



Lesson 67 – Saul Rejected

based on 1 Samuel 15

- 1) What had happened in the past that put Saul in jeopardy?

1 Samuel 13:9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he _____ the burnt offering.

Saul was to wait for Samuel to make the offering as Samuel was the High Priest. It was a test to see if Saul would wait upon the LORD and trust Him alone.

- 2) What was Samuel's reply to what Saul had done?

1 Samuel 13:13 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 _____ thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

1 Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall _____ 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.

Saul had failed to bear the test of faith in the trying situation at Gilgal and had brought dishonor upon the service of God; but his errors were not yet irretrievable, and the Lord would grant him another opportunity to learn the lesson of unquestioning faith in His word and obedience to His commands.

Samuel loved Saul as his own son, while Saul, bold and ardent in temper, had held the prophet in high regard; but he resented Samuel's rebuke, and thenceforth avoided him so far as possible.

- 3) Was God done with Saul?

1 Samuel 15:2-3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which _____ did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and _____ them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

- 4) What had Moses told the Israelites before he died?

Deuteronomy 25:19 Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the _____ of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.

For four hundred years the execution of this sentence had been deferred; but the Amalekites had not turned from their sins. The Lord knew that this wicked people would, if it were possible, blot out His people and His worship from the earth. Now the time had come for the sentence, so long delayed, to be executed.

- 5) What does God call this kind of thing?

Isaiah 28:21 For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his _____ act.

- 6) What would God prefer?

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no _____ in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: _____ ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

- 7) What did Moses have to say about it?

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, _____, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means _____ the guilty...



He does not delight in vengeance; He will execute judgment upon the transgressors of His law. He is forced to do this, to preserve the inhabitants of the earth from utter depravity and ruin. In order to save some, He must cut off those who have become hardened in sin.

8) Was Saul obedient this time?

1 Samuel 15:4-5 And Saul _____ the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

9) Who did God remember before the siege?

1 Samuel 15:6 And Saul said unto the _____, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed _____ to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

The Kenites, though not wholly free from idolatry, were worshipers of God and were friendly to Israel. Of this tribe was the brother-in-law of Moses, Hobab, who had accompanied the Israelites in their travels through the wilderness, and by his knowledge of the country had rendered them valuable assistance.

10) Were they victorious?

1 Samuel 15:7 And Saul _____ the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

The expedition was not to be entered upon for the purpose of self-aggrandizement; the Israelites were not to receive either the honor of the conquest or the spoils of their enemies. They were to engage in the war solely as an act of obedience to God, for the purpose of executing His judgment upon the Amalekites. God intended that all nations should behold the doom of that people that had defied His sovereignty and should mark that they were destroyed by the very people whom they had despised.

11) What was the command delivered by Samuel?

1 Samuel 15:3 ... Now go and smite Amalek, and _____ all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

12) What did Saul do?

1 Samuel 15:8-9 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people _____ Agag, and the best of the _____, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

Ambitious to heighten the honor of his triumphal return by the presence of a royal captive, Saul ventured to imitate the customs of the nations around him and spared Agag, the fierce and warlike king of the Amalekites. The people reserved for themselves the finest of the flocks, herds, and beasts of burden, excusing their sin on the ground that the cattle were reserved to be offered as sacrifices to the Lord. It was their purpose, however, to use these merely as a substitute, to save their own cattle.

13) What did God tell Samuel?

1 Samuel 15:11 It _____ me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.



Saul had now been subjected to the final test. His presumptuous disregard of the will of God, showing his determination to rule as an independent monarch, proved that he could not be trusted with royal power as the vicegerent of the Lord. The prophet was deeply grieved over the course of the rebellious king, and he wept and prayed all night for a reversing of the terrible sentence.

14) Can God change?

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and _____.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of _____.

God's repentance is not like man's repentance. Man's repentance implies a change of mind. God's repentance implies a change of circumstances and relations. Man may change his relation to God by complying with the conditions upon which he may be brought into the divine favor, or he may, by his own action, place himself outside the favoring condition; but the Lord is the same.

Samuel cherished a hope that, upon reflection, Saul might become conscious of his sin, and by repentance and humiliation be again restored to the divine favor. But when the first step is taken in the path of transgression the way becomes easy. Saul, debased by his disobedience, came to meet Samuel with a lie upon his lips.

