



July 6, 2014

1 Samuel 13

"Being a Person after God's Heart"

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In our study last week, we saw how Saul, the first king of Israel, was a 90% kind of guy. Basically, Saul obeyed the Lord about 90% of the time, and his rebellious streak would be his undoing, because God rejected him and replaced him with David.

Pastor Gary reminded us that while it's true that we won't obey God and be faithful to him 100% of the time, we should never be satisfied with 90% obedience life. There are a lot of things you can't do just a little bit, and the Christian life is no exception; you've got to be all in with the Lord

In this study, we'll learn more about trusting God and walking by faith, honoring God as king, having a love for God's Word, and maintaining a soft, repentant heart.

Historical Background

1. Samuel rebuked Saul for his disobedience to God.
 - a. **1 Samuel 13:13-14** - " 'You acted foolishly,' Samuel said. 'You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command.' "
2. The man God sought out who was after his own heart was David, who at that time was still a shepherd boy about 10 to 15 years old.

3. David committed a number of grievous sins in succeeding years, and we know this because we have a record of his life, but it's also important to remember that God knew about these sins, too.
4. The amazing thing is that in spite of the fact that God knew what David was capable of doing, both the good and the bad, he still delighted in David because he was a man after God's own heart.
5. It's at this point that the kingdom of Israel began to transition away from Saul to David, but it would be a long transition of 15 to 20 years.
6. Following Saul's disobedience, Samuel anointed young David to succeed Saul, however, David would not actually assume the throne until he was about 30 years old.
7. During the 15 to 20 year gap there was tremendous hostility from Saul toward David, and the fact is that Saul was so jealous of David, he threatened him and tried to kill him on numerous occasions.
8. All the while, David respected the office of the king, and the Bible tells us that he never retaliated or tried forced his way to the throne, but he did choose to fight for Israel while he waited on God to reveal the right time to succeed Saul.
9. David was not a perfect man and he had his sin issues, too, but there was something about David that would cause God view David as being a better man than Saul.
10. Saul's Sin
 - a. He disobeyed God when he didn't wait for Samuel. ¹
 - b. He disobeyed God when he didn't completely destroy the Amalekites. ²
 - c. He was rejected by God as king and was replaced by David.
 - d. He tried to kill his son, Jonathan.
 - e. He was jealous of David, and he pursued him and tried to kill him on a number of occasions.
 - f. He murdered 85 priests because they helped David.
 - g. He consulted a witch and participated in a séance.
11. David's Sin
 - a. He failed to discipline his children.
 - b. He coveted another man's wife.

¹ 1 Samuel 13

² 1 Samuel 15

- c. He committed adultery with Bathsheba.
 - d. He lied to cover up the affair with Bathsheba.
 - e. He committed murder by having Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, placed on the front lines so he would be killed in battle.
 - f. He took some of the glory by having a census taken to count the number of his fighting men.
12. Through all of these situations, David never lost his kingdom as Saul did, so what's the difference between Saul and David?
13. To understand the difference, we need to realize that God's evaluation of a person is not always about what he or she does.
- a. Some really bad people can do some good things, but that doesn't make them good.
 - b. Some really good people can do some bad things, but that doesn't make them bad.
14. God looks at the heart, and there was something different about David's heart, in that underneath his sin, failures and compromise, David's heart was good, not in a righteous sense (he wasn't more holy than others), but in a relational sense (his heart toward God was good in that it was tender, humble, loving, worshipful, honest, and passionate).
15. Despite David's sins, it would be his heart that sustained him rather than his sins that defined him, as far as God was concerned.

What Does A Man/Woman After God's Heart Look Like?

