

Outline

- I. We can't really look into the life of David without first understanding some things about Saul.
 - A. Saul was a very humble man who started off being little in his own eyes (1 Sam. 9:2 and 21), so the Lord chose him over the nation of Israel as king.
 - i. During those first two or three years of his kingship, Saul really did seek God.
 - ii. The Lord wrought some major deliverances through him and solidified the kingdom under him.
 - B. In 1 Samuel 13, Saul offered a sacrifice contrary to the instructions of God:

And he [Saul] tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. [9] And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [10] And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

1 SAMUEL 13:8-10, BRACKETS MINE

- C. The Law prescribed that only priests could offer these sacrifices and petition the Lord like this (Lev. 10:1-2); therefore, as a secular government official, this was a major sin on Saul's part.
 - D. When Samuel reproved him for what he had done, Saul, ever a people pleaser, tried to justify himself (1 Sam. 13:11-12).
 - E. This is a common practice today—most people try to excuse themselves and shift the blame.
- II. In stark contrast to Saul, David didn't do that—he never blamed anyone else for his failures.
 - A. He always took responsibility, saying:

Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

2 SAMUEL 24:17

- B. This character trait made David a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14).
 - i. When the Bible talks about having a pure heart—a perfect heart—it doesn't mean you never sin.
 - C. Are you someone who refuses to accept the truth that it's your fault that you're in the mess you're in?
 - i. A victim's attitude is a common attempt to dodge responsibility and blame others, like Saul did.

- ii. People with this attitude won't survive, be blessed, or reach their full potential.
- iii. However, if you will accept responsibility, then you can change you.

Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: It is important to understand the life of Saul before you look into the life of David.

2. Why did the Lord choose Saul to be king over the national of Israel?

3. What was God able to do through him when Saul was humble?

4. By Law, why could Saul *not* offer a sacrifice to the Lord?

- A. Saul was a government official
- B. Saul was a king
- C. The Law prescribed that only priests could
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. When Samuel reproved Saul, Saul tried to _____ himself.

6. *Discussion question:* How was Saul's response to Samuel's reproof typical of people today?

7. True or false: David and Saul behaved in the same way when they were confronted with their mistakes.

8. What character trait made David a man after God's own heart?

9. Having a pure heart doesn't mean you _____ sin.

10. What kind of attitude do you have if you dodge responsibility and blame others?

- A. A sinner's attitude
- B. A victim's attitude
- C. A Los Angeles Dodgers' attitude
- D. An excellent attitude
- E. A normal attitude

11. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people who dodge responsibility and blame others are never blessed and never reach their full potential?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 9:2

And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

1 SAMUEL 9:21

And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

1 SAMUEL 13:8-12

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. [9] And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [10] And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him [11] And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; [12] Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

LEVITICUS 10:1-2

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. [2] And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

1 SAMUEL 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

2 SAMUEL 24:17

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

1 SAMUEL 13:14

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.