

INTRODUCE

Well, good morning church! If I haven't met you yet, my name is Chris Martin, and I'm the Lead Pastor here.

If you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to 1 Samuel chapter 13. 1 Samuel 13. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet to 1 Samuel 13. That's on page **234** in those Bibles under the chairs.

INTRODUCTION: CONTEXT

We have a lot of work to do today! So, we're gonna jump right into the context of our passage for this morning.

- The Israelites, God's people,
- are in the midst of the establishment of their monarchy.

Saul has been made the first king of Israel.

- And that comes with, really, 2 main responsibilities.
 - He was to rule over God's people.
 - And he was to go out to fight battles for God's people.

But the king of God's people wasn't to have full autonomy, like every other sovereign king in the known world.

- Israel's king was subject to a higher authority.
- The Word of God was the trump card for the king.
 - God's People,
 - governed by God's King,
 - were all to be obedient to God's Word.

Now, last week, in 1 Samuel 13 verses 1-7,

- Saul's son, Jonathan, takes 1000 of the 3000 men...
- in the new army of the Israelites,
- and he takes out a garrison of Philistine troops.

This enrages the Philistines, and initiates a war between Israel and Philistia that will last for all of Saul's rule as king.

TRANSITION

So, the Philistines muster their forces...

- with chariots
- and horsemen
- and troops...
- like the sand on the seashore in multitude.

And God's people flee and hide.

- This new army doesn't stand and fight in FAITH,
- but rather, they cower in FEAR.

So, what's going to happen? Well, that's where we pick up today.

1 Samuel 13 starting in verse 8:

1 SAMUEL 13:8

[8] He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him.

EXPLAIN: WAIT

So, the army of the Philistines are bearing down on God's people,

- and apparently the prophet Samuel
- had told Saul to wait for **the appointed time**.

Now, Saul waited seven days whole days...

But how many of you know...

- that the Lord's timing
- and our timing
- don't always match up?

I mean, 2 Peter 3:9 says that **the Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness**.

- So, the Lord is not slow...
- but he doesn't ever seem to be in a hurry...
- does he?

Like, you pray, and you pray, and you pray...

- and you wait...
- I mean...all weekend!

TRANSITION

But Saul has received clear instructions from God's prophet.

- And the commands of the prophet of God...
- were to be treated as the very words of God.

But as you can see, Samuel hasn't come.

And Saul was all about waiting

- on day one...
- and day two...
- and three,
- and four,
- and five,
- and six...

But by day seven...

- he sees the Philistines coming.
- And he sees the people scattering from him.
- And something has to be done!
 - Maybe God can't be trusted.
 - *"I better do something about this!"*

Verse 9:

1 SAMUEL 13:9

[9] So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.

EXPLAIN: OFFERING

So, there are multiple layers here. First, very simply...

- Saul is disobedient
- in not heeding the word of Samuel
- to wait until **the appointed time**...

Essentially, Saul is disobedient to God's prophet.

But second, the text says that Saul **offered the burnt offering**.

- This was forbidden in the written law of God!

In the Torah...the law...

- Saul did what Samuel was supposed to do.
 - Only a prophet...
 - or a priest
 - in the line of Levi
 - were permitted to make burnt offerings to God.

Now, do you remember what tribe Saul was from?

- He's from the tribe of Benjamin.
- He's not a Levite!

So, Saul had no right to make this offering.

- In fact, not only was he NOT a priest...
- he was the king!

So, the king decided to do the things only priests would do.

- And king and priest were two offices you never combined.
- They exist for two completely different functions.

ILLUSTRATION

It'd be like pastor and policeman.

- You don't want to combine those offices.
 - You confess to me...
 - I pray for you.
 - You confess to a cop...
 - she's responsible to uphold the law.

How about this one: soccer dad and umpire.

- You think that guy'd be an impartial ref?
 - And just on a side note...
 - soccer dads...
 - settle yourselves down!
 - Your 5-year-old soccer player
 - isn't getting screwed over by the system, ok?
 - Take a look at your gene pool...
 - he ain't making the World Cup! Sorry!
- That one's for free...

EXPLAIN: KING/PRIEST

But, you'd never want to combine king and priest.

Because the king was a law giver. Remember, he ruled God's people

- He was the judge.
- He was about justice and truth.

The priest, though,

- was a friend.
- He was a counselor.
- He was the one you'd come to when you had messed up.
- He could make offerings for people to get right with God.

Whereas the king represented God to the people.

The priest represented the people to God.

- The king was the person of justice.
- The priest was the person of mercy.

And they never combined those offices in the Old Testament because one person could not accomplish both tasks.

But here, Saul offers the burnt offering. He usurps a priestly role!

