



Courageously Focused on Obedience

October 28, 2018

Big Question: Are you courageously obedient?

I. Two Things We Focused On So Far

First Sermon In Series: Courageously Focused On Where You Are Going (October 7, 2018)

- **First Big Question In This Series: Are you focused on what will move your life forward?**
- I Samuel 10, Saul was not focused on going where God was trying to take him. He was focused on killing David for years. David was his personally created villain that became an obsession for him.

Note First Sermon Closing Prayer:

- I pray that we would grow emotionally in our walk with God and daily life habits. I pray that we would grow beyond being emotional infants, emotional children, or emotional adolescence and become mature emotionally developed adults.

Second Sermon In Series: Courageously Focused On Being Healthy (October 13-14, 2018)

- **Big Question: Why are some sincere people so emotionally unhealthy?**

Note: Four Reasons Saul Became Unhealthy

1. **The way he responded to responsibility (1Samuel 10:20-24)**
2. **The way he responded to the success of others (1Samuel 18:5-8)**
3. **The way he responded to instructions (I Samuel 15:1-10)**
4. **The way he managed failure (I Samuel 15:13-25; Deny, Deny, Deny, Lie, Lie and Lie Again)**

Note Second Sermon Closing Prayer: A prayer to keep you healthy

- Lord help me be focused, healthy, responsible, and able to respond to the success of others with maturity and no jealousy. I pray that I would completely and honestly respond to your instructions for my life even if it means I must give up things of great value. I understand that my actions can affect my family for generations. If I am wrong help me admit my failure, listen to correction, not forget where You brought me from, not lie about my level of obedience and may I never believe the ends justify the means. I must be Courageously Focused on these values if I want to be healthy.

II. One Thing Saul Could Never Keep In Focus, Obedience

Note: Saul had trouble with two issues - obedience and excuses. He would deny, deny, deny, lie, lie and lie again (See I Samuel 15). He was impatient and a man that was excuse-driven and disobedient most of his life. He had the potential to be a good king, but he surrendered to his temptations and never took full advantage of the opportunities God gave him.

III. The Tragic Results of Disobedience (You Become Disqualified)

1. Saul's Son Jonathan Attacks the Philistines

- 1 Samuel 13:1–15 (NKJV): 13 **Saul reigned one year**; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, 2 **Saul chose for himself three thousand men of Israel**. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in the mountains of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent away, every man to his tent. 3 And **Jonathan attacked the garrison of the Philistines** that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. Then Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, “Let the Hebrews hear!” 4 Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and that **Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines**. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

2. The Philistines Respond

- 5 Then the **Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude**. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven.

3. Israel Becomes Terrified

- 6 **When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits.** 7 **And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.** As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

4. Saul Panics and Becomes Disobedient (Do you panic when you are forced to wait?)

- 8 Then **he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal**; and the people were scattered from him. 9 So Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.” And he offered the burnt offering. 10 Now it happened, **as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came**; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him.

5. Saul Lies and Blames the People (Do you deny, deny, deny, and lie to yourself?)

- 11 And Samuel said, “What have you done?” Saul said, “**When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed**, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, 12 then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.”

6. Saul's Disobedience Puts a Time Limit On His Opportunities (What have you missed?)

- 13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For **now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.** 14 **But now your kingdom shall not continue.** The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.” 15 Then Samuel arose and went up from Gilgal to Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people present with him, about six hundred men.

Prayer: Lord help me be courageously focused on being obedient. May I trust you enough to not panic under pressure. I am committed to seeing my challenges as opportunities to grow and see your miraculous hand provide for me. I am convinced that you know where I need to go and how to get me there in a healthy way.

Next Time: Courageously Preparing for The End

Big Question: If you continue to live like you are currently living, what will your end of life look like?

Read Ahead: I Samuel 31

Book Suggestion: Necessary Endings by Dr. Henry Cloud