They Trust God And Walk By Faith

16. When Samuel didn't arrive according to Saul's timetable, he became afraid because his men were deserting him and the Philistines were coming, so he took matters into his own hands.
17. David, on the other hand, always seems to have had an unwavering faith in God, and he never seemed to doubt God.
18. Probably the most well known example of David's faith in God is the account of his encounter slaying Goliath, the Philistine giant, in [1 Samuel 17](#).
- a. [1 Samuel 17:26b](#) - *"Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"*

- b. **1 Samuel 17:45-47** - *“David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into hands.’ ”*
19. **Psalm 9:10** - *“Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.”*
20. **Psalm 31:13-15a** - *“For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in your hands...”*

They Honor God As King

21. Saul started out as a humble king, but he quickly let pride and success go to his head, as he built a memorial in his honor, which caused him to enthrone himself more than God.
22. David always saw God as king and he was always careful to enthrone the Lord and not himself.
23. David never built a memorial to himself, and it’s interesting to know that even though the kingdom of Israel was as large as it ever was when he was king, there is no evidence to indicate there were memorials, shrines or trophies marking his reign.
- a. There was no archaeological evidence, outside of the Bible, that David even lived until 1993 when a shard of pottery that mentioned his name was found at Tel Dan.
24. The “memorial” David wanted to build – the Temple of God – was not to himself, but to God, because his desire was to see God enthroned.
25. **Psalm 24:9-10** - *“Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty – he is the King of glory.”*

They Love God's Word

26. There isn't one time recorded in the Bible in which we read that Saul meditated, quoted or consulted God's law.
27. David wrote often in the Psalms about how much he loved God's Word and how often he meditated on it.
28. **Psalm 19:7-8** - *"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes."*
29. **Psalm 119:97** - *"Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long."*
30. The Word of God had a prominent place in David's life, and he incorporated it into his everyday life because he knew that he was dependent upon God's wisdom and guidance that came through God's Word.
31. **Psalm 119:47-48** - *"... for I delight in your commands because I love them. I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees."*

They Maintain A Soft, Repentant Heart

32. When confronted about sin, Saul was always explaining himself, justifying himself, and excusing himself.
 - a. "My troops were deserting me, so I had to do something."
 - b. "Samuel, you were late!"
 - c. "The Philistines were coming, so I felt compelled to offer the sacrifices."
 - d. "I did destroy the Amalekites, I just saved the king as a trophy and the best of the animals for God!"
33. When David was confronted with sin, he was quick to repent.
 - a. The prophet Nathan came to him with a story about a rich man with many sheep and a poor man with one little ewe lamb. In Nathan's story, a traveler came to the rich man, but rather than take one of his sheep to feed the man, he took the one little ewe lamb from the poor man. It was when David expressed his outrage that Nathan said, "You are the man!"
 - i. **2 Samuel 12:13** - *"Then David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' Nathan replied, 'The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.'"*

- b. David was broken over his sin and he wept and fasted.
- i. [Psalm 32:3-5](#) - *“When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. - Selah - Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the Lord’ - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [1 Samuel 13:13-14](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Would you describe your trust in God as being strong, wavering, or weak?
4. Read and discuss [Psalm 9:10](#).
5. Share examples of times when you trusted the Lord?
6. Read and discuss [Psalm 31:13-15](#).
7. How do you walk by faith?
8. Spend time talking about the ways you have moved through the process of moving God to the position of being the honored king in your life.
9. Read and discuss [Psalm 24:9-10](#).
10. Do you find that you only turn to God’s Word when you are going through a time of crisis?
 - a. Read and discuss [Psalm 19:7-8](#) and [Psalm 119:47-48, 97](#).
11. How can you incorporate God’s Word into your everyday life?
12. How has reading, meditating on, and memorizing God’s Word been a blessing to you and others, as you share what you’ve learned?
13. Read and discuss [Psalm 51](#).

- a. Would you say you are quick to repent and say, “I’m sorry, God” or do you find that you justify, explain away or make excuses for your sin?
- b. Read and discuss [Psalm 32:3-5](#).

14. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: be a person after God’s heart who trust God and walk by faith, honor God as king, love God’s Word, and maintain a soft, repentant heart.