APPLICATION

And I bet it happened like this:

- On the seventh day,
- when Samuel delays...
- Saul begins to negotiate with himself.

This is always the first step of disobedience.

- *“Did God really say that?”*
- *I mean, what did he mean by seven days?*
- *Did he mean seven literal days,*
 - *like full days,*
 - *or part days...*
 - *or business days,*
 - *like, do weekends count?*
 - *What about Sunday?*
 - *Chick-fil-a’s closed, so does that count?”*

But church,

- **it is so much easier to twist God’s word into what we want...**
- **rather than twisting our wants to what God says.**

Did God really say that?

And what we end up doing in that twisting, is we create a new god... because he certainly ain’t the God of the Bible.

- *“Well, I don’t like what God says about sexuality!*
 - *It seems pretty regressive.*
- *Well, I don’t like what God says about giving to the poor!*
 - *I worked hard for what I have...*
 - *And they got themselves into the mess!*
- *Well, I don’t like what the Bible says about Jesus being the only way to salvation.*
 - *That seems way too narrow!*
- *Well, I don’t like what the Bible says about ethnicities!*
 - *There is no Jew or Greek...*
 - *Male or female...*
 - *Slave or free...*
 - *That just sounds like liberal propaganda to me!”*

And then we start to say,

- *“Well, my god wouldn’t be so narrow.*
- *My god would be far more open.*
- *My god values my freedoms.*
- *My god values my way of life!”*

And the truth is, **your god probably does!**

But let’s not pretend that’s the God of the Bible.

- **It’s shocking how much your god**
- **agrees with the things you agree with,**
- **and tends to overlook all the things you overlook.**

Listen, that’s not a god...that’s an imaginary friend.

TRANSITION

- So, Saul does not obey God's word by the prophet.
- And, he does not obey God's word in the law.

Let's see what happens. Verse 10:

1 SAMUEL 13:10-11a

[10] As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him. [11] Samuel said, "What have you done?"

POINT

SLIDE WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

That's what I'm calling this sermon.

This is a deep convicting,

- *"Oh no, Saul!"*
- *What have you done?"*

And there are many of these "*what have you done*" moments in the Bible.

CAIN & ABEL

In Genesis 4,

- Cain and his brother Abel,
 - Adam and Eve's first two sons,
- bring offerings to God.
- Abel's is accepted and Cains is rejected.

- Cain becomes jealous...
- and rises up against Abel...
- and kills him.
- The first murder in history.
- Then God comes to Cain and says,
 - *"Where is Abel?"*
- And Cain says, *"I don't know. Am I my brother's keeper?"*
- And the Lord said, *"What have you done?"*

GOLDEN CALF

In Exodus 32,

- Moses is up on Mount Sinai getting the law from God,
 - but he's up there for too long,
 - and the people get antsy,
 - and they say to Aaron,
 - *"We don't know where Moses went,*
 - *so make us some gods!"*
 - So, Aaron makes them a golden calf...
 - an idol...
 - and says to them,
 - *"Here's your god*
 - *who brought you up out*
 - *of the land of Egypt!"*

- Well, up on the mountain,
 - God tells Moses what's happened,
 - and Moses goes down,
 - throws down the tablets with God's law on them,
 - breaking them,
 - and essentially says, *"What have you done?"*

DENYING PETER

In the New Testament, in Matthew 26, at the last supper,

- Jesus tells his disciples that they would all fall away
 - and abandon him in his hour of need.
- And good ole' Peter speaks up,
 - as he always does,
- and says, *"Not me! No way!*
- *Even if I must die, I will not deny you!"*
- And Jesus is like,
 - *"Ok little buddy...*
 - *listen, tonight, before the rooster crows,*
 - *you'll deny me three times!"*
- Like, Pete won't even make it 12 hours!
- But by the end of the chapter,
 - and the end of the night,
- the text says that he's cursing and swearing
 - that he doesn't know Jesus.
- And immediately the rooster crowed...

- and Peter remember what Jesus had told him.
 - And he leaves and wept bitterly,
 - thinking, *“What have I done?”*

TRANSITION

You been here?

- *What have you done?*
- *What have I done?*

I've been there.

BLANK SLIDE

Well, let's see how Saul responds to Samuel.

Look at the rest of 11:

1 SAMUEL 13:11b-12

And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, [12] I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the LORD.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”

EXPLAIN: EXCUSES

Oh gosh...this is classic! What he's saying is:

- *“I didn't want to do this.*
- *I waited and waited and waited.”*

He starts making excuses.

Now, remember what I said a few weeks ago about disobedience...

- it's gonna feel right...
- it's gonna sound right.
 - Rebellion always seems right...
 - at least to start.

