



People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7

Bible Study:



Read I Samuel 13:5-14; 15; 16. Consider how Saul was impressive in appearances, yet was a failure due to a sinful rebellious heart that lacked a proper Fear of the Lord.

The gospel in the story:



It is easy to think that Saul was crazy for being more afraid of the Philistine army than he was of God, but the sad truth is WE ALL face that problem regularly; we don't have a Godly Fear of God! A proper fear of God is based on the understanding that God hates sin, and **he wants his followers to hate the sin in our lives like He does**. Of course that it impossible, without being reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the saving Blood of Jesus. We can't truly **trust** God and properly **love** God unless we see the sin in our life as HE SEES it. And that boils down to a Godly, Reverent, Unshakable **Fear of the Lord!** And if you want to know the Best (perfect) example of a Godly Fear of the Lord, study Jesus. He went to the Cross rather than sin against His Father!

Application

Head:

Q: Who is Saul? A: Israel's first human king.
Q: Why did God appoint him king? A: Because the Israelites rejected God as king, and wanted a human king.
Q: Did Saul meet the expectations of the people? A: To begin with, yes.
Q: Did Saul meet with God's expectations? A: No, he failed to follow God's instructions, because he didn't have a proper Fear of Him!

Heart:

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Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

Jesus said "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." **The One Jesus is referring to is His Father, God.** Pray constantly that God's Spirit in you will give you a Godly hatred of sin in your life.

Home:

Parents: **To obey is better than sacrifice! (1 Sam 15:22).** That means that your children are most likely grow closer God to WHEN you display AUTHENTIC, SANCTIFYING **trust** in the LORD (as compared to actions that may LOOK righteous). That is to say, your children will be MOST influenced towards Jesus when they can witness that you have **no greater fear than the fear of the lord!**

Heaven:

GC's: **To obey is better than sacrifice!** Godly encouragement is greatest WHEN you display AUTHENTIC, SANCTIFYING **trust** in the LORD (as compared to actions that may LOOK like righteousness). That is to say that your friends and neighbors will be MOST influenced towards Jesus when they can witness that that you have **no greater fear than the fear of the lord!**