



WORTH THE WAIT

Studies in I Samuel

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 10, Issue 4



The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for God’s mission

Removing All Doubt I Samuel 13-15

How many times in life do we meet someone or see a celebrity, politician, or someone famous and get a sense that something is wrong. Then, at some point, they say or do something that “removes all doubt.” Saul has shown many signs of his true colors up to this point but in this week’s passage, he removes all doubt as to who he really is on the inside. It begins when Saul, as king, goes to war with the Philistines and chooses 3000 men to go with him. He takes 2000 for himself and gives 1000 to Jonathan, his son. Interestingly, we read that Jonathan attacked and defeated the Philistine garrison at Geba while his father does nothing. This, of course, greatly upsets the Philistines and they assemble a huge army to fight the Israelites. The men of Israel run, leaving

only a few with Saul at Gilgal. Saul is supposed to wait for Samuel to offer the sacrifices before battle but gets impatient and offers them himself. He makes excuses to Samuel when confronted about this sin, blaming the men for his choice. Samuel tells him that his kingdom will come to an end rather than continuing beyond himself. Jonathan, again making the first move, takes his armor bearer and crosses to where the Philistines were and kills 20 Philistines, striking fear in them. Saul and his men join the battle and they chase the Philistines. Saul had made a foolish vow that no one should eat until the enemy was defeated and as a result the men were very hungry. This led them to kill and ravenously eat raw meat, thus violating Moses’ law. Saul offered sacrifices for



Anything of true value is worth waiting for.

them to God, but Jonathan, not knowing Saul’s vow, ate some honey. When Saul found out he planned to kill him, but the men refused to allow this to occur because they greatly respected Jonathan. Finally, Saul was commanded by the Lord to kill all the Amalekites and all their flocks. He chose to keep the choicest animals and captured King Agag instead of killing him. When confronted he again rationalized his behavior rather than accepting responsibility. God, through Samuel, told Saul that he himself was now rejected as king, not just his descendants. He had finally removed all doubt as to the full depth of his lack of character.

Study Questions for I Samuel 13-15

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. In 13:1-7 when did Saul become king? (v.1) How many men did Jonathan have? Saul ? (v.2) What did Jonathan accomplish? (v.3) How did the Philistines react? (v.4-5) The reaction of Israel and Saul’s men? (v.6-7)</p>	
<p>2. Continuing in 13:8-14 what did Saul do and why? (v.8-9) When asked why by Samuel, what was Saul’s excuse? (v.10-12) What would be the consequence of Saul’s actions according to Samuel? (v.13-14) What was Saul’s basic problem here (v.14)?</p>	
<p>3. From 13:15-23 how many men were still with Saul after this rebuke? (v.15) What were the Philistines doing? (v.16-18) How many swords did Israel have and why?</p>	

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I Samuel 13-15 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. In 14:1-23 where did Jonathan and his armor bearer go? (v.1-3) What did the Lord do through them (v.4-14) and why (v.6)? How did the Philistine react? (v.15) and how did Saul and Israel respond? (v.16-22) What resulted? (v.23)

5. Looking at 14:24-35 what was Saul's foolish oath? (v.24-26) What was Jonathan's response? (v.27-30) What was the outcome, good and bad? (v.31-35) Why was Saul's oath wrong?

6. From 14:36-46 what was Saul's plan? (v.36-37) God's response? (v.37b) How was the wrong discovered and what was Saul's (v.38-44) and the people's response? (v.45-46) Who was right?

7. Continuing in 14:47-15:3 how did Saul begin his reign? (v.47-48) What characterized the time that Saul ruled Israel? (v.52) What did the Lord command Saul to do and why? (15:1-3)

8. Using 15:4-16 who was told to leave by Saul and why? (v.4-6) In the battle did Saul obey the Lord? (v.7-9) The Lord response? (v.10-11) When confronted, what did Saul say? (v.12-16)

9. In 15:17-23 how did Samuel challenge Saul? (v.17-19) How did Saul respond (v.20-21) and was he being honest? Why or why not? What was Saul's disobedience so bad? (v.22-23)

10. Finishing in 15:24-35 how did Saul respond to the Lord's words? (v.24-25) and Samuel to Saul's? (v.26-29) What was Saul's plea? (v.30) What was done to Agag the king? (v.32-33) What were the relational results? (v.34-35)

11. Looking back, how in your own life do you get ahead of God instead of waiting on Him? (Chap. 13) Why do we make oaths to God for the wrong reasons and what results? (14:1-46) What are some Saul-like ways we partially obey God and try to label it full obedience? (14:47-15:35)

Scripture to Remember

“Samuel said, ‘Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed that the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination and insubordination as iniquity and idolatry.’” **I Samuel 15:22-23a**

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

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Life Group Questions—*Who's Your Daddy, Part II (Identity Theft, 2—Ex 3:7-9)*
(Using questions from Sunday's sermon, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship, helping us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group about a time in your life when you really felt safe and your needs were supplied well - and what that was like.
2. Read Ex 3:7-9. Which of these 3 results of God's omniscience means most to you—that He's seen your situation, heard your cry, or has come down? What situation right now do you need to know that God is aware of and active in taking care of? Share this.
3. According to 1 Pet 5:5-7 we are to “cast our cares” on Him. Talk first about how you can do this conclusively—then completely. What makes us confident of His care for us?
4. Explain the difference between God's “omnipresence”, His omnipotence and His omniscience. Why does God's presence with us mean that we will have our need supplied?
5. How does God's promise to be with us motivate us to step up to what He calls us to do (use biblical examples and examples from your own life)?
6. Talk about God's supply for our needs through 1) the Gospel; 2) The spiritual gifts He gives so He can work through us and 3) the gift of the power of God working in us.
7. If you have time discuss anything else meaningful to you from the message.