So, Saul makes rational excuses:

- *“Well, the army was scattering!”*
- *“And Samuel, you didn't come in time!”*
- *“And the Philistines had mustered,”*
 - *remember the chariots...*
 - *you see those horses!?!*
- *“And I hadn't even sought the favor of the Lord!”*
 - *“We hadn't honored God with an offering!”*
- *“So, I forced myself...and offered the burnt offering!”*

Saul **SLIDE** DEFENDS, DEFLECTS, & DENIES

ILLUSTRATION: GENESIS 3

There's another WHAT HAVE YOU DONE moment that this reminds me of.

Back in Genesis 3...

- after the serpent tempts Adam and Eve,
- and they eat the fruit
 - from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
- and they hide from God.

God finds them, and essentially asks, *“What have you done?”*

And Adam makes the same move that Saul does!

- He DEFENDS
- and DEFLECTS
- and DENIES!

He says,

- *“The woman whom you gave to be with me,*
- *she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”*
 - He blames his wife!
 - And he blames God!
- *“Listen God, I don’t know if it was her fault or yours,*
- *but I’ll just let you two work it out,*
- *and I’ll be over here, waiting for you apology!”*

APPLICATION: FORCE

And Saul is doing the exact same thing. But I want you to note something really interesting. The language he uses at the end of verse 12:

So I forced myself.

Now last week, I said that the opposite of FAITH is FEAR.

- And I think that’s true.
- And I’m not sure that you’re allowed to have two opposites...

But here we find that **the opposite of FAITH is also FORCE.**

Let me ask you this:

- **where in your life are you trying to FORCE things...**
- **when God is asking you to trust him in FAITH?**

Saul says, **I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.** Verse 13:

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1 SAMUEL 13:13-14

[13] And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

[14] But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

EXPLAIN: KINGDOM

So, Samuel rebukes Saul, and he rejects Saul's kingship.

- He does not reject Saul outright...
- Spoiler alert:
 - that won't happen until chapter 15.

But he does reject Saul's line.

- Remember Jonathan?
- Introduced last week?
- Saul's eldest son?
- Well, the kingdom will not be passed to him.
- Saul's line of kings will not continue.

EXPLAIN: DAVID

Now, something important happens in verse 14 that we must not miss.

- Samuel tells Saul, **your kingdom shall not continue.**
- **But, the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart.**

Now, if you've been around church for a while, you know who Samuel is talking about here. Right?

- A man after God's own heart is King David.
- And he's gonna show up here in just a few more chapters.

You remember King David?

- He was Israel's greatest king!
- He killed Goliath!
- He will end this war with the Philistines!

But what's really important to know is that David, too, had his very own WHAT HAVE YOU DONE moment.

Many of you may remember the story of David and Bathsheba.

The Bible says that **in the time when kings go to war**, David stays home.

Instead, at home, he was looking out across his roof

- and he saw a beautiful naked woman, Bathsheba, bathing...
- and so, he sent for her...
- and he slept with her.

You do realize that we wouldn't hire King David to work at Fathom, right?

- Sure, he's a man after God's own heart...
- sure he wrote like most of the Psalms...
- yeah, he's killer at that harp...

But we wouldn't want David up here as our worship leader...

- just making eyes at gals in the front row!
- You understand that, don't you?

Well, when he found out that Bathsheba was pregnant,

- he wanted to cover up his sin,
- so, he invited her husband, Uriah,
 - who was fighting in the war
- to come back, hoping that he's sleep with his wife,
- and nobody would know that the child was his.

But Uriah refused to do that.

- He was too honorable to indulge in that kind of pleasure...
- when his men were on the front lines...
- so, he slept on the couch!

So, David came to another plan.

- He sent him back with orders, which said,
 - *"Put Uriah in the thickest part of the fighting,*
 - *and right when the action is fierce*
 - *pull back and he will be killed."*
- And that's what happened.

David was an adulterer and a murder.

Can you imagine if we hire that dude as a worship leader?

- He's making eyes at some gal in the church,
- and then notices her husband sitting next to her...
- and thinks, "I'm gonna take him out of the picture!"
- No!

And so, the Lord sends a prophet named Nathan to David,

- just like Samuel comes to Saul.

And Nathan says to David, *“I want to tell you a story.”*

- There was a rich man and poor man.
- The rich man had a bunch of sheep
- but the poor man had only one little lamb.

One little sheep that this poor man loved like a pet.

- He fed it from his table,
- and let it drink from his own cup,
- and probably made it wear clothes.
 - Some of you have dogs like that.
 - Some of you have cats like that...
 - there's grace for us all!

