
A Study In 1 Samuel

"Character Counts"

1 Samuel 13-14

07-30-23

Introduction: We are working our way through 1 Samuel, a historical book that explains how God made Israel great again.

1. As we come to scripture today, Saul is now king.
2. As we saw last week, his rule got off to a good start and there was a reason for optimism but based on the warnings Samuel had given when Israel asked for a king, you knew it wouldn't last.
3. Today we see the beginning of the end of Saul's reign.
4. To understand how it happened we will consider a side-by-side comparison of Saul and his son Jonathan.
5. As we do, we will see the reality that character really does count.

I. The Leadership Of Saul

- A. Challenging Circumstances
- B. Impulsive Behavior
- C. Blame Shifting
- D. Unrealistic Demands
- E. Undue Rigidity

II. The Leadership Of Jonathan

- A. Courage
- B. Initiative

C. Inspiration

D. Truth Telling

E. Loyalty

Conclusion: This side-by-side comparison is revealing.

1. It explains Saul's downfall as well as Jonathan's victory.
2. It reminds us that character counts.
3. We live in a culture that more and more dismisses the importance of character.
4. Don't be fooled, character and conduct are inseparately linked.
5. Instead of dismissing the importance of character, let us determine to develop Godly character!
6. Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an act, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny.