

## A GOOD MAN GONE BAD

### 1 Samuel 26:21

**Introduction:** Everyone knows somebody who started out alright but ended up becoming a mess and a shame to his/her family. It is thought that when someone is doing God's work that that person will become more and more spiritual and useful to God and to others. That is usually what happens, but sometimes, as in the case of this particular man in the text, things didn't end as they should have for this man let all God's blessings go to his head and he used his authority for his own selfishness and not as God intended. Not everybody who starts out right, doing God's will, serving God and his/her fellow people ends up being thought well of. Sometimes people forget whom they serve and where they got their authority and abilities and "do their own thing."

### I. GOD SELECTED SAUL TO BE KING

1. Saul was in splendid physical condition.
  - He was taller than any other man around.
  - He carried himself with respect and dressed admirably.
  - In every respect Saul had the appearance of what a "king" should look like.
  - Saul already looked like a king, just add the proper clothing and crown.
2. Saul had a self-less, inferior attitude about himself.
  - He was taken back when Samuel told him what God had in mind about his being king.
  - Saul was content to just keep on doing what he had been raised to do, farm work.
  - He felt unworthy to even be talking to Samuel, much less be chosen by God to do anything for Him, especially be the king.
  - A reminder here: most of the people God uses successfully are those who started out in life doing and being simple, common, ordinary.
3. Saul was still a young, single man.
  - As with all young people, his best years were yet to be experienced, lived.
  - He was just starting his life.
4. Saul had someone to give him spiritual advice.
  - Samuel was used by God to call Saul into service as king, for God.
  - Samuel became "pastor" to Saul, as well as a close friend.
  - Samuel lifted Saul up to God in prayer even to the end of Samuel's life.
  - To Samuel, Saul became a prodigal son and Samuel acted the role of the sad father.
5. God chose Saul to do a very hard and great thing.
  - Of all the men of Israel, Saul was God's choice to be their king.
  - Obviously Saul was far from perfect, however he was the best of all the others.
  - God changed Saul's heart and at the start Saul did exactly what God wanted.

## II. AS KING, SAUL DIDN'T ALWAYS ACT LIKE A GODLY MAN

1. After a while, Saul began to sin, rebell and even turned against God.
  - Countless have also rebelled against God, but confessed their sins and were forgiven, however Saul would never admit he had sinned.
  - One time God ordered Saul to destroy all the sheep and cattle of a certain nation, but he didn't.
  - God turned to Samuel and told him that Saul had stopped following Him.
  - Samuel asked Saul about what he had done, disobeying God, and Saul blamed others, made excuses and this and that.
  - Samuel told Saul that God had rather have obedience than people's sacrifices of animals, etc.
2. Of all the people in the Bible who admitted that they had sinned, Saul was the leader. *"I have sinned!"*
  - Saul never admitted sinning except when confronted about it or when he was in a tight place.
  - A note here: Saul is but one of countless who seldom think of obeying God until they are in trouble or expect trouble to come.
  - It is indeed sad and hopeless, that there are so many who never want God around except when they are threatened by some kind of disaster.

## III. LIVING A LIFE OF DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD HAS IT'S RESULTS

1. Saul became a man who didn't need God, therefore God didn't need Saul anymore.
  - **"God hath departed from me and heareth me no more..."** cried Saul.
  - It is sad to see one who has lost eyesight, or hearing, or health, or loved ones, or finances.
  - However worse than all of those things put together is it when someone loses God.
    - To lose fellowship with God is the most tragic thing that can happen to a person.
2. After losing God, Saul lost all the positive traits that he ever had.
  - Saul lost his joy, laughter, hope.
  - Think about it - look around - anyone who is away from God is pityful, wretched, sad.
3. Saul grew to become anxious, fretful, suspicious, easily angered.
  - He became jealous, envious of everyone, especially of his once favorite, David.
4. Saul became afraid of the least thing.
  - Once the bold, brave, able and ready to do anything, is now hiding from the least thing.
  - Saul looked everywhere for help, even beyond the grave, for God no longer was there for him.
  - Saul had forgotten God. He had left God, therefore there was an emptiness, a void and he searched everywhere for something, someone to fill that now empty void.
  - Countless are like Saul. God is not their God, therefore there is an emptiness and they are trying to fill it with whatever they can find but nothing can take God's place.

## CONCLUSION:

1. How many are like Saul. Plans God has for one's life unfulfilled, stopped because of disobedience, sin.
2. Saul could have been the greatest king Israel ever had IF he had remained true to God. And YOU?