**“KINGS COME AND KINGS GO!”**

**1 Samuel 13:1-14**

***Sermon Review***

*What was the Main Point of the Sermon from Sunday?*

*What part of the Sermon did you find to be the most beneficial?*

***SMALL GROUP LESSON***

* 1. What experience comes to mind when you think of endless waiting (or waiting so long that you feel like giving up)?
  2. What experience have you faced that proved to be a test of your character?

**1 Samuel 13:1-14 (NLT2)**   
1  Saul was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned for forty-two years.   
2  Saul selected 3,000 special troops from the army of Israel and sent the rest of the men home. He took 2,000 of the chosen men with him to Micmash and the hill country of Bethel. The other 1,000 went with Saul’s son Jonathan to Gibeah in the land of Benjamin. 3  Soon after this, Jonathan attacked and defeated the garrison of Philistines at Geba. The news spread quickly among the Philistines. So Saul blew the ram’s horn throughout the land, saying, “Hebrews, hear this! Rise up in revolt!”   
4  All Israel heard the news that Saul had destroyed the Philistine garrison at Geba and that the Philistines now hated the Israelites more than ever. So the entire Israelite army was summoned to join Saul at Gilgal. 5  The Philistines mustered a mighty army of 3,000 chariots, 6,000 charioteers, and as many warriors as the grains of sand on the seashore! They camped at Micmash east of Beth-aven. 6  The men of Israel saw what a tight spot they were in; and because they were hard pressed by the enemy, they tried to hide in caves, thickets, rocks, holes, and cisterns. 7  Some of them crossed the Jordan River and escaped into the land of Gad and Gilead. Meanwhile, Saul stayed at Gilgal, and his men were trembling with fear.   
8  Saul waited there seven days for Samuel, as Samuel had instructed him earlier, but Samuel still didn’t come. Saul realized that his troops were rapidly slipping away. 9  So he demanded, “Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings!” And Saul sacrificed the burnt offering himself. 10  Just as Saul was finishing with the burnt offering, Samuel arrived. Saul went out to meet and welcome him,   
11  but Samuel said, “What is this you have done?” Saul replied, “I saw my men scattering from me, and you didn’t arrive when you said you would, and the Philistines are at Micmash ready for battle. 12  So I said, ‘The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven’t even asked for the LORD’s help!’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came.” 13  “How foolish!” Samuel exclaimed. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. Had you kept it, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.   
14  But now your kingdom must end, for the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart. The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

***EXPLORE***

* + 1. How old was Saul when he was named king of Israel? ([13:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A1))

* + 1. What was Saul’s response to the Philistine threat? ([13:3-5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A3-5))
    2. What was the mood of Saul’s troops waiting at Gilgal? ([13:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A7))

* + 1. What circumstance prompted Saul to go ahead with the burnt offering? ([13:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A9))
    2. How did Samuel judge Saul’s action? ([13:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A13))
    3. What difference did Saul’s choice make? ([13:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Sa+13%3A13-14))

***APPLY***

* 1. Why was Saul particularly vulnerable to the temptation to take matters into his own hands?
  2. What rings true or false about Saul’s reasoning about needing God’s blessing before battle?
  3. What commands of God can become tests of our character?
  4. In what ways can people be motivated to face tremendous odds without resorting to simple self-preservation?
  5. What verse of Scripture could you post in a prominent place to remind you to wait for God’s timing rather than to take matters into your own hands?

**Additional Thoughts:**

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