

Destin Church of Christ

May 14, 2023

Lesson 10: Saul: “Standing Tall, Falling Hard”

1 Samuel 1-4; 8-13, 15

Keeping up with the Joneses is never a good idea, but it is particularly dangerous when the Joneses are a bad example! Our LORD understands the human tendency to imitate what we see and is concerned that we follow his example. Sadly, we are often enticed to follow the example of our culture instead.

Our *Story* this week opens at the end of the period of the judges. In spite of the dreadful disobedience of Israel as a whole, a few sparks of faith shine through.

Lesson Breakdown:

- The Last Judge (1 Samuel 1-4)
- The First King (1 Samuel 8-10)
- Saul in Battle (1 Samuel 11-13, 15)

Plot Points:

- In the case of each character in this story, we see that God is seeking people willing to trust and obey him whatever the circumstances.
- Although fathers may be faithful, this does not guarantee their children will be.
- God’s people are called to covenant faithfulness, not conformity to the cultures around them.
- A leader’s personality and charisma are not as important as humble obedience.

As you watch the video, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ Samuel means “heard by God.”
- ✓ This is not the perfect will of God but rather his permissible will.
- ✓ The warning is, “You have to follow God.”
- ✓ Saul said he kept the best sheep to offer up a sacrifice to God.
- ✓ Israel had a misplaced desire to be like everyone else.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY

Chapter 1:

- Elkanah had two wives: Hannah and Peninnah. (pg. 129) [1 Samuel 1:1-2]
- Hannah was downhearted because she had no children and Peninnah provoked her about this. (pg. 129) [1 Samuel 1:6-8]

1. What did Hannah vow when she prayed? (pg. 130) [1 Samuel 1:11]
 - As Hannah prayed, Eli thought she was drunk. (pg. 130) [1 Samuel 1:13]
 - Elkanah and Hannah have a son named Samuel. After he was weaned, Hannah brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh as she had vowed. (pg. 131) [1 Samuel 1:24-28]

Chapter 2:

- Hannah's Prayer ... (pg. 131) [1 Samuel 2:1-10]
- The sons of Eli did not know the Lord and treated the offering of the LORD disrespectfully. (NIB) [1 Samuel 2:12-17]
- Each year, Samuel's mother would make him a coat and bring it to him. (pg. 131) [1 Samuel 2:19]
- After Samuel, Hannah had three sons and two daughters. (pg. 131) [1 Samuel 2:21]
- Eli heard that his sons were laying with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle. (NIB) [1 Samuel 2:22]
- It was prophesied that Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, would both die in one day. (NIB) [1 Samuel 2:31-34]
- The prophesy also said that the LORD would raise up a faithful priest. (NIB) [1 Samuel 2:35]

Chapter 3:

- Samuel hears a voice during the night, and thought it was Eli calling him. (pgs. 131-132) [1 Samuel 3:5-8]
2. What did Eli tell Samuel to say when he realized it was the LORD calling? (pg. 132) [1 Samuel 3:8-10]
 - The LORD told Samuel that God was going to judge the house of Eli because his sons were vile and Eli did not restrain them. (pg. 132) [1 Samuel 3:11-14]
 - All Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. (pg. 133) [1 Samuel 3:20]

Chapter 4:

- Israel goes to battle against the Philistines. The Philistines were winning and killed around four thousand (4,000) Israelite men. (pg. 133) [1 Samuel 4:5]

- When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into camp, all Israel shouted so loud that the earth shook. (pg. 133) [1 Samuel 4:5]
 - When the Philistines captured the ark, 30,000 footmen plus Eli's sons Hophni and Phineas were killed. (pg. 133) [1 Samuel 4:10-11]
3. What happened to Eli when he heard that the ark was captured?
(pg. 134) [1 Samuel 4:18]
- When the wife of Phinehas heard that her husband was killed, she gave birth to a son and died. (NIB) [1 Samuel 4:19-21]
 - The child was named Ichabod. (NIB) [1 Samuel 4:21]

Chapter 8:

- Israel wanted a king because Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways and because Israel wanted to be like other nations. (pg. 135) [1 Samuel 8:5]
4. What did the LORD tell Samuel when he prayed regarding a king?
(pg. 135) [1 Samuel 8:6-9]
- Samuel warned the people that a king would take their sons to be soldiers, their daughters to be cooks, and their cattle and donkeys. They would be his servants. (pg. 135-136) [1 Samuel 8:10-18]
 - Even after Samuel's warning, Israel still wanted a king. (pg. 136) [1 Samuel 8:19-20]
5. What was God's response when Samuel told him what the people said?
(pg. 136) [1 Samuel 8:21-22]

