

Saul's Folly

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1 Samuel 14:24-52

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A Powerful Transition

- Saul disobeyed God and offered his own sacrifice^{13:10}
- Jonathan decided to act in faith^{14:1-23}; God responded
- Storyteller sets up a contrast 14:23-24 between Jonathan & Saul

Saul's Rash Vow

- Rather than serving his army as a godly leader
- Makes a rash vow for his own glory to defeat the Philistines
- Saul is serving as king, but not in faith.
- Saul is now seeking religious rituals in attempting to please God

Jonathan's Effectiveness

- Jonathan didn't hear father's rash vow - was off fighting²⁷
- Came upon honey, naturally he ate - not knowing rash vow of Saul
- When informed, give editorial on father's foolish actions

Lessons:

- Saul failed his people by requiring fast during a battle
- Actions had appearance of godliness but had not power^{2Tim3:5}
- We must carefully walk in faith, beware of rash anger^{Jms1:19-20}

Unintended Consequences

- due to fast, people were very faint after battle³¹
- So hungry they ate meat with blood^{Lev17:10-14;19:26}
- Blood was reserved for atonement of sin in sacrifice, not eating
- Saul stepped up with hyper-religion - set up altar
- Saul was on a roll, he even built his 1st altar (religious, not sincere)

Saul Just Doesn't Get It

- Saul now calls for an all night plundering³⁶...
- Army not impressed³⁶ almost weary with excitable Saul
- Priest calls for reason and asks to seek God's will
- Saul inquires of God... God is silent³⁷
- Being religious, if God is silent then there must be sin...

Looking for Sin in All the Wrong Places

- Didn't look at his own heart...
- Resorted to Urim & Thummim to get answers
- Jonathan is taken
- What tone was Jonathan's answer⁴³?
- God didn't answer because Saul was not seeking answers, but vindication of self
- Apply: If you are in authority realize you serve God so be humble and willing to acknowledge flaws and you also need a Savior!

The People Stand for Truth

- The people stood up to ransom Jonathan⁴⁵
- Ransom was most likely blood sacrifice
- We have the ultimate blood sacrifice - 1 Tim 2:5-6

So What?

- Chapter ends with summary of Saul's accomplishments
- Saul fought valiantly, but not for God's glory
- If only Saul had served humbly
- Contrast Saul and David; later Judas and Peter - all sinners
- Difference was that David & Peter humbly sought the Lord's mercy and grace and repented of their sin.
- Flee to Jesus - Matt 11:28-29