



Saul's Failure at Gilgal: To Obey is Better than Sacrifice (1 Sam 13&15)

Questions: Week Seven

Samuel Rebukes Saul - [1 Samuel 13:1-15](#)¹

Topics: [Anger](#), [Choices](#), [Compromise](#), [Consequences](#), [Decisions](#), [Delay](#), [Despair](#), [Disobedience](#), [Doubt](#), [Excuses](#), [Failure](#), [Faith](#), [Fear](#), [Foolishness](#), [Guilt](#), [Hiding](#), [Hopelessness](#), [Humiliation](#), [Instructions](#), [Intimidation](#), [Leadership](#), [Patience](#), [Peer Pressure](#), [Punishment](#), [Rationalizing](#), [Rejection](#), [Schedule](#), [Self-Righteousness](#), [Stress](#), [Temptation](#), [Timing](#), [Waiting](#), [Weaknesses](#), [Worry](#)

Open It

1. *What experience comes to mind when you think of endless waiting (or waiting so long that you feel like giving up)?
2. What feelings go along with being completely overpowered at a team sport?
3. What experience have you faced that proved to be a test of your character?

Explore It

4. How old was Saul when he was named king of Israel? ([13:1](#))
5. How long was Saul king of Israel? ([13:1](#))
6. How many men did Saul keep with him as an "armed guard"? ([13:2](#))
7. How were the Philistines provoked into attacking Israel? ([13:3](#))
8. What was Saul's response to the Philistine threat? ([13:3-5](#))
9. What were the numbers of the Philistine forces assembled to fight Israel? ([13:5](#))
10. How did the Israelites react to the massive Philistine army? ([13:6-7](#))
11. What was the mood of Saul's troops waiting at Gilgal? ([13:7](#))
12. How long did Saul wait for Samuel? ([13:8](#))
13. *What circumstance prompted Saul to go ahead with the burnt offering? ([13:9](#))
14. When did Samuel arrive at Gilgal? ([13:10](#))

1. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Samuel Rebukes Saul - 1 Samuel 13:1-15".

15. What was Samuel's question to Saul? ([13:11](#))
16. *How did Saul rationalize his actions? ([13:11-12](#))
17. How did Samuel judge Saul's action? ([13:13](#))
18. *What difference did Saul's choice make? ([13:13-14](#))
19. What provision did God make for Israel, knowing that Saul had proven unworthy? ([13:14](#))
20. How many men were left in Saul's army after this incident? ([13:15](#))

Get It

21. *Why was Saul particularly vulnerable to the temptation to take matters into his own hands?
22. From the hindsight of the storyteller, what do we know about Samuel's intention to arrive at the appointed time?
23. What rings true or false about Saul's reasoning about needing God's blessing before battle?
24. *What commands of God can become tests of our character?
25. In what ways can people be motivated to face tremendous odds without resorting to simple self-preservation?

Apply It

26. *What verse of Scripture could you post in a prominent place to remind you to wait for God's timing rather than to take matters into your own hands?
27. What could you say or do to help your fellow Christians trust God in a circumstance where they feel increasingly afraid?

The Lord Rejects Saul As King - [1 Samuel 15:1-35](#)²

Topics: [Accountability](#), [Accusation](#), [Assumptions](#), [Compromise](#), [Consequences](#), [Dishonesty](#), [Disobedience](#), [Enemies](#), [Evidence](#), [Excuses](#), [Follow-Through](#), [Forget](#), [Greed](#), [Guilt](#), [Hypocrisy](#), [Instructions](#), [Judgment](#), [Leadership](#), [Materialism](#), [Motives](#), [Peer Pressure](#), [Punishment](#), [Rationalizing](#), [Rejection](#), [Revenge](#), [Sin](#), [War](#)

Open It

1. *What are some of the primary reasons people rationalize their behavior?
2. How might it feel to be authorized to carry out revenge against someone who had committed a terrible wrong against your family?
3. Why does someone just breaking into politics seek the endorsements of well-known public figures?

Explore It

4. To what authority did Samuel appeal when he gave God's command to Saul? ([15:1](#))
5. What did God command Saul to do to the Amalekites? ([15:2-3](#))
6. Why were the Amalekites so hated by the Hebrews? ([15:2](#))
7. Why did the Hebrews warn the Kenites to get away from the Amalekites? ([15:6](#))
8. After winning the battle, what part of the population and livestock did Saul and his men destroy? ([15:7-9](#))
9. How did Samuel learn of Saul's disobedience? ([15:10-11](#))
10. How did God feel about Saul after he disobeyed? ([15:11](#))
11. What was Samuel's reaction to God's revelation about Saul? ([15:11](#))
12. What was Saul's greeting for Samuel when Samuel caught up to him? ([15:13](#))
13. What was Samuel's sarcastic remark, serving notice that he was not fooled? ([15:14](#))
14. *Where did Saul place the initial blame for saving the prime animals? ([15:15](#))
15. *Whom did Samuel hold responsible for disobeying God? ([15:16-19](#))
16. *How did Saul rationalize his behavior even after Samuel's confrontation? ([15:20-21](#))
17. How did Samuel express God's mind about religiosity versus true obedience? ([15:22-23](#))

2. , *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "The Lord Rejects Saul As King - 1 Samuel 15:1-35".

18. What was the judgment that Samuel pronounced against Saul for his disobedience? ([15:26](#))
19. How did Saul demonstrate that he was desperate to have the legitimacy of Samuel's presence? ([15:27](#))
20. By what figure of speech did Samuel turn Saul's desperation into another statement of God's judgment? ([15:28](#))
21. What truth did Samuel emphasize to Saul about God's nature? ([15:29](#))
22. How did Agag (the Amalekite king) feel when he was called before Samuel? ([15:32](#))
23. What did Samuel say and do when he confronted Agag? ([15:33](#))
24. After this incident what contact was there between Samuel the prophet and Saul the king? ([15:34-35](#))

Get It

25. *In what way was Saul obeying the letter or the spirit of God's command?
26. How was God showing His concern for the Hebrews by commanding them to destroy the Amalekites?
27. *Why does God prize obedience more highly than offerings or sacrifices?
28. What are modern-day equivalents of Israel's offerings and sacrifices?
29. In what way is rebellion and arrogance toward God like idolatry?
30. What difference does it make whether Saul really believed that he had carried out the Lord's instructions?
31. Why were the Israelites hesitant to totally destroy their enemy as God told them to?
32. What was good or bad about the fact that Samuel grieved over the fall of Saul?
33. Why was it important for Samuel to finish the job that Saul didn't finish by killing Agag?

Apply It

34. *How can you place a higher value on obedience than on appearances or practical considerations in your life?
35. How can you avoid rationalizing the next time you are "caught in the act" of something you know you shouldn't do?