

Dr. Ron Armstrong • October 25, 2020

The Story: Impatient, Impetuous, and Ruined Potential

1 Samuel 10:1 Then Samuel took a flask of olive oil and poured it on Saul's head and kissed him, saying, "Has not the Lord anointed you ruler over his inheritance?"

1 Samuel 13:1 Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel forty-two years.

3 Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba ... Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!" **4** So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become obnoxious to the Philistines."

And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore ...

6 When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns.

7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. **8** He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. **9** So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering.

10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, **12** I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

13 "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. **14** But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

A. Moses → Joshua → Judges → Samuel → UM.

1. Samuel acts as the transition between the time of Judges and the United Monarchy.
2. Samuel is not a judge; he is a prophet. A prophet was primarily concerned with their relationship with God and with each other.
3. If you are about to make a really bad decision, whom do you have in your life that you have given permission to gently confront you?
 - a. Do you talk to them first, or do you hurry to do it before they hear about it?
 - b. If you do talk to them, do you react with quiet contemplation or an argument?
4. Samuel was the person for Saul; Nathan was the person for David; Barnabas was the person for Paul; Paul was the person for Timothy. Who is the person for you?

B. Living the self-sabotaging life. (Being our own worst enemy.)

1. Saul could have been a great king, but he wasn't. No one stopped him; he sabotaged himself.
2. We can see it in others, but we often miss it in ourselves.
3. Four common tools of self-sabotage:
 - a. Fear. Fear leads to paralysis. Instead, be "scared smart." Force yourself to find the least objectionable alternative.

- b. Impatience. We are talented at convincing ourselves that we "can't" wait. Ask someone you trust if it's really true.
- c. Impetuousness. Large decisions shouldn't be made on our "first feeling." Decide your process for big decisions.
- d. Disobedience. A good motive won't counteract disobedience to God.