

Title: Is there not a cause?
Pastor: Lucille May
Date: 7 September 2008
Time: 17h30



1. Saul's failure: wrong decisions

a) **Presumption**

I Samuel 13:11-12

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."

b) **Clumsy, emotional decision**

I Samuel 14:24, 27,43-45

²⁴ And the men of Israel were distressed that day, for Saul had placed the people under oath, saying, "Cursed *is* the man who eats *any* food until evening, before I have taken vengeance on my enemies." So none of the people tasted food.

²⁷ But Jonathan had not heard his father charge the people with the oath; therefore he stretched out the end of the rod that *was* in his hand and dipped it in a honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his countenance brightened.

⁴³ Then Saul said to Jonathan, "Tell me what you have done." And Jonathan told him, and said, "I only tasted a little honey with the end of the rod that *was* in my hand. So now I must die!" ⁴⁴ Saul answered, "God do so and more also; for you shall surely die, Jonathan." ⁴⁵ But the people said to Saul, "Shall Jonathan die, who has accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! *As* the LORD lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God this day." So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.

c) **Semi-obedience**

I Samuel 15:24

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

d) **Self exaltation**

I Samuel 15:12

¹² So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself..."

2. David's success:

I Samuel 17:29b, 46

²⁹ *Is there* not a **cause**?

46 This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, **that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.**

3. Who am I?

Saul: king of Israel

David: representative of the God of Israel

4. **My goal?**

Saul: a monument for *men* to remember him

David: the knowledge of God to all nations.

5. **Result:**

Saul:

I Samuel 14:52a

⁵² Now there was fierce war with the Philistines all the days of Saul.

I Samuel 16:14

¹⁴ But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him.

David:

I Samuel 17:49

⁴⁹ Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung *it* and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

Psalm 91:2-4a

² I will say of the LORD, "*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." ³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge;

Psalm 91:14b-15

¹⁴ ...I will set him on high, because he has known My name. ¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.