

The Rise and Fall of King Saul

1 Sam. 9:1-2; 15:10:1

Introduction:

- A. Saul was Israel's first king.
 - 1. He was the Lord's humble servant at first (1 Sam. 10:21-23; 15:17)
 - 2. He became an arrogant, self-serving tyrant – conspired against David and Jonathan.
 - 3. He cause the Lord to reject him as king (1 Sam. 15:23, 26; 16:1)
- B. Saul made three fatal substitutions that led to his fall.

Discussion:

I. He Substituted Presumption for Precision.

- A. He unlawfully offered a sacrifice (1 Sam. 13:7-15)
 - 1. It was contrary to Samuel's order (1 Sam. 10:8).
 - 2. It was contrary to God's order – priests offered sacrifices.
- B. He needed to learn the Lord's desire for precision.
 - 1. Nabab and Abihu needed to learn it (Lev. 10)
 - 2. Pharisees needed to learn it (Matt. 23:23-26).
 - 3. Even very wording counts (Gal. 3:16; Matt. 22:32; Heb. 8:13)

II. He Substituted Partial Obedience for Full Obedience.

- A. He claimed obedience when had only partially obeyed (1 Sam. 15:10-15, 22-23)
- B. We cannot claim obedience for partial obedience (cf. Jas. 2:10)
 - 1. To become a Christian.
 - 2. To live as a Christians (cf. Matt. 28:18-20)

III. He Substituted Pride for Humility (cf. 1 Sam. 15:17)

- A. His pride led to jealousy, conspiracy, etc. (cf. 1 Sam 18:7-8).
- B. Jealousy or envy provokes every evil work (Jas 3:16 - KJV/ASV)
- C. Jealousy causes problems in the church (1 Cor. 3:1-9)

Conclusion:

- A. Let us learn from Saul to obey the Lord exactly and completely.
- B. Let us learn to overcome pride and jealousy.