

LifeGroup Questions

Based on: 1 Samuel 13:1-15

March 10, 2019

Overview

Unintended sacrifice. One could look at this text and easily think that Saul's sacrifice was necessary considering the circumstances. He was watching his army tremble in fear. As the leader, he needed to act – rally the troops. Unfortunately, his actions were in direct violation of God's commands. Instead of trusting God in the situation, Saul was trusting in himself.

It is easy to be an armchair quarterback in this situation and point out the mistakes of Saul. A man whom God chose to lead Israel should surely be able to trust God in every circumstance. This time however, Saul had taken his eyes off of God and was looking directly at his situation. If even for a moment, he doubted God's ability to rescue Israel.

Saul's failure to wait for Samuel would end up costing him more than what he wanted to pay. His unintended sacrifice was his kingdom. Ravi Zaccharias once said, "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." In 1 Samuel 13:12, Saul says he felt compelled to act. Fear was driving his actions. He felt compelled to not trust God and take matters into his own hands.

The story of Saul isn't that far from our own. There are many times we become overwhelmed by our circumstances and lose sight of God. We feel compelled to take control and do whatever it takes to make things better. Whether this be in our jobs or family we like being the ones in control. Like Saul, we usually try to justify our actions after we disobey. Doubting God will only cost you more than you want to pay.

Bible Study: 1 Samuel 13-1-15

1. Wesley once said: "And indeed, there is no little sin, because there is no little God to sin against. In general, what to [humans] seems a small offense, to him who knows the heart may appear a heinous crime." Saul lost his kingdom because of sinning by offering sacrifices. Discuss as a group why you think the punishment fits or doesn't fit the offense.
2. Think of a time when you allowed your circumstances to control you. How did this impact your relationship with God?

3. Read over the passage. Discuss as a group other lessons you can learn from Saul's disobedience. Think about how it applies to your life today.