

1 Samuel 13:1-23
Unlawful Sacrifice

1 Samuel 13:1-23 [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.

[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.

[8] He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. **[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, 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.**" [13] **And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command 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 six hundred men. [16] And Saul and Jonathan his son and the people who were present with them stayed in Geba of Benjamin, but the Philistines encamped in Michmash. [17] And raiders came out of the camp of the Philistines in three companies. One company turned toward Ophrah, to the land of Shual; [18] another company turned toward Beth-horon; and another company turned toward the border that looks down on the Valley of Zeboim toward the wilderness.

[19] Now there was no blacksmith to be found throughout all the land of Israel, for the Philistines said, "Lest the Hebrews make themselves swords or spears." [20] But every one of the Israelites went down to the Philistines to sharpen his plowshare, his mattock, his axe, or his sickle, [21] and the charge was two-thirds of a shekel for the plowshares and for the mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening the axes and for setting the goads. [22] So on the day of the battle there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people with Saul and Jonathan, but Saul and Jonathan his son had them. [23] And the garrison of the Philistines went out to the pass of Michmash.

Story

Saul is mustering the army to march against the Philistines

He is supposed to wait for Samuel: Samuel was the high priest and was going to make a sacrifice to God

Saul was afraid that the Philistines are going to raid against him.

Saul was supposed to wait for Samuel to make a sacrifice, but he anxiously makes the sacrifice without Samuel, disobeying God. He did this out of fear.

Samuel confronts him. He makes excuses.

Samuel makes an announcement to Saul about his kingdom.

Samuel leaves.

Then we see how bad the circumstances are. Saul has a small army, the Philistines are raiding Israel and the Israelites have no weapons.

Big Ideas:

1. God shows us how to live. How to be obedient. He gives us instruction.

Do we know God's instructions? Do we like to live "uninformed" so we can operate in our ignorance?

Does Saul trust God? Does Saul trust Samuel, God's man? Do we trust God? Do we trust others?

2. Many times we don't trust God so we do things on our own.

We think God isn't working on our behalf so we try to make things happen ourselves.

Have you ever done this? Ask God for something, for help, for guidance and you don't hear from Him right away? Then you start looking for alternatives.

If you're not happy in your marriage relationship, you start thinking maybe something better is out there, after all, God wants you to be happy right?

If you are struggling at work, instead of seeking God and waiting on Him, we look for a new job right away.

Now sometimes there are simple solutions right in front of us that we must logically take to help solve our problems. If we are spending too much money on frivolous things and we can't pay our rent, we need to make a simple change. But I'm talking about things that require a word from the Lord.

Maybe you get sick and you need medical help but you can't afford it. Do you despair and trust in the circumstances, or do you place your trust in God... that He will care for those that he loves?

So why don't we trust? Because we do not believe. Why don't we believe? Because we do not know or we do not remember.

How many times in scripture, especially the OT, do we see God reminding the people of His great love for them? How many times do we see and hear from prophets reminding God's people of the great works of salvation He has done on their behalf.

This is why we attend church on Sundays. This is why we learn what God's word says about us. We learn what God is pleased with, and what offends Him.

Many people, many believers don't even know that God can be offended.

If God had to sacrifice his only son...

What do we do when we sin? Do we look for alternatives to repentance? Alternatives to God?

Do we look for a way to protect ourselves? Psychics. Horoscopes. Do we deceive ourselves into thinking that there are substitutes for God's leading?

Obedience is better than sacrifice and to harken (listen and obey) than the fat of rams (making amends and sacrifices)

It's always best for us to obey. But at some point, we all disobey. When we do, we must suffer the earthly and spiritual consequences. God forgives but he also corrects and reprovves.

3. When we