

Righteousness; Decisions, Decisions

Lesson 7 - Study Text: 1 Samuel 13:1-23

Intro: Read 1 Samuel 13: 1-23. This is the story of Saul fighting against the Philistines. While this story ends with an Israelite victory, it is clear that God gave them victory: *So the Lord saved Israel that day (1 Sam.14:23)*. In this text, we see some bad decisions made by Saul. These decisions resulted in a search for a new king to replace Saul, a rash vow by Saul that would have resulted in the taking of Jonathan's life (1 Sam.14), and poor spiritual examples for the Israelites who had already turned against God when they demanded a king (1 Sam.8). All these actions prompted God to seek a man *after his own heart (1 Sam.13:14)* to be the new king. We learn these lessons from this story:

- Both obedience and disobedience result in C _____ CES!
- Our decisions should be driven by God's W _____, not by our C _____ ANCES!
- Bad decisions lead to difficult CIR _____!

Making decisions are a natural part of our lives. Every day there are little things we choose to do. Our bigger decisions are spaced out over time and they deserve more thought than those small daily choices. We tend to be more cautious when it comes to those large, major decisions. We need to remember; we serve a God of grace, mercy, and love. He will help us in all circumstances if we honor him. Here are eight principals for making decisions that honor God.

1. Trust God that it is going to work out for your good!

- Read Romans 8:28. What assurance do you get from this verse? What peace do you get from this verse?

2. Make your plans His plans!

- Read Pro.16:3. *Lord have your W _____ with this situation in my life, let your W _____ be done.*
- Read Psa.138:8. God has a P _____ for our lives and He will A _____ it, because His love E _____ forever. We can trust that He will never _____ His work in our lives.

3. Find people you trust and get their insight!

- Read Pro.16:3. What is our advice here?

- What is the importance of "experience" in life?

4. He can make a way when everything looks impossible!

- Read Isa.43:19. What does this verse say about the power of God?
- Read Isa.32:17. What do we need to remember from this verse?

5. Every day is a brand new day!

- Read Lamentations 3:23. What is the setting of this book. Why is this verse so powerful?
- Read Psa. 118:24. Why do you think this would be a good verse to start each day with?

6. Trust the one who sees you end from the beginning.

- Read Pro.3:5-6. What is our advice here?
- Read Joshua 1:9. What good advice does this verse offer?

7. There is grace and mercy for your decisions.

- Read Heb. 4:16. How does this verse comfort us?

* It is God's good P_____ to help us!

8. When you make a bad decision, remember that God is still sovereign.

- Read Pro. 28:13. How does following this advice help us?
- Read Philippians 3:13. Where does this fit in with this point?