacrifice was for “**atonement**” between the sinner and God, that is, **to make one right with the Lord**.

# Old Testament Sacrifices

- **Burnt Offering:** (An atoning sacrifice) “Except for its hide, given in payment to the officiating priest, this offering was burned completely on the altar. Its purpose was to satisfy God’s wrath against sin, ceremonially cleansing the worshiper and restoring him or her to fellowship with God.” (*NLT Study Bible*)
- **Peace Offering:** (A non-atoning sacrifice) The peace offering “expressed worship through fellowship with the Lord and with others. . . The Hebrew word is from the same root as *shalom*, which speaks of wholeness, well-being, harmony, and peace. . . . It implies a bond of harmonious fellowship. The peace offering was therefore a shared meal celebrating fellowship with God and others. . . **Peace offerings often followed whole burnt offerings, showing that fellowship with God follows atonement.** . . . When we have experienced atonement through Christ, we are able to be at peace with God and with each other.” (*NLT Study Bible*)

# Background Information:

## (1 Samuel 13:3-8)

- <sup>3</sup> Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear.” <sup>4</sup> And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.
- <sup>5</sup> And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven. <sup>6</sup> When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, <sup>7</sup> and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.
- <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.



# Re-reading 1 Samuel 13: 8-12

- <sup>8</sup> He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. <sup>9</sup> So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.
- <sup>10</sup> As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. <sup>11</sup> Samuel said, "What have you done?"
- And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, <sup>12</sup> I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.' So, I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

# Analysis: During Times of Stress

- Where was Saul's primary focus? Was he mainly focused on being faithful and obedient to the Lord, or was he distracted by whether he and his army would be defeated?
- Are we able to say, "Even if I will suffer loss of property, prestige, or even life, still I will follow the Lord"

# Example: What it means to put God first (Daniel 3:14-18)

- <sup>14</sup> Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? <sup>15</sup> Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”
- <sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king.
- <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

# I. The Impulsiveness of Saul

- **A. Saul “stretches the truth” to deflect from taking responsibility:**
- And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed (1 Samuel 8:11b)
- **Adam and Eve:** Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (Genesis 3:11-13)

# I. The Impulsiveness of Saul

- **B. Saul focuses on the world rather than on God**
- <sup>12</sup> I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.' So, I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."  
(1 Samuel 13:12)
- **Jesus on the necessity of choosing:**
- "You cannot serve God and mammon" (i.e. money or possessions, especially as having a debasing influence). Matthew 6:24b

# I. The Impulsiveness of Saul

- **C. Saul succumbs to the world's expectation to "do something!"**
- <sup>9</sup> So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. (1 Samuel 13:9)
- <sup>10</sup> Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels: shall we bring water for you out of this rock?" <sup>11</sup> And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. <sup>12</sup> And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them." (Numbers 20:10-12)

# I. The Impulsiveness of Saul

- **D. Saul chooses “expediency” over faithfulness**
- <sup>9</sup> So Saul said, “Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings.” And he offered the burnt offering.<sup>10</sup> As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. (1 Samuel 13:9-10)
- **King Asa:** In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might permit no one to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. <sup>2</sup> Then Asa took silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and the king's house and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Syria, who lived in Damascus, saying, <sup>3</sup> “There is a covenant between me and you, as there was between my father and your father. Behold, I am sending to you silver and gold. Go, break your covenant with Baasha king of Israel, that he may withdraw from me.”
- <sup>7</sup> At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him . . . You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars.” (2 Chronicles 16:1-3, 7, 9 ESV)

## II. The Steadfastness of Samuel

- **A. Samuel is clear with his instructions:**
- <sup>8</sup> Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do." (1 Samuel 10:8)
- **God with Adam and Eve:**
- <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat (Genesis 2:16-17)



## II. The Steadfastness of Samuel

- **B. Samuel makes sure everyone is clear on the facts:**
- <sup>11</sup> Samuel said, "What have you done?" (1 Samuel 13:11)
- **God with Adam and Eve:**
- <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" (Genesis 3:11)

## II. The Steadfastness of Samuel

- **C. Samuel is direct and clear in his reproof of Saul:**
- <sup>13</sup> And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. (1 Samuel 13:13)
- <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the messenger of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Listen to advice and accept instruction,  
that you may gain wisdom in the future. (Proverbs 19:20 ESV)

## II. The Steadfastness of Samuel

- **D. Samuel is clear about the consequences of Saul's actions:**
- <sup>13</sup> You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.
- <sup>14</sup> But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." (1 Samuel 13:13-14)

# Applications:

- Oftentimes it is better to do nothing than rush to do something
- Waiting is hard
- It is easy to break things; it is difficult to build things (“constructing” vs. “disrupting”)
- Get the facts before making decisions
- Building things that last requires building relationships that last
- Relationships that last are built upon mutual trust (“ethos”)
- **Put your ultimate trust in God:**
- “I wait quietly before God, for my hope is in Him; He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress, where I will not be shaken” (Psalm 62:5-6)

# Like Samuel, be a bedrock of faith

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

<sup>8</sup> He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.” (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

# Like Samuel, be a bedrock of faith

- <sup>15</sup> For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, <sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,
- <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
- <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:15-21)



**Let Us Pray**

A photograph of two hands raised in prayer, holding a glowing white cross. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky with clouds. The sun is visible through the cross, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a horizon line over water.