

Saul's Impatient, Unbelieving Heart

1 Samuel 13

- I. INTRO → Voice of Truth & the Voice of Lies
 - A. I am a great liar. I lie to myself on a daily basis.
 - 1. When I fail I tell myself I am a loser, a moron, a complete trainwreck.
 - 2. When I succeed I tell myself that I just might be the smartest man alive, or the strongest, or the most talented
 - B. I bet you do the same thing. We love lies and we breed them in our world
 - 1. Your kids don't listen, you say, "You never listen... You never obey..."
 - 2. You're in a fight with your spouse, someone utters, "You don't respect me," or "You don't love me" → Ever? Or just right now?
 - C. Voice of Truth & the Voice of Lies → Like walking on the edge of a knife
 - D. 1 Samuel records the establishment of Israel's monarchy, in about 1050 b.c.
 - E. Samuel led Israel for many years as a prophet, priest, and judge.
 - F. After the people demanded a king like those of the other nations (ch. 8), God directed Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.
 - G. In the stories over the next few chapters, we see the cracks in the foundation of Saul's throne (indeed we saw the cracks when it began!)
 - H. The author of 1 Samuel is preparing us for the replacement of King Saul (what the people wanted) with King David (the one God wanted)
 - I. Saul is going to become a poster child of what not to be as a king, and the author lets us see his bad character so that we can then have a comparison for David
 - J. But if we have ears to hear, we will see that Saul's story is our story as well
 - 1. His struggles are our struggles; his weaknesses are our weaknesses
 - 2. His only hope, is the only hope we have too
 - K. Saul's issue? He listens to the wrong voice, the Voice of Lies instead of Truth
- II. 1 SAMUEL 13
 - A. *[1] Saul lived for one year and then became king, and when he had reigned for two years over Israel, [2] Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent. [3] Jonathan defeated the garrison of the Philistines that was at Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, "Let the Hebrews hear." [4] And all Israel heard it said that Saul had defeated the garrison of the Philistines, and also that Israel had become a stench to the Philistines. And the people were called out to join Saul at Gilgal.*
 - 1. Verse 1 is fuzzy, and nobody has figured it out. Don't overthink it. Paul didn't have a baby when he was 1 year old even though he acted like a baby as a grown man.
 - 2. We see here that the Philistines are a problem and Saul is gathering the forces.

3. His son, Jonathan, did what Saul was commanded to do (but didn't) back in chapter 10 → he sacks the garrison at their hometown of Gibeah
4. Once that happens, Saul remembers Samuel's words (also in 10) to gather all the people at Gilgal.
5. Gilgal was a suitable place to mass an army, as it was further from the area under Philistine occupation but still accessible to all of the tribes.
6. It is also where Samuel had earlier instructed Saul to wait for him before engaging in warfare (1 Sam 10:8). (KEY!)

B. [5] And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. They came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth-aven. [6] When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves in caves and in holes and in rocks and in tombs and in cisterns, [7] and some Hebrews crossed the fords of the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

1. The Philistines realize they need to squish this rebellion before it gets traction so they start rallying their troops as well
2. The Israelites and the Philistines are both getting ready and, like a scene out of Braveheart, they Israelites realize they are vastly outnumbered
3. They do what many would do → they hide

C. [8] He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.

1. Samuel said in 10:8 that, after the garrison was destroyed, to go and wait for 7 days at Gilgal so Samuel can offer sacrifices
2. It's the 7th day and people are starting to leave. Samuel hasn't arrived yet & Saul starts to worry. → the Voice of Fear and Doubt creeps in
 - a) "I didn't destroy the garrison in time... maybe God's command is no longer valid..."
 - b) "Samuel said to wait 7 days, but everyone is leaving. If I don't do something, we are going to lose this war."
 - c) "Nobody believes in me. They don't think we can win this war. I'm a failure."
 - d) "I need to do something. I need to act, not wait."
3. Saul, what's going on in your heart? Which voice are you listening to? The voice of God's truth or fear and doubt.
4. He is doubting all the things God spoke over him:
 - a) *1 Samuel 9:16, "God said through Samuel that [Saul] shall save his people from the hand of the Philistines."*
 - b) *1 Samuel 10:8, "Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."*

5. Saul is no stranger to listening to the voice of fear and doubt. Insecurity and doubt have plagued Saul since he was introduced into the story
 - a) He was unable to be decisive w/ his donkey problem
 - b) He lacked the confidence to act on Samuel's command to attack the garrison of Philistines
 - c) He wouldn't tell his uncle that he had been anointed as king by Samuel
 - d) He hid in the baggage once the Lord revealed him as king to the nation
6. Despite his impressive stature, good looks, and wealth, Saul is riddled with fears and doubts. He doesn't have the voice of God's truth resounding in his head and heart → he's living out his own fearful lies
7. But Saul's fears aren't about him at all actually → they are doubts about God and if what God says is true. This is a FAITH issue!

D. [9] So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. [10] As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering [halfway], behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. [11] Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, [12] I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering."

