

## Saul and David

1 Samuel is essential to understanding what our Father is trying to do in the last days. There are two different kinds of hearts — one will enter the Kingdom and one will not.

1 Sam 9:1 - 11:15 — Saul had great natural endowments and gifts (1 Sam 10:23). He was inwardly renewed and had the power to speak from God under divine inspiration (1 Sam 10:6,9-10). Saul was modest and considerate (1 Sam 9:19-21; 10:20-22). Although the people had started to recognize Saul and rally around him, some despised him. But Saul had a generous spirit and was merciful towards the worthless men who questioned his reign over them (1 Sam 10:26-27; 11:12-13).

By comparison, David had many serious shortcomings. He sinned greatly during his time. But he reacted to his sin differently than Saul.

1 Sam 13:1-14 — Saul's call to kingship was one in a million. He began so reassuringly, but declined so disappointingly and ended so wretchedly. A certain principle in Saul's life caused him to fall (verses 8-12). It looked like everything that God had done up to this point would fall. He gave in to fear and took matters into his own hands. He was not willing to let the Kingdom fall or be sustained by God.

Gen 16:2 — Abraham's impatience and lack of faith brought about a son of the flesh. Our Father wanted to bring about the son of the promise (Isaac), but Abraham rushed ahead, just as Saul did. Saul, however, committed a presumptuous sin (against the counsel of wisdom — 1 Sam 13:13). And when Samuel came to him he had many justifications for his sin. He never came clean. Our Father can allow for anxiety, but not for disobedience and rebellion.

All the days that Saul was King there was continual warfare (14:52). And although Saul was well aware that the Kingdom was in a downtrodden state, from the time of his disobedience onward, he never repented of it. His heart was insensitive.

1 Sam 14:24-25 — Saul had willful impatience. It was not according to wisdom that he put the people under the oath. Grace had departed from Saul. If he had repented, God could have restored him to grace. But, lacking grace, he misunderstood everything, made rash judgments, and even lacked the integrity to follow through with what he had said. We shouldn't commit ourselves with our mouths unless it is God who is giving us confidence or we'll only be condemned by our words.

We must learn to judge our own flesh. Because he lacked a good conscience, the only confidence Saul had was in his flesh. And so, he was threatened by everything that went on. We need to be established on the rock so we won't be threatened, so we won't make rash judgements. The people had come to do battle, even risked their lives all day without eating at his command, but Saul called them treacherous (1 Sam 14:33).

1 Sam 15:1-21 — Saul smote Amalek, but he didn't destroy all of Amalek. This was direct disobedience to the command of God (verses 3-9). Then he went to Samuel as though he had performed all that God commanded (verse 13). Saul distributed the blame on the people (verse 15). Disobedience and deceit was coming out of Saul's heart. But even when confronted directly with his sin (verses 17-19), he resisted correction and blamed others (verses 20-21). Amalek represents the flesh. He didn't eradicate Amalek, so Amalek eradicated him (2 Sam 1:5-10). Saul was blind to his own motives.

1 Sam 15:22-24 — Saul wasn't broken. Even in his "confession" he had a justification for his sin (verse 24). This is a satanic principle of rebellion. The greatest of God's demands on man is not to bear the cross, make offerings, deny himself or serve. The greatest is to obey. It is a sweet savor offering having nothing to do with sin.

Even in sacrifice there can be an element of self-will. Obedience alone is absolutely honoring to God. God's will is at its center. Saul might offer sheep and oxen, yet God never accepted

them as sacrifices to himself because of the satanic principle of rebellion. To serve God we are not called to self-denial and sacrifices but to obey God's will. Yahshua didn't choose the cross, but His Father's will, whatever it was (Mt 26:39).

Heb 10:4-7 — The heart of the cry of Yahshua was to do the Father's will without panic or compromise.

