

7 DAYS 1 SAMUEL 12:24-25; 13:1-23

Bible College was a time and place for young men to discuss theological questions. The most important question that came across my mind (maybe this was an internal discussion) concerned the question of forgiveness:

- **Does God forgive (Christians)?**
- **Does God's forgiveness remove the consequences of our sin?**
- **Does an individual ever sin so much so as to eliminate the possibility of forgiveness?**

Maybe too much sin, too great a sin, too little repentance, too late...? 1 Samuel 13 & 15 became passages I feared and frankly avoided – there are so dim / dark and have very little hope!

I. A hint of trouble

1 Samuel 11:8 And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand.

1 Samuel 13:1 Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, **1 Samuel 13:2** Saul chose him **three thousand men of Israel**; whereof **two thousand were with Saul** in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and **a thousand were with Jonathan** in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. **1 Samuel 13:3** And **Jonathan smote** the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. **1 Samuel 13:4** And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal. **1 Samuel 13:5** And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven. **1 Samuel 13:6** When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. **1 Samuel 13:7** And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

Trouble is brewing and patterns are established:

- **Saul has two-thirds of the truth**
- **Jonathan has one-third of the truth**
- **Saul does...nothing - well, almost nothing**
- **Jonathan takes the leadership**
- **Saul takes the credit**
- **The Philistines didn't take this lying down**

1 Samuel 13:5-8 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven. When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 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.

1 Samuel 13:17-18 And the spoilers came out of the camp of the Philistines in **three companies**: **one company** turned unto the way that leadeth to Ophrah, unto the land of Shual: And **another company** turned the way to Bethhoron: and **another company** turned to the way of the border that looketh to the valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

- **The Philistines had already taken the technological advantage**

Philistines: Iron age

Israel: Bronze age

1 Samuel 13:19-22 Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears: But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his axe, and his mattock. Yet they had a file for the mattocks, and for the coulters, and for the forks, and for the axes, and to sharpen the goads. So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found.

- **Saul will not really lead**

1 Samuel 8:17-20Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and **that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**

II. A failure of obedience

1 Samuel 10:8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal... seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

1 Samuel 13:8 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. **1 Samuel 13:10-15** 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. 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; 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. And Samuel said to Saul, **Thou hast done foolishly**: thou hast **not** kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: **for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. 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. And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men.

Behind the scenes &/ underneath the story is the **understanding** that Israel's king was always to be a client-king, a king by permission:

- Under the Lord
- In obedience to the Lord
- By the word of the Lord
- From a prophet of the Lord (or Word of the Lord)

1 Samuel 10:25 Then Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the LORD....

Deuteronomy 17:14-20; James 3:1

What do we find?

- Saul lacking in patience
- Saul not lacking in excuses / blame-shifting

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, **Where art thou?**

Genesis 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **Genesis 3:12-13** And the man said, **The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, **The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.**

Hebrews 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and **patience (μακροθυμίας)** inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:36 For ye have need of **patience (Υπομονής)**, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye **if** ye do them.

John 14:15 If ye love me, **keep** my commandments.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

III. An air of hopelessness

1 Samuel 13:11 And Samuel said, **What hast thou done?**... **1 Samuel 13:13-14** And Samuel said to Saul, **Thou hast done foolishly**: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: **for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. 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.

1 Samuel 15:34-35 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. **And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death**: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

1 Samuel 28:6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him **not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.**

1 Samuel 28:25 And she brought it before Saul, and before his servants; and they did eat. Then they rose up, **and went away that night.**