

UNIT 3
1 SAMUEL 9–15

I/ Reading the Story of Saul

“He who seeking asses found a kingdom...” –John Milton

II/ Learning from the Story of Saul

➤ Providence

“God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform...” –William Cowper

➤ Faith

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” -Hebrews 11:6

“The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.” -Proverbs 29:25

“Faith apart from works is dead.” -James 2:26

➤ Obedience

Saul was never an out-and-out rebel against God. He always did most of what God commanded. Only on a few, seemingly minor occasions, did he substitute his own will for God's. And even then he had plausible, even pious, reasons for them. Most disobedience is like that - not absolute defiance, but a nibbling away at the edges of God's authority. —Eugene Peterson

➤ Grace

Though the people reject God, God doesn't reject them. He stays with them through the entire process, using his prophet Samuel both to interpret and carry out the action. Even though their agenda excludes God, God is silently, hiddenly there, sovereign in their agenda. It is not that easy to get rid of God... No evil, no sin in itself, can separate us from God's gracious mercy toward us. Nothing we do puts us outside the power of God's grace to forgive and reconcile. A thousand years later Jesus embodied what Samuel preached: Do not be afraid. Yes, you have sinned, but don't let your sin paralyze you with guilt; don't for a minute suppose that God has called it quits on you. It is God's business to save you, and God is not giving up. —Eugene Peterson