How can we be practically obedient? By being men under authority? Even men under government still have leeway to do lawless acts. It will always be according to our own hearts. We've been given a spirit within that we might judge ourselves; we're not called to act on our own initiative. Covering is protection. It is not just a matter of getting permission. Covering is something sought from a heart that doesn't want to have its own way; a heart that fears our Father; a heart lacking in overweening self-confidence (we see our need for our sisters and brothers). If we don't truly see that God directs us through our brothers, we will just "check with" each other.

People who are poor in spirit see their absolute need for their brothers. They don't just let them know, they truly submit their comings and goings, their thoughts and plans. Covering is no threat to a yielded heart, but a means of grace and protection. One who wants to be truly used by God will not act on his own initiative. Many religious movements have been built, many crusades organized, but God's purpose has never been done by those who acted on their own. This satanic principle of rebellion and independence is the last thing that's going to be dealt with in our lives.

Titus 2:14 — He gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every work of the devil and purify for himself a people for his own possession, zealous for good deeds (1 Jn 3:8).

Saul kept trying to serve and wage war against the enemy, but he didn't repent. One thing that Saul lacked that David had was *godly sorrow* (2 Cor 7:10). Saul was sorry he got caught and that things turned out the way they did, but he wasn't sorry that he had sinned. By comparison, Saul was not much of a sinner: he made a sacrifice early, failed to kill one king and a few sheep, etc., while David committed adultery and murder. But David was granted repentance because of his heart (1 Sam 16:7).

1 Sam 15:25-31 — Saul was concerned about his appearance before men (verse 30). He feared man more than he feared God (Pr 29:25). Saul was coming to the point of no return. He said, "Pardon my sin," but what he was really looking for was cheap grace. There are two ways to interpret grace: 1) as a call to obedience, or 2) a substitute for obedience.

1 Sam 15:28 — Our Father takes the Kingdom from those who are too blind to receive it and gives it to those who will produce the fruit of it (Mt 21:43). Saul played the fool. His sin was reasonable. Deeds done in the flesh can look really good. Only those with a good heart can discern between good and evil because they have trained their sense to.

Like Esau, Saul's heart disallowed him from having his birthright. He didn't treasure his inheritance. Esau considered his inheritance as the value of a bowl of soup. Esau's conscience couldn't find repentance. It is possible to lose your priesthood.

We've got to be the people who don't do what Esau did. If we quit giving ourselves to our Father we'll fall into the same state as Saul and Esau. The quickest way to defile your brothers is simply to not seek our Father or have communion with Him. (Communion is not just thinking about Him, but having a personal relationship.) As we cultivate our relationship with our Father, we begin loving our brothers, considering others around us. Desperation is the only thing that causes us to go to Him and quit living in the tremendous strength of our flesh.

We have great hope because our Father is patient. The more we see our unrighteousness the more we see his righteousness. This unites our hearts to love our Father and fear His name. This commands our obedience to God.

Ps 51:14-17 — David knew the history of Saul and didn't want to be the same way. The Kingdom was

taken from Saul because of the condition of his own heart. We need to see the Saul within us. We may be functioning by the same principles that were in Saul, but we need to turn away from it. Saul could have been used by God, but he didn't execute the Amalek in himself. So he ended up in witchcraft, sorcery. The danger with us is not that we will find ourselves in some palm reader's house but in the assembly, worshipping the devil.

David had a pliable, tender heart. Our Father could speak through David because he would repent (Ps 51 and 32). David had a godly sorrow that led to repentance without regret (2 Cor 7:10).

Saul never admitted his sin unless he was directly confronted. It grieved him more that his sin was exposed than it grieved him that he had disobeyed God.

Our Father doesn't want a bunch of people that serve Him because of fear of punishment but because they love Him and don't want to grieve His heart. He wants sons and friends, not slaves. Saul started out so good, but the satanic principle of rebellion was deep in his members. David was disobedient, too, but something went on within him when the word of God came to Him. He knew he needed a new heart (Ps 51:10).

