

THE SELF-MADE FOOL, SAUL

1 Samuel 26:21

Ordinary People Used By God Series

Introduction: A person wants to be remembered for some good things done during his/her life. Nobody wants to be remembered as "fool," yet King Saul is remembered more for his foolish things than his good things. The truly sad thing about King Saul's foolish acts is that he **chose** to play the role of the fool.

I. THERE WAS MUCH TO ADMIRE ABOUT SAUL

1. He was a man of splendid physique.
 - He stood head and shoulders above all other men.
 - He had a "kingly" appearance.
 - He was a splendid example of what a "king" should look like.
2. He was a modest man.
 - When approached to be king, he at first refused.
 - He wanted only to work with his father on the farm.
 - Often it is doing the common things in life when one is called by God.
3. He was a young man.
 - His best years were before him.
 - He was in the springtime of life.
4. He had a great friend.
 - Samuel was Saul's best friend and his pastor as well.
 - Samuel never quit praying for Saul, even to the very end.
 - Samuel treated Saul as a father might treat a prodigal son.
5. He was chosen for a great task.
 - He was God's choice out of all the men of Israel.
 - He was not perfect, but he was the best God could find.
 - God gave Saul another "heart." (A heart like His own.)

II. HOW DID SAUL RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL?

1. Saul constantly sinned against God, rebelled and turned from obeying God.
 - Many have also sinned against God, but Saul never would admit to his sins.
 - God ordered him to destroy all the sheep and camels of the Amalekites, but he didn't.
 - God told Samuel that *"...Saul has turned from following after Me..."*
 - Samuel approached Saul about his sin of disobedience but Saul blamed others and made excuses for keeping some of the animals. (Sound familiar?)
 - Samuel reminded Saul that God had rather have obedience than sacrifice.
2. Saul said *"...I have sinned, I have sinned..."* more than any other person in the Bible.
 - Saul admitted his sins **only** when confronted or when in some difficulty.

- Saul is not by himself. Most people seldom think of obeying God until trouble is approaching or is upon them.
- There are few so hopeless as those who never want God except when threatened by some kind of disaster.

III. WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF SAUL'S FOOLISHNESS?

1. Saul became a Godless man.
 - "...*God hath departed from me and heareth me no more...*" cried Saul.
 - We pity the one who:
 - has lost eyesight, lost hearing, lost health, lost loved ones, lost money,
 - But what about one who has lost his/her God?
 - To lose one's fellowship with God is the most tragic loss of all.
2. Saul became a wretched man.
 - He lost his joy, no laughter inside, no hope.
 - Anyone who is away from God is wretched inside.
3. Saul became fretful, feverish and suspicious.
 - Envy took hold of him, jealousy over David drove him almost insane.
4. Saul became a fearful man.
 - Once bold, brave, able and ready, now he hid from the least thing.
 - He looked everywhere for help, since none came from God anymore.
 - He had left God, therefore, he searched for a replacement.
 - Many are like Saul. God is not their God, therefore they search for another.

SUMMARY:

1. Saul died by his own hand, having played the fool with God.
2. How differently the story of Saul could have ended but he would not confess his sins.