15) What did Saul tell Samuel?

1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have _____ the commandment of the LORD.

16) Samuel pointed out the obvious, what was it?

1 Samuel 15:14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this _____ of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

17) Saul's justification for disobedience was...

1 Samuel 15:15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to _____ unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.

The people had obeyed Saul's directions; but in order to shield himself, he was willing to charge upon his troops the sin of his disobedience.

18) With pain in his heart, what message did Samuel deliver before all?

1 Samuel 15:16-17 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will _____ thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the _____ of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

1 Samuel 15:18-19 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be _____. Wherefore then didst thou not _____ the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

19) What did Saul offer that made things worse?

1 Samuel 15:20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought _____ the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.



20) Putting up with no more, what did Samuel say?

1 Samuel 15:22-23 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to _____ is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of _____, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

21) What was Saul's reply to that?

1 Samuel 15:24-25 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have _____: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: _____ I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD.

If Saul had had true repentance, he would have made public confession of his sin; but it was his chief anxiety to maintain his authority and retain the allegiance of the people. He desired the honor of Samuel's presence in order to strengthen his own influence with the nation.

22) What happened next?

1 Samuel 15:26-28 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast _____ the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being _____ over Israel. And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is _____ than thou.

Saul was more disturbed by the alienation of Samuel than by the displeasure of God. He knew that the people had greater confidence in the prophet than in himself. Should another by divine command be now anointed king, Saul felt that it would be impossible to maintain his own authority. He feared an immediate revolt should Samuel utterly forsake him. Saul entreated the prophet to honor him before the elders and the people by publicly uniting with him in a religious service. By divine direction Samuel yielded to the king's request, that no occasion might be given for a revolt. But he remained only as a silent witness of the service.

23) What terrible thing still needed to happen?

1 Samuel 15:32-33 Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the _____ of death is past. And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel _____ Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

Agag was the most guilty and merciless; one who had hated and sought to destroy the people of God, and whose influence had been strongest to promote idolatry.

When called to the throne, Saul had a humble opinion of his own capabilities and was willing to be instructed. He was deficient in knowledge and experience and had serious defects of character. But the Lord granted him the Holy Spirit as a guide and helper and placed him in a position where he could develop the qualities requisite for a ruler of Israel. Had he remained humble, seeking constantly to be guided by divine wisdom, he would have been enabled to discharge the duties of his high position with success and honor. Under the influence of divine grace every good quality would have been gaining strength, while evil tendencies would have lost their power. This is the work which the Lord proposes to do for all who consecrate themselves to Him.



When Saul turned away from the reproof sent him by God's Holy Spirit, and persisted in his stubborn self-justification, he rejected the only means by which God could work to save him from himself. He had willfully separated himself from God. He could not receive divine help or guidance until he should return to God by confession of his sin.

24) What counsel do we have?

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of _____.

Deuteronomy 12:8 Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever is right in his _____ eyes.

Deuteronomy 12:28 _____ and hear all these words which I command thee, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee for ever, when thou doest that which is good and right in the sight of the LORD thy God.

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is _____ than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

The sacrificial offerings were in themselves of no value in the sight of God. They were designed to express on the part of the offerer penitence for sin and faith in Christ and to pledge future obedience to the law of God. But without penitence, faith, and an obedient heart, the offerings were worthless. When, in direct violation of God's command, Saul proposed to present a sacrifice of that which God had devoted to destruction, open contempt was shown for the divine authority. The service would have been an insult to Heaven. Yet with the sin of Saul and its result before us, how many are pursuing a similar course. While they refuse to believe and obey some requirement of the Lord, they persevere in offering up to God their formal services of religion. There is no response of the Spirit of God to such service.

25) Did God leave His people?

1 Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own _____...

In Saul, God gave them such a king as they desired, one whose character was a reflection of their own. Their hearts were not in submission to God, and their king also was unsubdued by divine grace. Under the rule of this king, they would obtain the experience necessary in order that they might see their error and return to their allegiance to God.

God was already making plans for a better kingdom...

Can you see that God's way is the best?

Would you like strength to obey?

When is it time to humble yourself before the LORD?