1. He decides... "Bring me the offering... I will do it myself"
2. Problem: he's not allowed; complete violation of the Law, God's truth
 - a) He's a Benjamite, not a Levite; it doesn't matter that he's king
 - b) He panics, fears failure, fears rejection, fears man
3. Samuel shows up. Oh crud. And we wonder: will Saul show remorse?
 - a) No, he will fight to save face with three excuses:
 - (1) THE PEOPLE were scattering
 - (2) YOU were late
 - (3) The PHILISTINES are mustered at Michmash
 - b) Then I "forced myself" → he's playing the victim
 - (1) Doesn't want to take responsibility
 - (2) Just wants to save face
4. Saul believes this, I think. The lying voice in his head and heart is so loud that he has come to believe that he is the victim in this scenario
 - a) Isn't that what we do? We justify our sin b/c we believe the lie
 - b) "My kids don't listen b/c I am a terrible parent..."
 - c) "I can't believe that guy cut me off, nobody ever respects me!"
5. Saul is completely unrepentant, and his response reflects a lack of godly sorrow and a failure to recognize the seriousness of his actions.

E. [13] And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command [not listened to the voice] of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over

Israel forever. [14] But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you." [15] And Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal. The rest of the people went up after Saul to meet the army; they went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people who were present with him, about [only] six hundred men.

1. First, Samuel rebukes Saul, telling him he has acted foolishly by not obeying the Lord's voice regarding the Burnt Offering.
2. Second, Samuel explains the consequences of Saul's actions. He tells Saul that if he had obeyed God's voice, the Lord would have established his kingdom over Israel forever. (from a dynasty to a lifetime)
3. Third, Samuel informs Saul that God has already chosen another man after His own heart to replace Saul as prince over His people.
 - a) This foreshadows David's rise as the future king of Israel.
4. Finally, after delivering this message to Saul, Samuel leaves Gilgal, and this marks the end of Samuel's support for Saul and the beginning of Saul's decline as king, preparing for David

III. YOU AND ME

- A. 1 Samuel 13 shows us the beginning of the decline of Saul as God prepares us for the future king, David, who will be anointed in 1 Samuel 16
- B. Why? Saul is not a man who chases after God's heart.
- C. To chase after God's own heart is to desire and nurture a relationship with him
 1. Hearing... Believing... Responding...
- D. **Saul Believed the Wrong Voice**
 1. All of us hear the wrong voice
 2. The world, the flesh, and the devil are constantly whispering to your heart
 3. You can control that influx of communication to some extent by guarding your mind, ears, and eyes, but you can't cut it out entirely
- E. So what do you do?
 1. **Know truth. Read the Word.**
 - a) Who is God? Who am I?
 2. **Be aware of the voices in your head.**
 3. **Take every thought and hold it captive (2 Cor 10:5)**
 4. **Ask yourself, "Is this the voice of truth?"**
 - a) God's voice of truth is always consistent with what His written Word
 - (1) Ex: "God doesn't call me a loser. He calls me a beloved child, a precious one, his inheritance, his treasured possession. He sings over me, adores me, and loves me. Indeed he proved it on the cross."
 - b) God's truth gives our hearts hope and peace. His voice does not condemn or discourage us. Jesus does not condemn; he corrects

(1) Ex: When you sin, it's not the voice of Jesus saying, "You're hopeless." That's the enemy accusing. Jesus says, "I forgive you. Now go, and sin no more."

- c) The voice of truth will never encourage the works of the flesh - "sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like." (Galatians 5:19–21a)
- d) God's voice will express the fruit of God's Spirit—"love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control." (Galatians 5:22b–23a)
- e) God's voice gives us confidence instead of doubt and fear.

5. Open the cage and let the Sword of God (the Word) cut the lie in half

- F. This is a moment-by-moment process, and the Lying Voice of Fear and Doubt will whisper in your ear in the most seemingly mundane, meaningless moments.
 - 1. When your kids don't listen
 - 2. When you say something to your spouse and they don't hear you
 - 3. When someone cuts you off
 - 4. When your co-worker experiences success and you don't
 - 5. When your friend gets pregnant and you can't
 - 6. These are the times when the lies whisper... "You're not enough. You're broken, worthless. Nobody could love you if they knew what you were really like."
- G. If we could have heard Saul's inner monologue, this is what we would have heard, and I will prove it to you fully by the time we get to chapter 15
- H. If I could hear your inner monologue, what would it be?
 - 1. Is your mind and heart filled more with the voice of truth or the voice of fear and doubt?
 - 2. Are you able to be introspective to determine, in light of the Spirit and the Word, if you're living and walking out lies or truth?
- I. Saul torpedoed his life and monarchy b/c he listened to the voice of fear and doubt
- J. As we will see, when David walked out the voice of truth he killed giants, but when he listened to the voice of fear and doubt he became a thug and a criminal
- K. When Elijah listened to the voice of truth, he called down fire from heaven and stopped the rain for three years, but when he listened to the voice of fear and doubt, the enemy, he ran away and hid, throwing himself a worldclass pity party
- L. We do the same. We are at our best when listen to and walk in light of the voice of Jesus, but when we listen to the voice of fear and doubt, we grope in darkness
- M. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."
- N. Jesus said our enemy is a "liar and the father of lies," and he comes to "steal and kill and destroy."
- O. Whose voice do you want to listen to?