

Saul When God Withdraws His Mercy

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.
14 But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse. NKJV

How do we explain the fall of Saul. Saul was chosen by God and endowed with so many good characteristics. But yet in the end he is rejected by God.

People in Bible days did not have a problem understanding this. It is us who have the problem. We have so over emphasized the love and mercy of God and told everyone that no matter what you do, God will always love you and forgive you. But what of God's holiness? What of God's judgment?

God's mercy is not universal. Rom 9:15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

Saul never had a healthy respect for who he was dealing with. That is why he thought that obedience was optional. That is somewhat the way many who claim to be Christians see it today. God has to forgive, that's His job. And you know everyone sins, we just can't help it. So we make broad excuses for ourselves without a thought that the judgment of God might fall on us.

- I. There is danger is disobedience.
 - A. 1 Sam 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.
 - B. 1 Sam 18:12 Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul.
 - C. Heb 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be

thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. 32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.
NKJV

II. It is foolish to put God on hold.

- A. Don't you hate it when someone calls you and interrupts your day and then they get another call and put you on hold to talk to someone else.
 - 1. But that is what many Christians have done with their lives.
 - 2. They have got hold of God and pledged their lives to Him.
 - 3. But then they get another call, and they put God on hold and tell Him they will get back to them eventually.
 - 4. You know what I do when someone does that to me, I hang up and go on with my day.

III. When God abandons someone the course is always downward.

- A. Saul tries to kill David
- B. Then he tries to kill his own son, the heir that he claims to be worried about who will not have a throne because of David.
- C. Eventually does kill an entire clan of priests for helping David.
- D. Finally consults a witch to find out what to do, because he said God would not answer him.
 - 1. But why would God give Saul the answer when Saul had already shown that he was not going to obey.
 - 2. Do we think God is our servant who must always be diligent regardless of how we treat Him?

- E. In the end Saul dies a terrible death in battle along with three of his sons.
 - 1. What a different end he could have had.
 - 2. But he was going to live his life his way.
 - 3. And he did.

It is true that God loves you. He sent His Son to die on the cross for you.

But don't trifle with God. You will never come out ahead. Examples fill the Bible of people who disobeyed God and suffered the consequences.

God's mercy endures forever, as the Scriptures say. But even Jesus said, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."