



1 Samuel 13

August 14

Giving God a Hand
Summer Series: Life of Samuel

Summer series on Samuel

- available on our website**
- Last Week – Now Hear This**

Saul

- Samuel hands over judge and leadership to**

- King established, gives words of wisdom**

- There is a way to secure blessing and a future**

- There is potential for destruction**

- be careful and keep in right relationship with God**

1 Samuel 13:1-7 *“Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty- two years. ² Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Mikmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes. ³ Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, “Let the Hebrews hear!” ⁴ So all Israel heard the news: “Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines.” And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal. ⁵ The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. ⁶ When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. ⁷ Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.”*

1. The Crisis

- remember Saul delivered town under siege
- Saul has taken the offensive
- 3000 men, 2000 with him, 1000 with Jonathan
- sends out his 'press release' (look what we are doing)
- gathers the people at Gilgal

a) Facing Overwhelming Odds

- reaction from Philistines clear and big
 - 3000 chariots, 6000 charioteers, tons of soldiers
 - vs. 19-21 – armed to teeth, Saul's army has no weapons to speak of

b) fighting with volunteers

- not conscripted – simply gathered together
- seeing the enemy strength – hiding, running, gone!
- those still around – quaking with fear

c) Samuel is late

- his name behind Saul – gives credibility & strength
- still the priest – can offer the sacrifice necessary
- hears from God – track record stellar, listened to
- not appearing when he said

1 Samuel 13:8-15 *⁸ He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. ⁹ So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. ¹⁰ Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. ¹¹ "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, ¹² I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." ¹³ "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." ¹⁵ Then Samuel left Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred."*

2. Saul Takes Charge

- been made King and Judge – has authority**
- has bragged to people, reputation on the line**

a) Decides to Offer Sacrifices

- big deal – scripture clear about who can do this**
- God establishes how the relationship is to work**
- everyone would know this – see the break in rules**

b) Samuel Shows Up

- Saul confident in his greeting with Samuel**
- Samuel not quite so warm – What Have You**

Done?

3. The Blame Game

- **Saul explains – you need to understand**

- **I had to take charge because:**

- a) Blames the People**

 - **scattering, filled with fear, abandoning me**

- b) Blames Samuel**

 - **you were not here when you said.... So**

- c) Blames the Philistines**

 - **they were ready to attack (camped actually but...)**

- d) Blames the Leadership Mantle**

 - **felt compelled – you anointed me king**

•Interesting note – Saul knew he needed God’s enabling, he needed to be delivered, *‘I have not sought the Lord’s favor’*, but he did the necessary thing the wrong way!

4. The Verdict

- you have done a foolish thing

- a) Not kept the Lord’s Command

 - often desire what God wants, just our way

- b) Could have secured Kingship for Family

 - reminder of what could have been, severe penalty

- c) Kingdom Legacy Lost

 - God will pick another – heart to trust & wait on him

 - again – you did not keep the Lords command

What Happens Next?

- Samuel leaves**
- 600 men remain with Saul**
- Jonathan inquires of Lord – courage shown starts fight**
- God is faithful to deliver his people**
 - earthquakes**
 - fear grips enemy**
 - turn on themselves destroying one another**
 - men come out of hiding and destroy them**

So What

1. You Will Face Challenges

- some of our own making**
- some God allowing for our growth, refinement, testing**
- some because we have an enemy**

2. You Can Take Charge or Trust God

- trusting is not the same as inaction**
- timing matters – after prayer, waiting on God, aligning with his word, courage will be required**
- taking charge often requires shortcuts that have consequences**

3. Be Careful With the Blame Game

- justified because of how others are acting**
- justified because those in authority have left me hanging**
- justified because of enemies or perceived threats**
- justified because of the role I have**

Often feel compelled – should be to:

- pray, serve where I am, be faithful to God, seek his deliverance**

4. Allow God to Deliver