



David & Saul: A Tale Of Two Hearts

Icebreaker:

What freedom do you value the most?

Prayer Starter:

Read Psalm 86:11-12, then have someone open with prayer.

Discussion Questions:

In our study of King David, we have observed that while David was a 'man after God's own heart', his predecessor King Saul was a man after Israel's heart. 1 Samuel provides several stories which explain why Saul's heart was defective. This study examines two of those reasons.

Trait #1: In A Time Of Testing You Run From God Rather Than To God

Read 1 Samuel 13:5-14 then answer the following questions. (To help understand the background of this story, know that only priests and prophets were authorized to offer sacrifices.)

1. Saul enjoyed God's favor early on. New believers in Christ will often experience a honeymoon period with God at first, where everything feels fresh and exciting. Have you ever experienced a season like this as a Christian? Describe it.

2. Good times like this are given 1) to remind us of the goodness of God, 2) to give us a tiny glimpse of heaven, *and* (pay attention closely) 3) to prepare our hearts for the difficult and dark seasons of life which will come. Times of testing come to every believer. Why?

a. Matthew 5:45

b. Matthew 13:20-21

c. James 1:2-4

3. What do you think was Saul's mistake in the story? What should he have done instead?

4. Though God promised David he would be king, it took more than a decade before the promise was fulfilled. During much of that time, David was in the desert running from Saul as a fugitive. Yet David didn't cop an attitude with God, or take things into his own hands. Instead he grew in his faith. In many of the psalms he wrote, he tells us what to do when we're tested. What are some of the things he said we should do? Read Psalm 27:13-14 and 62:5-8.

Trait #2: In A Time Of Indecision, You Do What Seems Right To You Rather Than Seek God's Wisdom

In chapter 14, Saul's son Jonathan picks a fight with the Philistines. As King Saul hears the sound of battle, he calls for the priest to come and seek for God's direction (using the ark of the covenant, a tool God gave Israel in the Old Testament for discerning God's will). However as the chaos grows, Saul commands the priest to stop what he's doing, and then rashly charges into battle, not caring to hear from God.

5. What does God expect those who love him to do? Read Isaiah 30:1-2, and put it in your own words.

6. Christians living on this side of the cross of Jesus have three things available to them for discerning God's will that Old Testament saints did not have. What are they?

a. 1 Corinthians 2:12

b. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

c. Proverbs 15:22

7. Decisions swirl through our minds all day long – some good, some bad:

Should I take this job? / Should I date this person? / Should I buy this car?

Should I cheat on my taxes? / Should I volunteer for this ministry? / Should I go to college?

Describe the process you might go through – using these three things – in deciding what to do.

8. Most decisions we'll make in life won't come with a direct email from heaven. How then do we go through day-to-day life? Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and describe what you think these words are asking us to do.

Prayer Requests: