

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 13:1-23

“The Folly of Fearing Man” – July 9, 2017



Introduction

Leadership matters because the destination of the leader affects the destination of the follower. Godly authority encourages life and flourishing (see [2 Samuel 23:3-4](#)), misused authority can lead to destruction. Israel faced a leadership crisis. The question was what type of leader did they need? They *thought* what was best for them was to have a king like all the nations. In answer to their demands, they got King Saul. The question remaining: would Saul be a good leader? Would his leadership lead the nation to life or death?

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. God's people need a leader, who is first a good follower; one who trusts in God (13:1-23)
 - a. Trusting God involves waiting on God (13:1-9, 15-23)
 - b. Trusting God involves taking responsibility for our sin (13:10-14)
 - c. Trusting God involves trusting in Jesus (13:11, 13-14)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 13:1-9, 15-23](#)

Waiting on God is never easy...and it certainly wasn't for Saul. The Philistines were amassing a huge army, his troops were fleeing in fear, and God called him to wait for 7 days to receive instructions from the prophet Samuel. Where have you had to wait on God? What are you waiting on God for now? What makes it difficult?

Two things (among others) God graciously gives us to help us wait: the church and the Psalms. The Psalms give us an inside peak to the struggle for faith of saints who were waiting, but trusting God. Those Psalms become a template for our own prayer life – they are meant for us to sing, pray and read over and over. Good Psalms to use for those who are waiting on God include Psalm 13, 25, 27, 37, 62, and 130. Take some time today to read one of these Psalms to use a springboard for your own prayer life. As a help for praying the Psalms, you can review our [guide we used last summer](#). Who is someone you can encourage by calling, meeting up with, or sending a note of encouragement who may be struggling in a season of waiting?

Additional reading: 2 Peter 3:3-9, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

2) Read [1 Samuel 13:10-14](#)

When confronted with his sin, Saul refused to take responsibility for it. Instead he blamed the troops who fled, the Philistines, and Samuel for being late. He made himself out as the victim, "I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering." Saul's response is an echo of what we saw the first Adam do when God confronted *him* about his sin ([Genesis 3:12-13](#)). Where are you tempted to blame-shift, candy-coat, or rationalize your sin? Why is it hard for us to take responsibility for our sin? What difference does it make that Jesus came to die for us, to take responsibility for our sin and give us His perfect righteousness (see [2 Corinthians 5:21](#), [Philippians 3:8-9](#))? How does knowing that help us be transparent, confess our sin to God and each other, and take responsibility for our sin?

What might taking responsibility for your sin look like in your own life? It may be helpful to talk to a trusted friend or elder in the church to think that through in your life. Two helpful guides for us here are the broken-hearted repentance of David in Psalm 32 and 51. Take some time to read & pray through those Psalms as a help for your own confession.

At the end of the day, Saul has failed to follow God as a leader of God's people should. But his failure will point to the King God would choose who *would*. King David will be a man after God's own heart, but he *too* would fail. The King he would point to is King Jesus. Jesus is the true King who alone can lead us to God ([John 14:6](#)). Are you trusting in Him? Are you following Him?

Additional reading: Hebrews 3:12-13, James 5:16, Psalm 32, Psalm 51, Romans 5:12-21

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>