**1 Samuel 13: Am I teachable?**

**13:1-4**

**1. Israel was a theocracy (government by divine guidance or by officials who are**

 **regarded as divinely guided). They had explicitly been promised that, if they**

 **obeyed, they would defeat their enemies – Dt. 28:7. Jonathon was a man of**

 **faith. He consistently believed and acted in accordance with that reality. Do we**

 **act on the promises God has given to us in the Church?**

**13:5-7**

**2. It is natural that we might have fears that arise from viewing things from a**

 **human viewpoint. However, those fears should melt before the reality of God**

 **and His Word. If God’s promises to Israel were true, there was no reason to**

 **fear.**

**13:8-10**

 **3. Saul had been told to wait (1 Sam. 10:8). When Samuel did not come, Saul grew impatient and sought God’s help by sinning in offering the sacrifice. 13:7-10**

**We never do things God’s way by doing things the wrong way. Saul also could have simply prayed, as Hannah did.**

**“As soon as he (Saul) had finished presenting the burnt offering…”; Saul could have waited. Few things are as challenging as waiting on the Lord. Assumptions are dangerous.**

**13:11-12**

**4. Saul continues to show a pattern of impatience and overreaction that appeared to be rooted in fear.**

 **It is never a good idea for our choices to be driven by our fears and overreactions.**

 **13:12 In the face of our sin, we should acknowledge them instead of excusing, blaming, or rationalizing. God wants us to come clean – Pr. 28:13**

 **Don’t excuse sin: “I was tired/ I was hungry/ I was irritated/I had a bad day/ We had an argument/ I was depressed/ She made me mad”.**

 **5. At times, the problems we see initially in our lives are not the real issues –**

 **Acts 8:23 (Simon); Heb. 12:15-16 (Esau)**

 **6. Follow-up: The complexity of our problems emphasizes the importance of**

 **being teachable and addressing issues in our lives – Lk. 10:38-42**

 **God often seems to allow stresses in the areas of our greatest need. Are we listening?**

 **Sin is enslaving. Some problems require in-depth work. Solutions don’t come easily so an open, teachable heart is critical. Pr. 1:20-33; Mt. 11:28- 30; “Lord Jesus, teach me” This is the cry of a disciple/student**

 **Lk. 14:25-33 – Are misplaced priorities keeping me from learning?**

 **7. God may do things quickly but He is never in a hurry.**

**1 Sam. 13:13-14**

**8. Eternal life is a free gift, but many rewards are contingent on our obedience**

**9. God desires people who are “after His heart”, people who will live before**

 **Him with integrity, seek Him, and obey Him.**

**10. This judgment is severe, but to whom much is given… Some acts of disobedience have more consequences than others.**

**As the chapter closes, the situation is worsening. Only God can deliver and He uses a man who acts on faith rather than a person who reacts to situations.**

**Are you a person after God’s heart?**