

“I HAVE PLAYED THE FOOL”
THE FALL OF KING SAUL

Introduction:

1. Saul stated the truth when he proclaimed, “I have played the fool.”
 2. By studying his mistakes, we may learn how not to act foolishly in our lives.
 3. Let us consider how Saul played the fool.
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- I. By Replacing Humility with Pride (9:21; 10:15-16, 21-22)
 - A. Initially, Saul was very humble when chosen to be King of Israel.
 - B. Samuel even said of him that he was “little in his own sight” (15:17).
 - C. Yet, Saul eventually began to think that his way was better than God’s way (13:8-14; 15:3-9).
 - D. Humility is essential to serving God (cf. Eph. 3:8; John 13:1-15).
 - E. Pride leads to destruction (Prov. 16:18; 18:12; 1 Pet. 5:5).

 - II. By Replacing Courage with Fear (11:11)
 - A. Initially, Saul was fearless in facing the enemies of God.
 - B. Later, he proved himself to be cowardly in battle (17:11).
 - C. God needs men and women of courage to stand for His Truth (2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 13:6).

 - III. By Replacing Self-Control with a Lack of Control (10:27)
 - A. Initially, Saul demonstrated discipline in his life.
 - B. Later, he became governed by his emotions and his own self-will (18:7-8; 20:30-34; 22).
 - C. By losing control of self, Saul lost control of the kingdom (Prov. 16:32; 25:28).
 - D. Controlling ourselves will keep us from falling (2 Pet. 1:5-11).

 - IV. By Blaming Others Instead of Taking Personal Responsibility (15:14-21)
 - A. Repentance demands a recognition of sin (cf. Acts 8:18-24).
 - B. Confession is an acknowledgement of sin (1 John 1:9).
 - C. As long as we blame others for our sins, we will never find forgiveness.

 - V. By Giving a “Religious” Reason for Disobedience (15:21-26)
 - A. Again, this is another attempt to excuse one’s sins.
 - B. God desires obedience from the heart (cf. Mark 7:6-13).

 - VI. By Not Appreciating Spiritual Influences (19:4-5)
 - A. Saul had loyal, influential friends in Samuel, David, and Jonathan.
 - B. Yet, he disregarded Samuel, hated David, and tried to kill his own son!
 - C. We should treasure, respect, and cultivate relationships that will influence us for good (cf. Matthew 5:13-16).

 - VII. By Not Keeping Righteous Resolutions (19:6; 26:21)
 - A. Saul was good at making promises, but poor at keeping his word.
 - B. We must hold to our good confession (1 Tim. 6:12-13).

1 Samuel 26:21

- VIII. By Not Acting upon Righteous Emotions (24:16-20; 26:25)
- A. When the heart is cut or the conscience is pricked, we must not ignore it (cf. Acts 2:37; 5:33; 7:54).
 - B. Instead, we should act in accordance with and in obedience to the Word of God (cf. 1 John 3:20-21).
- IX. By Embracing Error that Was Formerly Opposed (28:3, 9)
- A. Saul had done right by removing occult practices from the land.
 - B. However, as he rejected God, Saul sought out those very practices for himself (28:7, 15-18).
 - C. If we choose to fellowship the “unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11), we will lose the fellowship of God (2 John 9-11).
- X. By Expecting to Find Happiness in Sin
- A. As Saul drifted farther from God, he became more and more miserable.
 - B. There is no peace unto the wicked (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21).
 - C. Sin destroys and results in death (James 1:13-16).

Conclusion:

1. Do not play the fool by rejecting God for the “pleasures of sin for a season.”
2. May we learn from the mistakes of Saul.
3. Obey God and He will save you from sin.