

"A Pitiful, Pitiful Confession"

Text – 1 Samuel 13-15

Introduction: In the history of Israel as a unified nation, there were but three kings...Saul, David, & Solomon. Our text focuses on the first of these kings...SAUL.

Saul's background, rearing, rise to power and fame is unique and special in itself...CHOSEN, CALLED, & SELECTED out from all others for such a great privilege and honor.

But, by the time we get to 1 Sam. 15....he has stumbled, wandered, drifted, and even reached the point of rebellion against God. His own Impatience (in offering the sacrifice without waiting on Samuel), Pride (numbering the people), and Disobedience (here) have finally gotten the best of him.

Here in ch. 15, God would give Saul one more chance to prove himself...this time by utterly destroying the Amalekites, Israel's old enemies. But Saul did not obey the Lord, he kept the best spoils for himself and spared Agag, the king of the Amalekites.

God told Samuel what Saul had done and it burdened the old prophet so much that he prayed all night for Saul. Upon arriving at Saul's location, Samuel approaches him and the king lies to him and told him he HAD obeyed God's word...just about that time Saul's sins found him out, for the animals began to make noise. Once more Saul resorted to excuses but Samuel would have none of it...Samuel delivered the message that Saul was rejected and would forfeit the kingdom.

Saul had lost his early humility, become proud and arrogant, rebelled against God & His Word, tried to make up for disobedience with sacrifices, substituted "saying" for "doing", excuses for real confession, and was unwilling to face and judge his own sins....

Verse 30 reveals that Saul was more concerned about what the people thought than what God thought; he wanted a good reputation, but he did not want true character. Samuel worshiped with Saul, and then killed Agag as the Lord had commanded, but this was the last time Samuel walked with Saul. Saul had lost his best friend; he had lost the Lord's blessing; he had lost the kingdom. From now on, he would be on a dark, winding road that would end with him becoming a castaway and being slain by one of the very Amalekites he had refused to destroy (2 Sam. 1:13).

All he can do is offer a pitiful, pitiful confession, "I have sinned", which only proved to be a waste of time

How did this man ever get to this point???

Illustration: Recount episodes at home when an "apology" to Mom / Dad / Sister / Brother meant nothing when it was not coupled with a sincere desire to change!

Confession Without Repentance Is A Waste of Time...."I'm Sorry God but I have No Intention or Desire to Change!

"I Have Sinned"Pharaoh / Balaam / Achan / Saul / Judas / Job / Prodigal Son

How To Know If You're At This Point ... Symptoms of this Disorder:

1.You Belittle Obedience To God / God's Man / Parents

- a) Saul's Disobedience Does not Come From Compassion for others
- b) Saul's Disobedience Is Religious in Nature
- c) Saul's Disobedience Involves Others
- d) Saul's Disobedience Is Not Taken Seriously by Himself
- e) Saul's Disobedience Followed Only By Excuses
- f) Saul's Disobedience Cost him the Kingdom

2.You Believe Opinions Over Truth

- a) Especially your own "self-talk" as opposed to Scripture
- b) Your Opinions given more weight than God's Opinion

3.You Blame Others For Your Mistakes

NOTE: "I have performed the commandment of the LORD"-vs. 13

NOTE: "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD"-vs. 20

4.You Babble On About the Oracles of God

1. They have no real meaning or life-changing power in your life

Christian Gangster

In his book *I Surrender*, Patrick Morley writes that the church's integrity problem (O, and we definitely have one!) is in the misconception "that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin. It is a change in belief without a change in behavior." He goes on to say, "It is revival without reformation, without repentance."

The Christian community is so known for confession without repentance and one cynic wrote, "A Christian is a man who feels repentance on Sunday for what he did on Saturday and is going to do again on Monday."

J. Edwin Orr, the revivalist and historian, was with Billy Graham when the evangelist addressed a meeting in Beverly Hills attended by a very interesting guest. No, it wasn't the latest movie star, it was the notorious gangster, Mickey Cohen. Amazingly, Micky expressed an interest in Christ. Orr later wrote, "several of us talked with him, including Dr. Graham, but he made no commitment until sometime later when another friend urged him—with **Revelation 3:20** as a warrant—to invite Jesus Christ into his life."

Finally, he made a profession, but like so many people today, nothing in his life changed. There was no evidence of any repentance, so the friend that led him to the Lord confronted him. Mickey was offended. He told his friend, "You never told me I'd have to give up my work." By his work, he meant his illegal gangster activities. He said, "You did not tell me that I would have to give up my friends!" He meant his gangster associates.

"He had heard that so-and-so was a Christian cowboy, so-and-so was a Christian actress, so-and-so was a Christian senator, and he really thought he could be a Christian gangster.

"The fact is," said Orr, "repentance is the missing note in much (of our) modern evangelism."