

Choices

1 Samuel 13-14:23

Introduction:

1 Samuel 13 - The tragedy of Saul is revealed early and it only gets worse. Saul was instructed to deal with the presence of the Philistines in Gibeah (1 Samuel 10:7) and then go to Gilgal and wait for instructions from Samuel (1 Samuel 10:8).

Precept: "A man after God's own heart" - "Saul was chosen by the people for themselves but God had chosen a king for himself, a king on whom he had set his heart." (Woodhouse 235-236, italic mine)

Summary: One evidence of a heart after God is the willingness and determination to obey God and Saul was missing this element.

When we disobey we have choices: Like Saul we can blame others or take the blame ourselves. Saul believed that he could obtain the Lord's favor as he disobeyed the Lord.

1 Samuel 14:1-23 - Saul is waiting and looking for an opening to attack the Philistines. His oldest son, Jonathan, led a small victory that turns into a God-ordered route of a large army.

Jonathan's bold faith - 1 Samuel 14:1-15

Thoughts on Faith (Jonathan)

God's unusual miracle - 1 Samuel 14:13-23

Little Faith (Jesus)

Conclusion: What are deathblows to faith? The most important part of any response is that we obey God no matter what the circumstances tell us.

Partial obedience is not obedience; it's all or nothing and excuses as to why we did not obey are unacceptable.

Faith is completely defeated when I do not accept responsibility for my choices, repent and walk before God properly.

We love to be "our own person"; but that is not a true Christian world view. We are 'slaves', we are apprentices of King Jesus, we are instruments of God by the Holy Spirit and we are challenged and called to follow.

Faith rests on an absolute scriptural truth: "Nothing is too hard for the Lord" (Genesis 18:14; Job 42:2; Jeremiah 32:17; Luke 1:37; Matthew 19:26; Mark 14:36). True faith knows this without presuming that God will always act.