

Lessons from the life of King Saul

1- Objectives

- ❖ Know about the sin that made Saul a refused king.
- ❖ To get lessons from his life.

2- References

- ❖ Holy Bible (1 Samuel 9- 31)
- ❖ Interpretation of the Book of Samuel By Father Tadros Malaty
http://st-takla.org/pub_Bible-Interpretations/Holy-Bible-Tafsir-01-Old-Testament/Father-Tadros-Yacoub-Malaty/09-Sefr-Samoil-El-Awal/Tafseer-Sefr-Samuel-El-Awal__01-Chapter-09.html

3- Bible Verse

- ❖ “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:22)

4- Lesson outlines

Saul in few Words

- ❖ A humble man from the tribe of Benjamin; tall and nice looking who was the 1st chosen king for Israel and was appointed to take over the kingdom forever.
- ❖ His transgression made him lose this honor and was the refused king of Israel. “Samuel said to Saul: You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever” (1 Samuel 13:11-13).

Lessons from his life

1- Sin is serious

- ❖ Battle against the Philistines; Samuel promised to come in 7 days.
- ❖ Saul was impatient and offered a sacrifice before he came.
- ❖ Saul did not repent and he prepared his army for the battle (1 Samuel 13).
- ❖ He knew that his kingdom will not sustain and did not repent
- ❖ Cutting out a sin can be: Annoying, Painful, Cause us to lose something we value, Embarrassing, Sacrificial, Heartbreaking, Life altering ...

2- Spiritual Blindness

- ❖ How easy it is to see the sins of others!! “Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:3).
- ❖ Although Saul was blinded for his own sin; He saw clearly his people’s sin. When he saw people eating slaughtered with the animals he said: ‘Bring me here every man’s ox and every man’s sheep, slaughter them here, and eat; and do not sin against the LORD by eating with the blood” (1 Samuel 14:13).
- ❖ He inquired of God if they should attack the Philistines and God did not answer him so he assumed God did not answer because of the sin of the people (1 Samuel 14: 37)
- ❖ He condemned his son Jonathan and put him to death for breaking the oath of his father although he did not know about the oath, but the people rescued him (1 Samuel 14:43-45)
- ❖ Those that suffer with a particular sin are most likely to identify that sin in another person: Pride, Lust, Lying, Stealing, Envy ...

3- Spiritual Problems Need Spiritual Solutions

- ❖ I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart... For in You, O Lord, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. (Psalm 38:6, 8, 15)
- ❖ Jonah in the fish belly, prayed to the Lord.
- ❖ Elijah, Job and all the people of God, return to the Lord when they are distressed
- ❖ Saul did not do the same: “A distressing spirit from the Lord troubled Saul and he said to his servants, “Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.” (1 Samuel 16)
- ❖ Sometimes, we are far from God or depressed and we try to comfort ourselves with TV, Music, Friends, Work, Food, Sins
- ❖ “So rend your heart, and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness” (Joel 2: 13).

4- Dangers of Envy

- ❖ When David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine ... the women sang as they danced, and said: “Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.” Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands”... So Saul eyed David from that day forward” (1 Samuel 18:6-9).
- ❖ Envy is found everywhere and among all people; everyone is looking to the blessings of others and neglecting God blessings to him / her. We can find envy among friends, co-workers, students, servants, spouses, believers....

- ❖ Each organ and part of the body has no purpose but to serve the body as a whole; the heart pumps blood for the whole body, the bones support the body, the hands hold things for the body to use, the legs allow the body to move...
- ❖ Each part does not think of its own well being, but that of the body; we also should be like that as members of the “Same Holy Body” “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” (Romans 12:5).
- ❖ How do we treat people that we envy? Saul tried to kill David by sending him on a suicide mission (similar to what David did to Uriah the Hittite).

5- Spiritual Decline is Gradual

- ❖ Saul was a humble man in the beginning, “Am I not a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel, and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin?” (1 Samuel 9: 21)
- ❖ He was gracious and wise; “Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the Lord has accomplished salvation in Israel.” (1 Samuel 11: 12-13)
- ❖ Saul misused his power and took his focus off of God and his own weakness. He started thinking himself to be a great king and a decision maker even if those decisions contradicted God’s commands (1 Samuel 13: 11-14 – the unlawful sacrifice) and (1 Samuel 15: 1-9 – when he spared king Agag and best of the sheep).
- ❖ Saul did not follow a spiritual discipline nor treating the sin seriously and so he was rejected as a king (1 Samuel 15: 10- 23).

5- Conclusion

- ❖ No one starts as a bad person “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed” (James 1:14).
- ❖ The sin is serious; it blinds the eyes of a person and makes him see only the sins of others or the blessings of God to them. It leads him to envy, start to decline spiritually and commit the most serious sins gradually without noticing the decline.

6- Activities / Discussion Points

- ❖ Divide the audience into groups and give each group parts of the misconduct of King Saul and let them find all the points you want to discuss so that they will be active in the discussion and enjoy the Bible study.