

I Samuel 14-15 – 3 February 2022

“Faithfully Obeying God’s Simple Commands”

Introduction

- *I Samuel can be divided into 3 sections
 - *Instigation of earthly kingship (Chap 1-7)
 - *Failure of earthly kingship [Saul] (Chap 8-15)
 - *God’s man chosen & tried (Chap 16-31)
- *II Samuel – depicts the entire reign of King David
- *Chap 8-10 we saw the establishing of the awkward kingdom in that God allowed them to have a kingdom but having a kingdom is settling for 2nd best
- * Chap 11-13 we saw the availability of God to lead Saul to be a godly leader, but he chose his own way
- *Today is the final nail in the coffin of Saul’s Kingship
- *He was given the chance to lead & influence others toward God, but he leads them away from God
- *We don’t live in a vacuum – we’re influence others by our attitudes and beliefs everywhere we go
- *Let’s ask ourselves 3 questions to determine how we’re doing at leading others toward godliness**

#1 – Are we leading w/ a contagion of fear or a contagion of faith? (Chap 14:1-23)

Read Chap 14:1-7

1. This is Jonathan's brave plan to trust the Lord to give them the victory
2. Israel was out numbered & out armed
 - a. Israel has been hiding in fear & it's spreading
 - b. But Jonathan knew the spiritual realm could violate the earthly reality AT GOD'S WILL

Read Chap 14:8-10

1. Plan was to check the Philistines boldness
 - a. If Philistines are scared to come after them, then it's of the Lord
2. Jonathan wasn't following specific revelation from God but rather general revelation
 - a. So He knew there's a change that he was wrong for timing or otherwise
 - b. General Revelation: Show love
 - c. Specific Revelation: Stay married for life
3. He shows great faith knowing Israel owns the land & NOT the Philistines

Read Chap 14:11-14

1. So this is a small victory on small plot of land
 - a. But this stirs up a whole lot more faith!
 - b. See, also like fear, faith is contagious
2. Jonathan & armorbearer get the victory b/c of their faith in Jesus

Read Chap 14:15-20

1. Jonathan simultaneously did two things
 - a. He emboldened Saul and Israel to believe
 - b. He put fear & confusion thru the WHOLE army, to the point that Philistines turned on each other

Read Chap 14:21-23

1. Even Israeli traitors turned back to Israel
2. Do you want to have the kind of faith that activates God's hand and drives others to come back to Him? – Trust Him and get busy!
3. Vs 23 – Who's strength won the day? God's

#2 – Are we leading by the commandments of men or the commandments of God (Chap 14:24-52)

Read Chap 14:24

1. Spiritual discipline of fasting should be to focus on the Lord not to focus on avenging self
2. This is a foolish & selfish oath
3. Rash commandments tend to have consequences

Read Chap 14:25-30

1. Maybe Jonathan shouldn't have said it to the troops, but he's right that Saul has created problems
 - a. 1st problem he created – he's limited the victory that the Lord could have given to them

Read Chap 14:31-35

1. They sinned in not draining the blood first
2. Saul corrects the sacrificing and makes altar on the stone
3. 2nd problem Saul created - his foolish command led the people into sinning against God's clear command

Read Chap 14:36-39

1. God's silence is often b/c of sin in the camp
2. Saul had asked God to curse whoever had eaten

Read Chap 14:40-43

1. Saul's closest friend & son has to die simply b/c he didn't know of Saul's vow. What!
2. 3rd problem he created - *legalistic man-made rules become unenforceable*
3. Legalistic rules cause more troubles than simply following God's principles

Read Chap 14:44-46

1. Jonathan's backtalk about Saul to the troops in vs 29 is now causing further descension
2. We see that Saul is really starting to loss him mind and control
3. Saul may have beaten the Philistines this day, but his own legalism & pride beat him for good

Read Chap 14:47-52

1. Historical Note for context
2. Abner becomes important

#3 – Are we leading in self-deception or in simple obedience (Chap 15:1-35)

Read Chap 15:1-3

1. The command of God is clear, hard but clear
2. God knows at what point a people's evil is no longer tolerable – He has this right

Read Chap 15:4-9

1. Saul simply disobeys
2. Notice they kept what they thought would be a benefit to them – disobedience NEVER benefits

Read Chap 15:10-13

1. Saul thinks partial obedience is obedience, wrong!
2. Remember Joshua's Farewell Address
 - a. Read Jos 22:5 – "Take diligent heed..."
 - b. Care enough to get into the detail of what God wants from us
3. *Self-deception of the lips is really willful disobedience of the heart*

Read Chap 15:14-15

1. Saul blames it on the people & tries to make something spiritual of it
 - a. As if it was actually for a good reason

2. So Saul is willing to bind the people to an oath to accomplish his will (chap 14), but when it comes to doing God's will, he lets them do whatever?
 - a. In reality, he consented to this action!

Read Chap 15:16-19

1. "You were little in thine sight" – He's telling him that he's become prideful
2. You "flew upon the spoil" – He's saying that Saul has become greedy
3. Sad part is that Saul's living in deception & can't even see that he's become prideful & greedy
4. Pastors, like Mike Kestler, became prideful & greedy, fell into sexual sin, & then won't let go of their ministry/pastorate b/c they don't see the sin!

Read Chap 15:20-21

1. Outright refuses to accept his disobedience
2. Blinded by pride of position to do whatever
3. Refusing to use the authority you're given over others IS disobedience

Read Chap 15:22-23

1. Samuel correctly identifies the problem in that Saul has refused to follow the simple Word of God
2. There can't be fellowship without righteousness

Read Chap 15:24-31

1. Only once consequences / punishment comes does Saul speak confession
 - a. This is worldly sorrow that he got caught
 - b. Isn't godly sorrow that leads to repentance
2. 3 times Saul beseeches Samuel – pardon my sin, don't leave me, let's still worship together
3. 3 times Samuel responds to Saul – You've rejected the Word of God, God will choose another leader, yet Samuel's grace to allow Saul to come to church & worship
 - a. No reason to send the unbeliever out of our churches, but yes send them out of their roles

Read Chap 15:32-35

1. Samuel obeyed God, even when it hurt him

Conclusion

So all God ever wanted from Saul and wants from us is to faithfully obey His simple commands. How do you lead?

1. **Do you lead with a contagion of fear or with a contagion of faith?**
 - a. Just as fear spreads, so can your faith!
2. **Do you lead by the commandments of men or the commandments of God?**
 - a. Our rules will lead to strife, God's principles lead to love, joy and peace!
3. **Do you lead in self-deception or in simple obedience?**
 - a. Honestly may be the single greatest thing missing in the church today. Vulnerability.

Lot didn't lead his family in lifestyle and it had its consequences

Someone is leading your loved one, may it be you leading them to Jesus Christ