But a day came when the rich man,

- instead of going to his abundant flocks,
- he went and took the poor man's lamb,
- and killed it,
- and ate it.

And as Nathan is telling this story the Bible says that David gets enraged.

And he said, *“that rich man deserves to die for what he's done!”*

And then Nathan gives his famous response.

He says, *“You are the man!”*

And David's eyes were opened.

- *"He's talking about me.*
- *I was that rich man who had everything*
- *and I took Uriah's wife*
- *and killed Uriah."*

It as if Nathan has said WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

TRANSITION

Now, when that happened, David had a choice.

- He could keep playing the game he was playing,
 - and put a hit out on Nathan or something...
- He could shift the blame to Bathsheba,
 - you know, "She shouldn't have been naked
 - in plain sight on the roof."
- He could've DEFENDED, DEFLECTED, & DENIED.

But he didn't. Do you remember what he did?

He wrote a song...

I'll put it up on the screen:

SLIDE PSALM 51:1-2

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

[they're pretty honest here in the Bible]

[1] Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

[2] Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

EXPLAIN: REPENT

What David knows is that he can't defend and deflect and deny...
he needs to repent!

You wanna know what makes David a man after God's own heart?

It isn't that he **NEVER** has a **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE** moment.

It's what he does **AFTER** his **WHAT HAVE YOU DONE** moment!

- He repents!

Here's what he says a little further into Psalm 51

SLIDE PSALM 51:9–12

[9] Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

[10] Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

[11] Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

[12] Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

BLANK SLIDE

TRANSITION

- Here's a liar.
- Here's an adulterer.
- Here's a murderer.

And what does he ask for? Restoration.

- This is what Samuel said to Saul,
 - back to our text:

The LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

- All Saul had to do was repent.

TRANSITION

Now, the rest of this chapter is really a set up for a big moment in chapter 14. So, we'll handle that next week...

But, I want you remember back to the beginning of this sermon...

- When I mentioned that the offices of Priest and King
- would never be combined in one person?

Well, that's not entirely true.

You see, the writer of the book of Hebrews says this:

SLIDE HEBREWS 4:14–15

[14] Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

EXPLAIN: JESUS

So, Jesus Christ is called a great high priest.

- Now, that's a little strange because,
 - back to the priesthood...
- remember that the priests were all from one tribe of Israel...
- They were from the tribe of Levi...from the Levites.

But, do you know what tribe Jesus was from?

- He was the Lion of the tribe of...Judah!
 - We've all listened to Bob Marley, right?
- He's from Judah!
 - The very line that King David came from!

And Jesus is the king...look at Revelation 19:

SLIDE REVELATION 19:13 & 16

[13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God...[16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

- So, the kings would come from Judah.
- But all the priests would come from Levi.

And yet, there is only one who can be both king and priest.

And that's Jesus Christ.

- Jesus is the only one who speaks to us
 - with the justice and truth of a King
 - AND the compassion and grace of a priest.

And that's what all this 1 Samuel series is pointing us to and leading us to!

- The prophet,
- The great high priest,
- The king of kings!

CONCLUSION **BLANK SLIDE W/PADS**

So, do you have a WHAT HAVE YOU DONE moment in your life?

- Do you have something in your past,
 - or even in your present,
- where if a prophet of God walked up to you...
- he would likely say, "*What have you done?*"

You really have a choice...to respond to that charge like Saul did:

- you can DEFEND,
- and DEFLECT,
- and DENY.

OR you can respond like David, the man after God's own heart.

- And you can REPENT.

If you've got a WHAT HAVE YOU DONE thing going on in your life,

the Bible has good news for you:

- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE can be replaced by:
- **ADD SLIDE WHAT HE HAS DONE!**

The cross of Christ was where

- the absolute justice of God
- met the fullness of God's mercy.

The debt we owed to God the king
was paid in full by God the Son.

Jesus is who we cry out to and say:

- Have mercy on me.
- Blot out my transgressions.
- Wash me.
- Cleanse me.
- Create in me a clean heart.
- Restore me.

Have you done this?

- Listen, no matter how beaten or broken or battered you are.
- No matter how many wounds you have...
 - even those self-inflicted wounds...
- God's not done with you!

He will take what you have done AND exchange it for what he has done.

- That's called the great exchange.
- Our sins for God's righteousness.

So, the question for us isn't, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

The question is: do you believe in WHAT HE HAS DONE?

- Cry out for mercy today.
- Cry out for restoration today.
- Cry out in repentance to him today.

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES USED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel.
- David, Dale Ralph. *Seeing the Signs*.
- Martin, Joby. *What Have You Done?*
- Tsumura, David Toshio. NICOT: The First Book of Samuel.