Chapter 9:

6. What can be said about Saul's physical stature? (pg. 136) [1 Samuel 9:2]
- The LORD revealed that He would send a man out of the land of Benjamin, and Samuel should anoint him to be ruler over the people. (pg. 137) [1 Samuel 9:15-16]
 - Saul was hesitant to receive the words of Samuel because he was from the smallest of the tribes of Israel and his family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin. (pg. 137) [1 Samuel 9:21]
 - Samuel had Saul send his servant on ahead when they were leaving town so that Samuel could show Saul the word of God. (pg. 137) [1 Samuel 9:27]

Chapter 10:

- Samuel anointed Saul with oil to be ruler over the Lord's inheritance. (pg. 137) [1 Samuel 10:1]
- Samuel prophesied that the Spirit of the LORD will come on Saul, and he would prophesy with them, and be turned into another man. (pg. 137-138) [1 Samuel 10:2-7]
- Saul was hiding among the equipment when Samuel wanted to present him to the people at Mizpah. (pg. 138) [1 Samuel 10:21-22]
- When Samuel presented Saul, the people shouted "God save the king". (pg. 138) [1 Samuel 10:24]
- A band of men, whose hearts God had touched, accompanied Saul to Gibeah. (pg. 138) [1 Samuel 10:26-27]

Chapter 11:

- Nahash the Ammonite threaten to thrust out the right eyes of the men of Jabeshgilead. (pg. 139) [1 Samuel 11:1-2]
- Saul gathers his army? (pg. 139) [1 Samuel 11:7]
- While at Gilgal, Samuel made Saul king and sacrificed peace offerings. (pg. 140) [1 Samuel 11:14-15]

Chapter 12:

- Samuel behaved uprightly. He did not steal, defraud, oppress or take bribes. (pg. 140 - NIB) [1 Samuel 12:1-5]
7. What would happen to Israel if they did not obey the voice of the LORD? (pg. 140) [1 Samuel 12:15]
- God sent thunder and rain during the wheat harvest so they would see that their wickedness was great, in asking for a king. (pg. 140) [1 Samuel 12:17]
 - Samuel considered that ceasing to pray for them would be a sin for him. (pg. 141) [1 Samuel 12:23]

Chapter 13:

- Saul was thirty-years old when he became king and reigned for forty-two years. (pg. 141) [1 Samuel 13:1]
- Saul offered a burnt offering when he became impatient regarding the arrival of Samuel. (pg. 142) [1 Samuel 13:8-12]

- As a result of this, His kingdom would not continue and the LORD sought a man after his own heart, to be ruler over his people. (pg. 142) [1 Samuel 13:14]

Chapter 15:

- Samuel told Saul to totally destroy the Amalekites; all that they have, and spare them not; slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camels and donkeys. (pg. 142) [1 Samuel 15:3]
- Saul destroyed all the Amalekites and everything that was worthless, but he spared Agag the king, and kept the best of the sheep, oxen, fatted calves, lambs, and all that was good. (pg. 143) [1 Samuel 15:8-9]

1 Samuel 15:13-35

- A. Saul lies to Samuel. [1 Samuel 15:13]
- B. Samuel questions Saul about it, and he says it was the people who brought back Agag and took of the plunder. [1 Samuel 15:15, 20-21]
- C. Samuel calls him out and Saul admits to it. [1 Samuel 15:30-31]
- D. Samuel had Agag king of the Amalekites brought to him. [1 Samuel 15:32a]
- E. Agag pleads for his life, but it doesn't work and Samuel cuts Agag to pieces. [1 Samuel 15:32b-33]
- F. Samuel did not see Saul anymore until the day of his death. [1 Samuel 15:35a]
- G. *"The LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel."* [1 Samuel 15:35b]

Next week: In Chapter 10 of *The Story*, the Lord selects Saul's replacement. It is the story of how the Lord takes a seemingly unimportant younger brother and raises him up to reign over all of Israel.

1 Samuel 16 – 18; 24; 31; 2 Samuel 6; 22; 1 Chronicles 17; Psalm 59