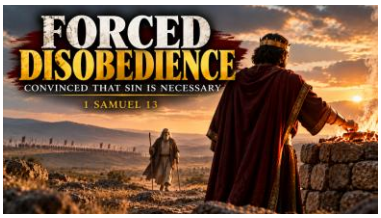
Pastor Doug Kilchenman November 1, 2026

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 13:1-23 – Saul is convinced sin is necessary

Today's Message:

"Forced Disobedience"



The Weekly Bulletin

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we heard the message Samuel preached to the people at Gilgal. God's faithfulness was not a license to continue to sin; it was a reason for His people to return to faithful service. Today, we will see Saul portray himself as a man who was compelled by circumstances to sin against God. In essence, he will say, "You don't understand…I had to do it!" Saul will be confronted by Samuel and the truth that he had failed to keep the word of God. It will be his downfall. He will not just make a wrong decision under pressure. He will allow the pressure to overrule God's authority and justify his sin as necessary. Has disobedience to God ever begun to look like the only reasonable option to you? This is real life.

This is God's message to you…

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 13:1-23

A. The Pressure Cooker 13:1-8

1. Saul was faced with **the deception of neccessity** – "I had to do **SOMETHING**!"

When Wrong Seems Right
"I had no choice."
"You don't understand my situation."
"I know the Bible says, but this is different."
"I had to do what I had to do."
"God knows my heart."
"I know it was wrong, but what else could I do?"

1Samuel 13:1-4 *– … three thousand men… Jonathan smote… **abomination**…*
1Samuel 13:5 *– …**thirty thousand chariots**… **six thousand horsemen**… **as the sand**…*
1Samuel 13:6 *– …people were **distressed**…caves…thickets…rocks…high places… pits.*
1Samuel 13:7 *– … some… over Jordan… **all the people followed him trembling**.*
1Samuel 13:8 *– … **seven days**, according to the set time… the people… **scattered**…*

"The people were **distressed**" – we say, "I am stressed out!" It's life's pressure cooker!
"According to **the set time**" – Samuel had said to wait 7 days (1 Sam 10:8); down to wire!
"The people were **scattered**" – enemy coming, people stressed, hiding, & running away!

"Impatience"
An unwillingness to endure delay, difficulty, or uncertainty while waiting for a desired outcome.

COMPARING SCRIPTURES

- ***Psalm 56:3-4*** *– What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee… not fear what flesh can do…*
- ***Psalm 27:14*** *– Wait on the LORD: be of good courage… wait, I say, on the LORD.*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES **(Positive: Joseph – Gen 39:7-12; Daniel – Dan 1:8; 3 Friends – Dan 3:16-18)**

- **Gideon's 300** ***Judges 7:7,12*** God used 300 men; Midianites "as the sand by the sea"
- **Abraham + Sarah** ***Gen 16:1-4*** God had promised; they attempted to solve in flesh.

KEY TRUTHS

- Circumstances can be very difficult. We *must* obey God no matter how it looks!

Personal Application
When we believe that our situation leaves us no choice but to sin, we have allowed our circumstances and our feelings to seduce our faith. We are rejecting the words of God.

B. The Foolish Disobedience 13:9-14

2. Saul was convinced by **the deception of justification** – "I had to **SIN**."

Justifying Sin
When we justify our sin and disobedience instead of accepting responsibility for it, we place ourselves in danger of resisting God's correction.

1Samuel 13:9 *– … Saul said, Bring hither…* ***he offered the burnt offering****.*
1Samuel 13:10 *– …as soon as he had made an end…* ***behold, Samuel came****…*
1Samuel 13:11 *– …Samuel said,* ***What hast thou done?*** *…Because I saw…and…and…*
1Samuel 13:12 *– … I have not… unto the LORD:* ***I forced myself therefore****…*
1Samuel 13:13 *–…done* ***foolishly****: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD*
1Samuel 13:14 *– … kingdom* ***shall not continue****: the LORD hath sought him a man…*

"As soon as" – Samuel's timing **(God's timing)** was *just in time*; this is how God works!
"What hast thou done?" – what question! Same as God asked Cain, Eve, etc. etc. etc.
"I forced myselft therefore" – Saul's excuse – "I had to sin. I had no other options!"
"Thou has done foolishly" – the response – "Wrong answer!" You sinned against God!
"Thy kingdom shall not continue" – the sin was bigger than he thought! It is a big deal!

The Bigger Issue
The consequences extend beyond the sacrifice itself. Saul's failure reveals a fundamental problem in his relationship to God and His words.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **King Uzziah** ***2 Chron 26:16-21*** He was proud and thought he could do it his way!
- **Aaron + calf** ***Exodus 32:1-24*** "thou knowest the people" … "came out this calf."
- **Adam + Eve** ***Genesis 3:11-13*** The blame game: Adam=>God + Eve, Eve=>serpent
- **Nathan to David** ***2 Sam 12:7-12*** Nathan confronted David – "Thou art the man."
- **Moses + Rock** ***Num 20:7-12*** He disobeyed God! *(But look, water came out!)*

The End does *not* justify the means
We must never measure the rightness of our actions solely by whether they appear to have "worked".

KEY TRUTHS (***1 Samuel 15:22-23*** *– … to obey is better than sacrifice…*)

- Saul believed he was forced to sin; God held him accountable for *not* **OBEYING**.
- Our choices can carry consequences that extend far beyond the moment of sin.

C. The Weakness Revealed 13:15-23

3. God's people were *not* **prepared for war** with no **SWORDS** to fight the enemy.

Ephesians 6:17
… and ***the sword of the Spirit****, which is the word of God:*

1Samuel 13:15-18 *– …numbered…* ***six hundred men****... the spoilers came out...*
1Samuel 13:19-21 *– … there was* ***no smith found*** *throughout all the land of Israel…*
1Samuel 13:22-23 *–… to pass* ***in the day of battle****… neither sword nor spear found…*

"Saul **numbered** the people" – a diminished army – God's people are now vulnerable!
"There was **no smith** found" – a dangerous dependence – enemy would not let them!
"In the day of **battle**" – a limited supply of weapons – What?!? They should know better!

Proverbs 27:17
Iron sharpeneth iron*; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **King Asa** ***2 Chron 16:7-9*** He relied on alliance with king of Syria instead of God.
- **Egyptians** ***Isaiah 30:1-3; 31:1-3*** Trusting in the world instead of God and His words!

Ecclesiastes 10:10
If ***the iron be blunt****, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.*

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Are you prepared **(in the Bible)** for day of battle? Sharpening daily? Life *and* death!
- Discipleship, Biblical friendships, Bible study are critically important for your life!

What does your obedience to God cost you?
There may be times when obedience costs you money, opportunities, friendships, popularity, or personal comfort. There may be times when doing right seems to place you at a disadvantage. Never let the pressure of your circumstances convince you that disobedience to God is your only option.