

1 Samuel 15 - 16

Who is in Charge?

Lesson 5

Sin rarely affects only one person. Saul's sin against the Lord at Gilgal affected the future of his son Jonathan. Saul began as a reluctant king, but once he enjoyed the position and power he forgot that he was the Lord's servant and began to act as if he were in charge. As a result, God removed the kingdom from Saul's family and would find someone who would serve Him with their whole heart. (1 Sam. 13:13, 14)

Saul Continued To Sin Against the Lord - 15:1-23

1. King Saul was given another opportunity to do what was right before the Lord. But first, who did Samuel remind King Saul that he served? (vs. 15:1)
2. As a reminder, Samuel used God's title as heaven's Commander-in-Chief, The Lord Almighty. Saul was informed that God was about to punish the Amalekites for their attack against Israel during the wilderness days. What were Saul's instructions? (vs. 15:3)
3. When Saul summoned the army, how many soldiers showed up for battle? (vs. 15:4)
4. Why did Saul warn the Kenites to move away? (vs. 15:6)
5. No details were given about this battle, only that King Saul and the army were successful. What was highlighted? (vs. 15:7-10)
6. Once again Saul forgot this battle and its victory was not his but the Lord Almighty's. What did the Lord reveal to Samuel about Saul? (vs. 15:10, 11a)
7. What was Samuel's response to the Lord's words?
 - vs. 15:11b
 - vs. 15:12a

8. What else had King Saul done? (vs. 15:12b)
9. Samuel finally caught up with Saul and was greeted cheerfully. What was that cheery greeting? (vs. 15:3)
10. God had already revealed the truth to Samuel, so when King Saul was questioned about his disobedience, what was his answer? (vs. 15:15)
 - Please note an important change that reveals the true heart of Saul. What did he call the Lord? (vs. 15:15b)
11. Samuel would not listen to another word and said, "Stop! Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night!" (vs. 15:16) Samuel reminded Saul what the Lord had done by making him king. Saul's role was to fight God's battles in God's ways. But rather than obeying, he had pounced on the plunder. This act was viewed as evil in the eyes of the Lord. Samuel asked Saul a second time to confess. What was his answer this time? (vs. 15:20, 21)
12. After hearing Saul's response, Samuel told him what the Lord was looking for. What does the Lord require? (vs. 15:22)
13. Using the first part of verse 23, to what does the Lord compare the sin of:
 - rebellion
 - arrogance
14. The Lord had given King Saul two opportunities to repent and turn back to Him. Saul's unrepentant heart had already resulted in his family losing the kingdom. What did his second rejection of the Lord cost? (vs. 15:23b)

Too Little Too Late - 15:24-35

15. Saul realized this was serious and finally confessed, but without a change of heart. Saul asked Samuel to forgive him and to go with him to the camp where they would worship the Lord together. What was Samuel's answer to this request? (vs. 15:26)

16. As Samuel turned to leave, what did Saul do? (vs. 15:27)

17. How did Samuel use this to emphasize who God is and what God had done? (vs. 15:28, 29)

- God has _____
- God has _____
- God is _____
- God does not _____
- He (God) is not _____

18. What was Saul most concerned about? (vs. 15:30)

- Note what King Saul called the people of Israel. _____

19. Samuel agreed to go with Saul and personally obeyed the Lord's instruction by putting the Amalekites' King Agag to death. What footnote was added in verse 35 about:

- Samuel
- The Lord

A new king is anointed - 16:1-13

20. The Lord allowed Samuel time to grieve over Saul, but after awhile the Lord said it was enough. What did God have Samuel do to help move beyond his grief? (vs. 16:1)

21. Samuel expressed concern that Saul would not take well to this. What were the Lord's instructions? (vs. 16:2, 3)
22. Samuel did what the Lord said. What was the reaction when Samuel showed up in Bethlehem? (vs. 16:4)
23. Samuel gave them assurance that all was well. He invited them to consecrate themselves and come to the sacrifice. To consecrate means to prepare oneself to come before the Lord. (Ex. 19: 10, 11) Who did Samuel personally consecrate? (vs. 16:5)
24. The Lord knew Samuel's thoughts so what important message did the Lord give him? (vs. 16:7)
25. How many sons of Jesse were presented to Samuel? (vs. 16:8-10a)
26. What did Samuel say about these sons? (vs. 16:10b)
27. When Samuel asked Jesse if these were all his sons, how did Jesse answer? (vs. 16:11)
28. Jesse was told to send for his youngest son, David, while the rest of them waited. When he arrived, how was David described? (vs. 16:12a)
29. What did the Lord say to Samuel when he looked at David? (vs. 16:12b)
30. Samuel obeyed the Lord. Who was present when David was anointed? (vs. 16:13a)

31. How did the Lord confirm His choice? (vs. 16:13b)

Saul and David - 16:14-23

32. With David now empowered by the Holy Spirit, what was said about Saul? (vs. 16:14)

33. What was the remedy suggested by Saul's servants? (vs. 16:15, 16)

34. Saul agreed to their plan. One servant said that he knew someone who could help. How did the servant describe David? (vs. 16:18)

35. Saul thought this was a good plan and asked Jesse to send David to him. What did Jesse send along with David as gifts for the king? (vs. 16:20)

36. David then entered into the king's service. Unaware that David had been anointed by Samuel, what did Saul think about David? (vs. 16:21)

37. King Saul sent word to Jesse that he was pleased with David and that he would remain in the king's service. What was David's most important service to King Saul? (vs. 16:23)

Think about it!

In these chapters, we have seen the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Saul and David. When their hearts were turned toward the Lord in obedience, they were empowered by His Spirit to do what the Lord had asked. But when Saul rejected the Lord, putting himself first, the Lord rejected him as His king and removed His Spirit from Saul. As a result, Saul was left open to the power of evil spirits. David's presence brought the Holy Spirit, which brought peace and comfort to Saul.

How blessed we are today that the Holy Spirit does not leave us, but remains even when we are disobedient. It is my prayer that as you study the lives of Saul and David that you will reflect upon how blessed we are, thank the Lord for the presence of His Spirit and always seek to obey the Lord with your whole heart.

Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)
God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)