In sacrifice there can always be the element of self-will. Obedience is the only thing that honors and pleases God. Yahshua came to do the Father's will (to be obedient) — not to die on the cross. Disobedience has been the downfall of all mankind. The satanic principle of rebellion began when Satan said, "I don't need God to tell me what to do." to be discontent, grumble and complain against God's provision is the very beginning of iniquity. Satan raised his own head. Yahshua took his head off (Phil 2:3-8). Yahshua was obedient to the uttermost limits, to death. He wasn't seeking to be God or have his own glory but to do the will of God. He was without personal strife. He knew who he was. He strove against sin.

Because of our insecurities, our past, and the satanic principle of rebellion we are still in need of being cleansed from strife. God wants people who aren't envious of one another's gifting. Yahshua didn't strive for equality.

Are you resting and serving out of gratitude to our Father for saving you out of the Kingdom of darkness? Rest is ceasing from insecurity. If God could find people who would serve him out of gratitude for salvation and take unlimited opportunities to love, he would be pleased.

Jms 3:13-18 — You have to have peace and rest within yourself before you can make peace with others.

Pr 21:29; Isa 66:1-2 — Saul thought he could go on in his calling and anointing despite his disobedience to God. His conduct and behavior totally denied his confession. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness. It doesn't just relieve our fears — it causes our heart to fear. The grace of God is the enablement to obey. It was meant that we'd be able to do our Father's will through communion with Him. Licentiousness is taking liberties without grace. A godly sorrow brings about repentance without regret. It's so deep in us to defend ourselves when we disobey and not let the shoe fit. Saul always distributed the responsibility for his sin on others. Saul didn't know how to repent. Mt 21:42-43 — The Kingdom was being taken from Saul's grasp, because he never produced the fruit of it (dealing with God's enemies). This happened also to the old Israel. The kingdom was taken from them and given to the Gentiles. If we as a people don't produce the fruit of the Kingdom, it will be taken away from us, too.

Mt 21:44 — We have to fall upon the rock. Our Father brings us to the point of the valley of decision. We'll either fall upon the rock or it will fall upon us. The Pharisees knew exactly what Messiah was talking about (them), but they wouldn't humble themselves. They cared more about how they looked before the eyes of men than how they looked in the eyes of God.

1 Sam 16:14 — Saul's downfall was that he didn't judge himself. He became tormented by evil spirits. He let a murderous malicious spirit toward David come upon him (1 Sam 18:6-12,17,20-21). He became a *spiritual sluggard*. A spiritual sluggard will not respond to his brothers. He'll resist his brother instead of the enemy. He's duped. He thinks his enemy is his brother who loves him and is committed

to him. Restoration occurs when we start living in our Father's will — giving up our lives, dead to ourselves (Jn 12:24). The reason we lose grace is because of our own inner desires and our resistance to activating our own wills to obey. Instead, we exert great labors and energies to dodge and avoid the cross. Saul's worst enemy wasn't the Philistines. His greatest foe was his own self-regard. He let self get the upper hand in his life.

1 Sam 28:5-10 — Saul began walking with the underworld. Because of his disobedience, he lost all grace and peace, and what began as accusations soon turned into full-blown divination. (Just as the prophet said in 1 Sam 15:23) When the Spirit of YHWH would not help him, he became desperately frantic to communicate with evil spirits. He sought out a witch. How the mighty had fallen. Self-will is the key to this fall. Saul's two besetting sins were presumption and disobedience to God. Behind both of these were impulsive (without thought) unsubdued self-will. A man who has no control over his spirit is like an unwalled city. Every man who lets self fill his vision till it blinds his inner eye to what is true is playing the fool. All of us who live for self in preference to the will of God are playing the fool.

If we don't understand 1 Sam 15:22 we're going to grow crooked. Obedience is better than sacrifice. A sacrifice was a costly thing, but apart from obedience it didn't mean a hill of beans. Sacrifice doesn't necessarily come forth from God's initiative. Our true spirituality is how we activate our wills to do God's will. We need to desire something higher than our own self-life. Pleasing ourselves works against unity. We need to make a transfer (through suffering) from self-concern to God's concern if we are to enter the Kingdom. Our Father wants to turn our eyeballs outward so that we can see the needs of others. This brings health to our spirit.