

SAMUEL PART VI
I SAMUEL CHAPTER 12-15
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INTRODUCTION

- Samuel was a prophet and leader.
- Israel was under constant attack and the people were desperate for a leader.
- Last week we covered Saul becoming Israel's first king and the pride and insecurity that led to his failure.
- This week we will cover the downfall of Saul and why we humans fail.

I. THE BEGINNING OF THE END

- The people asked for a king, not God to rule over them so God gave them their request.
- I Samuel 12:23-24, "As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord by ending my prayers for you...But be sure to fear the Lord and faithfully serve Him..."
- Samuel is now an old man, yet his most crucial days are ahead of him.
- Vs. 23 - "As for me I will certainly not stop praying for you."
- Chapters 13-15 hold the three failures of Saul.

II. DON'T LOSE YOUR PATIENCE OR YOU MIGHT LOSE YOUR LIFE

- Saul's first great failure was losing his patience.
- Chapter 13 is the story of a test Saul failed.
- Vss. 1-14 - Saul was given clear direction and he failed.
- He failed because his heart was listening to the people, not the Lord.

- Waiting has to do with trusting.
- God went after David who said in Psalm 40:1, "I waited patiently for the Lord, and He inclined His ear to me..."

III. PRIDE AND THE FALL

- Pride blinds us and lies to us and infects us with unbelief.
- It tells us we don't need God or others.
- Chapter 14 - Saul stumbles in pride.
- When we get boastful and arrogant we make stupid mistakes like Saul - Vss. 24-26
- It was foolish to think that a sacrificial vow would give him victory when his heart was not right with God!

IV. TO OBEY IS BETTER

- Chapter 15 of I Samuel deals with disobedience.
- He was told to take nothing, no prisoners, no animals, nothing - Vss. 10-31 - Saul's disobedience
- Vs. 15 - Saul lied to Samuel. He resorted to excuses.
- Samuel delivered God's message to the rejected king.
 - God requires obedience.
- John 14:15, Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will obey Me."
- Vs. 22 - "To obey is better than sacrifice"
- Vss. 24-27 - Saul finally owns his stuff, but there is no repentance, no sorrow, just concern for himself.
- II Corinthians 7:10, "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance..."

CLOSE

- Stubbornness never accomplishes God's heart; it can become demonic and dark.
- Humility and repentance are always our way out.