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God Looks At My Heart

Chapter

1 Samuel 13, 15

Saul, the Disobedient King

Today's Lesson:



1. To understand that God uses the obedient, not the strong.
2. To understand that the beginning of your faith life is important, but the end is even more important.

Open Your Heart



Let's imagine that I am a farmer that is looking for a strong ox that will help me farm. If you had to choose between the two oxen above, which would you choose?

Why?

In the end, () is more important than ()!



Understanding Today's Lesson

While the Israelites were suffering from the invasion of the Philistines, Saul, the son of Kish of the Benjamites, became the first king to rule over the Israelites according to their demand. One day, while the tall and obedient Saul went out to find his father's lost donkey, he met Samuel, the prophet. At this time, Samuel told Saul that he would be the king of Israel. Hearing this, Saul humbly replied, "Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?" (1 Samuel 9:21). Though Saul tried to avoid this position, Saul was eventually anointed by Samuel. After being anointed as king, he received a request for help from the people of Jabesh Gilead where he rallied an army and defeated the Ammonites. Forty days later, he became the king of Israel.

However, shortly before fighting the Philistines, Saul broke the law of God by presenting a burnt offering to God himself, which only the high priests were allowed to do. Also, he did not keep God's words of utterly destroying all of the Amalekites. This sin of disobedience led to God abandoning Saul. Due to this sin of disobedience, the spirit of God left Saul and a distressing spirit came upon him, which led Samuel to abandon him as well. Afterwards, Saul wasted the rest of his life trying to kill the innocent David. While fighting the Philistines, Saul gets hit by an enemy's arrow. Seeing that he was no longer able to flee the pursuit of the Philistines, Saul kills himself. He even abandoned the last opportunity of repentance that was given to him. Saul's start was good, but, due to his disobedience and his decision not to repent, the end of his life was tragic.

Notes:



Memorizing Bible Verses

So Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

(1 Samuel 15:22)



Meditate

On These Verses

1. After you have meditated on the following verses, give a title of the verse or write a short summary of the verse. Also, write down things you have felt about the verse, or other verses that it has reminded you of.

(1 Chronicles 10:13–14)

(Isaiah 48:17–19)

(Psalm 81:8–13)



Changing

Directions

1. Saul's first sin was offering a sacrifice that only the priests could offer. Read 1 Samuel 13, and find out how many years after he became king that this event happened.

2. After this event and until his death, there is no record of Saul completely obeying God. Nevertheless, what is the reason why God allowed him to be king for a long time? Record your thoughts.

3. After Saul sinned, there are multiple instances where Saul confessed his wrongdoings (1 Samuel 15:24, 19:4–6, 24:16–22, 26:21). How is Saul's repentance different from David's repentance after David sinned (2 Samuel 12:13)?

4. In 1 Samuel 31:3–5, we see the event where Saul takes his own life after being seriously wounded by an arrow. Why do you think his choice was the wrong one? Also, what do you think he should have done at the end?



Applying

The Word to My Life

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.
(James 2:26)

1. Please write down how you will apply what you learned today throughout this week.

1.)

2.)

3.)

2. Look back and reflect on how successful you were at applying last week's lesson.



Praying

To Live According to the Word

Let's confess that we are weak, fall many times, and make many mistakes and ask the Lord to uphold us. Let's pray to God that He would give us a humble heart to honestly repent when we repeat the same mistakes.



Our Story

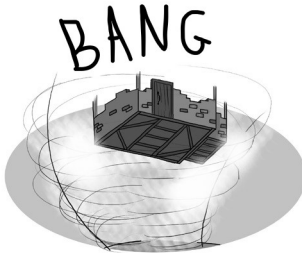
The Probability of Spontaneous Occurrence

This is what scientists say about the probability of earth being spontaneously created:



A whirlwind randomly appears...

It carries the neatly-piled construction materials up in the air...



...and in the air the house becomes constructed...

...and a completed house lands on the ground!



They say that the probability of the earth being created spontaneously is less than this. Then, how was the earth created, and who created it?

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)

For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God. (Hebrews 3:4)

Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing. (Isaiah 40:26)

The Disobedience of the Military Chaplain (A Military Pastor)

This event happened during the battle of Salerno in World War 2. A master sergeant saw a military chaplain just walking in the middle of a dangerous area without taking or running for cover. So, the master sergeant shouted,

"Military chaplain, it's dangerous to walk like that!"

The military chaplain responded, "It's okay. God will protect me."

The master sergeant responded back, "God protects me as well. But, I am showing God that I am obeying His laws."





Wednesday

Sermon

Date. | |

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage:



Sunday

Sermon

Date.

|

|

Title:

Speaker:

Main Passage: