

The Tale Of Two Kings
The Life Of Saul

Four *pitfalls* to failure

Four *wrong* views of life

1. Trusting my plans rather than God's plans, comes from a wrong view of self.
2. Viewing God as someone to serve me rather than as someone to serve, comes from a wrong view of God

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. 2 This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. 3 Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'" (1 Samuel 15:1-3 NIV)

Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. 8 He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. 9 But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs-everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed. (1 Samuel 15:7-9 NIV)

It is a dangerous thing to embrace and call *good*, in what God has rejected and called *bad*.

Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: 11 "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions." Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night. (1 Samuel 15:10-11 NIV)

God's children are *troubled* when others fall into sin.

Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal." (1 Samuel 15:12 NIV)

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions." (1 Samuel 15:13 NIV)

But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" (1 Samuel 15:14 NIV)

Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." 16 "Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. (1 Samuel 15:15-16 NIV)

Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

20 "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. 21 The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal." (1 Samuel 15:19-21 NIV)

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." (1 Samuel 15:22-23 NIV)

The third pitfall to failure:

3. Caring more about how I look before men than how I look before God. This comes from a wrong view of others.

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. 25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD." (1 Samuel 15:24-25 NIV)

But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!" (1 Samuel 15:26 NIV)

Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God." 31 So Samuel went back with Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD. (1 Samuel 15:30-31 NIV)

The fourth pitfall to failure:

4. Having excuses instead of repentance, this comes from having a wrong view of sin and forgiveness

Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." (1 Samuel 15:15 NIV)

Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. 25 Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD." (1 Samuel 15:24-25 NIV)

Saul replied, "I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God." (1 Samuel 15:30 NIV)

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:1-3 NIV)

1 Trusting my plans rather than God's plans, comes from a wrong view of self.

2. Viewing God as someone to serve me rather than as someone to serve, comes from a wrong view of God.

3 Caring more about how I look before men than how I look before God, comes from a wrong view of others.

4 Giving excuses instead of repentance, comes from a wrong view of sin and forgiveness.

1 A right heart

2 A clear sense of right and wrong, which David was able to act on because he had a right view of others

3 A knowledge of the source of our power, comes from a right view of God

4 A spirit of humility, comes from a right of self

5 A broken and repentant heart over sin, comes from a right view of sin and forgiveness