

Why King Saul was Rejected

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Thesis: to show through the example of Saul that although Christians are the chosen of God, we must continue to be obedient to God's commands

Introduction:

- I. While answering why King Saul was rejected, I want us to look at God's dealings with humankind and how that it has always been dependent on our obedience
 - A. Some hold to the idea that a child of God can do anything or nothing at all and still be acceptable to God – Goes against all sound Biblical teachings
 - B. Obedience is required:
 - i. (**Hebrews 5:9**) “And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.”
 - a. “In this verse three things are clearly stated. First, That obedience to Christ is equally necessary to salvation with believing on him. Secondly, That he was made perfect as an High-priest, by offering himself a sacrifice for sin. (Heb 8:3) Thirdly, That, by the merit of that sacrifice, he hath obtained pardon and eternal life for them who obey him.” (MacKnight, *Apostolical Epistles*)
 - b. We must be obedient to Christ
 - ii. Christ had to be obedient to God
 - a. (**Philippians 2:5-8**) “⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
 - b. (**John 8:29**) “And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him. ”
 - c. The reason for Jesus' baptism
 - Many ask if baptism is for the forgiveness of sins then why was Jesus who had no sins baptized?
 - John recognized that Jesus didn't need baptism – John knew what baptism was for, and wanted to stop Jesus! John said, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” (**Matthew 3:14**)
 - Jesus said, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to *fulfill all righteousness.*” (**Matthew 3:15**)
 - God's commands equals Righteousness – (**Psalms 119:172**) “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. ”

II. Example of King Saul

- A. Let us look at a chosen man of God which later became rejected by God

Background Information:

I. Samuel – God's last judge over Israel

- A. (**I Samuel 7:15-16**) “¹⁵ Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. ¹⁶ And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places.”

II. People didn't want Samuel sons to judge

- A. (**I Samuel 8:1-3**) “¹ When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.”

III. People wanted to be like all other nations and have a king to unite them

- A. (**I Samuel 8:4-9**) “⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations. ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷ And the LORD said to Samuel, Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

IV. God chose Saul

A. Wealthy, Tall, and Handsome

- i. (**I Samuel 9:1-2**) “¹ There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. ² And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.”

B. God chose Saul

- i. (**I Samuel 9:16-17**) “¹⁶ Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him to be prince over my people Israel. He shall save my people from the hand of the Philistines. For I have seen my people, because their cry has come to me. ¹⁷ When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people.”
- ii. (**I Samuel 10:1**) “Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies. And this shall be the sign to you that the LORD has anointed you to be prince over his heritage.”

C. Saul began successful

- i. (**I Samuel 11**) – Saul begins with great success and leads Israel in defeating the Ammonites

D. Saul began humble:

- i. (**I Samuel 11:12-15**) “¹² Then the people said to Samuel, Who is it that said, Shall Saul reign over us? Bring the men, that we may put them to death. ¹³ But Saul said, Not a man shall be put to death this day, for today the LORD has worked salvation in Israel. ¹⁴ Then Samuel said to the people, Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingdom. ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed peace offerings before the LORD, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.
 - a) Saul gave credit for the victory to the Lord – It was the Lord that brought salvation

Why was Saul's Kingship Rejected?

I. Saul's first test

A. Saul was set to lead Israel against the Philistines – waited for Samuel to sacrifice

- i. (**I Samuel 13:8-14**) “⁸ He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. ⁹ So Saul said, Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. 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? 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. 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.”

B. Saul almost obeyed

- i. He waited seven days – but didn't wait long enough – as soon as he was done sacrificing Samuel came – It was still the seventh day!
 - a. Endured up till the very last point and then failed

C. Saul completely disobeyed – even though he performed a religious act!

- i. The king has no authority to offer sacrifice – office of the priest
 - a. **PRINCIPLE:** When God includes a certain class of a thing – excludes all other
 - b. (**Hebrews 7:14**) “For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.”
 - c. **EXAMPLE:** Jesus gave the substances that were to be used for the Lord's Supper:
 - Unleavened Bread and Fruit of the Vine – These specifics exclude all others

- Unlawful to use Pizza and Pop as a substitution

II. Saul's second test

A. Saul was commanded to destroy the Amalekites

- (**I Samuel 15:1-3**) “ 1 And Samuel said to Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the LORD. 2 Thus says the LORD of hosts, I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. 3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.”

- Completely destroy – Man, Woman, Child, Infant, Ox, Sheep, Camel, Donkey

- What did Saul do?

- (**I Samuel 15:9**) “But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.”

B. Saul almost obeyed

- (**I Samuel 15:13-23**)

III. Saul's kingship was then rejected – Because Saul Was disobedient

A. Saul argued with Samuel – “I did obey” – Fighting a lost cause

- Fighting against God because God through Samuel said, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.” (**I Samuel 15:26**)

- This is Why King Saul was Rejected – Is God a Legalist? From today standards many would have to say yes!

- How much of God's word did Saul reject? – Just a small amount

- He went to the Amaleks – risked his life – fought – destroyed their society
- He failed to kill Agag – But he was bringing him back as a trophy – for God's glory – failed to kill the best oxen and sheep – but was going to devote those things to sacrifice

B. But almost obeying is not obeying at all

IV. Story of Pioneer and His Son:

A farmer in New England, finding it difficult to make a living, made a survey trip westward. In the fertile lands of the mid-west, he found an ideal location for his family. Coming back to New England, he drew a map of the farm which he had secured and gave instructions to his sons how he wanted the farm to be planted when they came to occupy their new home. His first suggestion was that there was a large low-lying field that would be ideal for corn. Then he described a rolling hill that would be ideal for wheat. Next, he marked a spot near the road which passed by the farm, suggesting it as the location where he wanted the barn to be built. A hundred yards or so above the road he marked a location for the house. Then, finally, he suggested the planting of an orchard on a hill on the back side of the farm.

In the course of time, the father grew sick before the family was able to move to the new homestead. And so, he sent out his sons to prepare the new homestead for the family to move to. Upon their arrival they drew out the old map and studied the directions that the father had made for planting the farm. As the boys walked over the ground they agreed that the low-lying land was good for corn and decided to plant corn there. They agreed that the rolling hillside would be ideal for wheat and made preparations to plant wheat there. They also liked the location for the barn and the location for the house and decided that there they should be built. However, when it came to the planting of the orchard there was serious disagreement. The hill on the back side of the farm did not seem quite right, so they changed that part of the plan, putting the orchard near the house.

- i. Did the son obey his father in anything? – No – not in any instance – just happened that the son's will and the father's will were the same. But once the son's will differed from the father's will, the son followed his own.

V. God does not accept the disobedient

A. Samuel warned Israel and their newly appointed king

- i. (**I Samuel 12:14-15**) “¹⁴ If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. ¹⁵ But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king. ”

B. (**Matthew 7:21**) “ Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ”

Application:

I. When we almost obey – we don't obey at all

II. If we are not obedient – We, God's chosen, can also be rejected

A. We are the chosen of God – like Saul

- i. (**Ephesians 1:4**) “even as he **chose** us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”
- ii. (**II Timothy 2:4**) “No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who **enlisted** him. ”

B. We must learn from Saul, and not get ourselves rejected because of unwillingness to be completely obedient

C. God told Samuel concerning Saul, “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments...” (**I Samuel 15:11**)

- i. Don't make God regret making you His child – continue in His Commands