

"Thou Hast Done Foolishly"

1 Samuel 13 (text v. 13)

An usher handed D.L. Moody a note that was given to him by someone in the congregation. On the note was written one word—"Fool." Moody went to pulpit and said, "I've received many notes from people who did not sign their name. But this is the first time I've received a note from someone who signed their name but forgot to write the message."

Samuel rebuked Saul for doing foolishly (v. 13). Later Saul would confess "***I have played the fool, and have erred exceedingly.***" (cf. 1 Sam. 26:21)

Saul had it all. He came from a noble family... Had every opportunity / advantage... the favor of God's people.

- In some ways Saul was very big... in other ways he was very small
- He was physically handsome ... yet spiritually ugly.
- He was a tall among men and a pigmy before God ... a hero and a misfit ... a king and a slave ... a man anointed by God and a man possessed by devils.

Saul's had a wonderful beginning. **He was off to a GREAT START...**

- The Titanic had a great start.
- In 1986 the Space Shuttle Challenger had a great start.

In chapter 12 Samuel gave Israel his final admonition. The essence of Samuel's message was—"You wanted a King, now you got one. He's your problem now!"

➡He gave the people **two choices**:

1) Follow the Lord. Serve the Lord. Obey the Lord (vs. 14).

2) Turn aside from the Lord and rebel against His commandments (vs. 15).

We don't have to read much further to see which course their new King [Saul] would take them. Saul hadn't reigned two years and the seeds of decline are sown.

In 1 Samuel 13 Saul's true character begins to show.

- Saul stepped onto the slippery slope and slides down hill fast going from bad to worse.
- Saul descended from being a great leader to being a paranoid tyrant. In a fit of jealousy he relentlessly pursued David seeking to kill him. His jealousy ultimately destroyed him—He committed suicide!

Leadership will be tested. Saul is tested three times and fails in each situation: Once here at Gilgal (13); again at Gibeah (14:24); and finally at Amalek (15).

➡Saul failed at Gilgal in four ways:

I. Saul failed to give honor where honor was due (vs. 1-4).

➡He was a bloated egotist.

- A. He takes the credit for a victory he didn't win.
 - ➔The practice of deflecting praise!
- B. Saul was always seeking to be popular with the people (v. 11). Like a politician who always consults the latest polls before making a decision.
- C. Being honored before the people was a big thing with Saul (cf. 15:30; 18:8). The desire to be popular and have the praise of men (cf. John 12:43).
 - ➔When a person is addicted to the applause of men and fails to get it, the following things become evident in his life:
 - Disappointment...
 - depression...
 - bitterness...
 - anger...
 - lack of motivation...
 - ingratitude.
 - ➔All these can be observed in the life of Saul.

II. Saul failed to wait on God (vs 5-9).

- A. People begin to scatter from Saul (v. 8)! "Something must be done, quick! People are losing confidence in my leadership!"
 1. Saul panics under pressure!
 2. To keep the people from deserting him, in desperation he takes matters into his own hands.
- B. Impatience! Samuel's instructions were clear (10:8).
 1. Impatience is a mark of immaturity. We must not run ahead of God.
 2. Impatience leads to bad decisions and sin (James 1:3-4). We need to learn to WAIT!
 - ➔ Don't rush to judgments or decisions. **ILLUS**- Abraham failed to wait on God's promise and look at the trouble it has caused.
 3. Often God uses delays to test our obedience and patience. (see Isaiah 30:18).
- C. He violates the priest's office (Heb. 5:1, 4 cf. 2 Chron. 26:16-21)

III. Saul failed to trust God (vs. 10-11).

- A. His impatience really amounted to distrust in the Lord (cf. Isa. 30:1-2; 31:1 51:5; Gal. 5:5; Acts 1:4).
- B. He was walking by sight instead of faith. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

IV. Saul failed to accept responsibility for his sin (vs. 12-14).

- ➔Saul failed to realize the magnitude of his sin!
- A. Blame game.

1. He blames the people (13:11 cf. 15:15-21).
 2. He blames Samuel (13:11).
 3. He blames the enemy (13:11)!
- B. Saul offers many excuses, but complete dodges the real issue—He disobeyed God’s Word.
- C. Pride keeps people from admitting they have a problem.

SUMMATION (v. 13): Samuel rebukes Saul’s disobedience. Sin must be reprovved.

“Thou has done foolishly...”

It is foolish disobey God!

1. Because it goes against God’s best interests for us.
2. Because we miss our life’s highest purpose.
3. Because there is no escaping God’s judgment.

LESSON: Don’t act foolishly!

➡ vs. 15-23— Now they are left unprepared for the re-match with the Philistines in chapter 14.