



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 8

Lesson Title: God Rejects Saul and Chooses David

Take Home Point: God wants us to follow him with our whole heart.

Warm-Up:

A woman was going to be gone from home for a couple of weeks and left instructions with her husband on how to care for the household. Everything was included – basic cooking, laundry, getting the kids ready for school – plus a little love note that said she was looking forward to returning. But when she returned, the household was in shambles. She looked at him and said, “Didn’t you get my note?!” “Of course I did!” he replied. “I read it and reread it. I outlined it to make sure I understood your meaning. I formed a note study group so we could all share what we thought the note meant and how important it was to us.” She was stunned. “But did you DO what I asked?”

Read: 1 Samuel 15-16

Observation (What happened?):

According to 1 Samuel 15:23, what sin accompanies rebellion and to what does Samuel compare it?

What was the Lord’s attitude about making Saul king over his people?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think God decided to pass the kingship to a family other than Saul’s?

Do you think Saul demonstrated an attitude of repentance when he begged Samuel to forgive him? What evidence would you give for your answer?

Insight:

Look at Samuel’s words to God in 1 Samuel 16:2—“He’ll kill me.” How far Saul’s heart had come from his fearful hiding in the luggage when announced as king! He had slowly but surely hardened his heart to the word and wisdom of God. From the time he impatiently offered the sacrifice when directed to wait until he grabbed at Samuel’s robe in desperation, we are told he became arrogant and rebellious. And that is typically how it works for everyone. Few turn immediately from an attitude of humility to commit a “big” sin such as murder. It is almost always a journey of increasing rebellion, hardness of heart, and arrogance against God and people. That is why God doesn’t discriminate between “big” and “little” sins. All sins are the same to him. The cause is always the same—rebellion and the elevation of self to be “king” of the heart.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What does God see in your heart—obedience or disobedience? How do you show him your obedience?

What has God chosen you to do for him? Are you willing to do it?