

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 15: Chapter 9, The Man, Saul

30 September 2016

Chapter 9 introduces the man named Saul. The story will be focused on him from this point forward. We will look at his promising beginning and his disappointing ending and observe the actions which led him away from God and toward destruction. We'll begin by reading his description in verses 1 and 2.

SAUL'S ADVANTAGES FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE:

1. He had a good lineage. He came from a good home.
 2. He was an excellent physical specimen. He was tall, handsome, and healthy (see 10:23).
 3. He started with a humble mind (9:21). This is a rare quality in someone who is good looking.
 4. He was given a new heart by God (10:9).
 5. He was given spiritual power from God (10:10).
 6. He had loyal friends and supporters (10:26).
 7. He had the guidance of God's prophet, Samuel.
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HOW SAUL'S ADVANTAGES FAILED HIM:

1. His physical advantages didn't prevent him from fearing to face the enemy, Goliath (17:23-25).
 2. His humble mind was replaced by an evil spirit (16:15).
 3. His new heart turned to a heart of stone (22:18).
 4. His spiritual power was taken away and God would not deal with him anymore (15:23-31).
 5. His loyal friends turned against him when he threatened Jonathan and pursued David.
 6. After Samuel died, Saul ended up consulting a witch for guidance (28:7-11).
 7. Instead of going down in history as a great king, he is an example of failure with a sad ending (31:4).
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THE CHRISTIAN'S ADVANTAGES FOR A SUCCESSFUL LIFE:

1. We come from good families in nations with religious freedom.
 2. We have enough physical strength to get to church.
 3. We have God's word, the Bible for our guidance.
 4. We have a new heart.
 5. We have spiritual power from the indwelling Holy Spirit.
 6. We have loyal friends; our brothers and sisters in Christ.
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BE OUR KING:

GIDEON (Judges 8:22-23). Gideon knew it was wrong to try and replace God as King over Israel.

JESUS CHRIST (John 6:14-15). After feeding the five thousand, in order to prevent the people from attempting to make Him a king, **“he departed again into a mountain himself alone.”**

- a. The church doesn't have a king; it has a Savior.
- b. The devil is the god of this world (2 Cor. 5:5) and the prince of this world (John 16:11). He rules and reigns presently (Matthew 4:8-9, Luke 4:5-7)
- c. Jesus has all power in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18), but the kingdoms of this earth do not become His until after the Great Tribulation (John 18:36-37, Revelation 11:15).
- d. At Jesus' First Coming, he came to wear a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold.

THE CONDEMNATION OF THE DEVIL (the thing that condemned the devil; PRIDE) (1 Timothy 3:6)

Saul began in humility, but it was pride that allowed him to accept the throne when it was offered. He could have said the same thing Gideon said: **“I will NOT rule over you... The LORD (!) shall rule over you.”**

Pride is the foundation of every sin we ever commit. It is a desire to be something OTHER than what God wants us to be and to esteem ourselves higher than we ought to. We need to step down off the throne and let God rule in our life. The Devil will try and convince you that you should be in charge of your life. He wants you to suffer the same consequences he's facing for trying to usurp the throne of God.

I CAN DO NOTHING

What happens when you kick God off the throne and try to take charge of your own life? Jesus said, **“Without me ye can do NOTHING”** (John 15:5). Adam couldn't do anything until God breathed in him the breath of life (Gen. 2:7). Similarly, we can accomplish nothing for God apart from His life ruling in our lives.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS

“I can do all things through Christ which stengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). You can accomplish anything for God's glory if Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning in your life.

Without Christ

Unable
Incapable
Failure
Ruin
Loss

With Christ

Able
Capable
Success
Glory
Gain

Saul put too much confidence in his flesh and it ruined him. The apostle Paul put NO confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3), though he had many reasons to (Phil. 3:4-10). He found out his flesh couldn't be trusted.
