



## Lesson #8: Making Excuses (Saul)

I Samuel 13 offers us a unique picture of a leader making excuses for his wrong doings. Saul is identified in chapter 10 as a “\_\_\_\_\_” and in chapter 11 as a “\_\_\_\_\_,” but there is one office that Saul does not have – Saul is not a “\_\_\_\_\_.” He had no business offering an offering to God like he did in this text but the pressures had come up him and in the midst of the pressures Saul turns into a \_\_\_\_\_. Out of fear, panic, and simply not knowing what to do he did something that was clearly sinful. What made things even worse was when he began to make excuses for his wrong doing.

Has that ever happened to you? Rather than standing on the principles and promises of God’s Word, in the midst of the pressures you find yourself making excuses that allow you to do something that you know you shouldn’t do. Saul’s response is a classic example of excuse making. Line upon line, Saul made his situation worse with \_\_\_\_\_.

### GOD \_\_\_\_\_ MAKING EXCUSES

The curtain opens in verse 10 and the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ arrives on scene. He comes to confront the King for his wrong.

- A. The man of God questions very \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11)**  
There’s a rule that seems to be presented in Scripture – A \_\_\_\_\_ touches and stirs the conscience but an \_\_\_\_\_ hardens the will. Here we see Samuel rightly inquiring of Saul what had happened.
- B. The man of God confronts very \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)**  
“*Thou has done \_\_\_\_\_.*” That is a strong word for Samuel to use in reference to this newly appointed king. At this point in our text we need to break from our normal application to address something very important. Every time the servant of God is stirred by the Spirit of God to confront a person in their sin there is a \_\_\_\_\_.

### GOD REVEALS THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF MAKING EXCUSES

Saul offers 3 excuses in verse 11 that are all divided with the little word “\_\_\_\_\_.”

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ Excuses**  
Saul begins by blaming the \_\_\_\_\_. He is saying, “If everyone had stayed with me I would have stood.” But the Bible says in Exodus 23:2, “*Don’t follow a \_\_\_\_\_ to do \_\_\_\_\_.*”
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ Excuses**  
Having blamed the people Saul now blames the \_\_\_\_\_. “The people were scattered from me ... (and) you came not!” Saul has blamed the culture and now he asking for a \_\_\_\_\_ pass.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ Excuses**  
There were a lot of angry Philistines (30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen) coming down on Saul so he began to blame the \_\_\_\_\_. I did wrong because of the people around me! I did wrong because of my religious background! I did wrong because of this crazy trial! I don’t know, I just have to blame somebody!

### GOD SHOWS THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF MAKING EXCUSES

As a result of Saul’s sin and his excuses to try and cover it up God took the \_\_\_\_\_ away from him.

- A. Little matters have great \_\_\_\_\_**  
Giving an offering seemed like such a little matter. But Saul gave it the wrong way and he learned an important lesson – It’s the little things that cause us the greatest consequence. You will not see God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in your life until you take the little things seriously.
- B. Lacking in \_\_\_\_\_ has great consequence**  
There are many excuse makers who can put on the face and appear to be spiritual but all along they are simply using their false spirituality as a cloak to hide their sin.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Do you realize that God has overridden the laws of \_\_\_\_\_ but he has never overridden the commands of the laws of His oral \_\_\_\_\_? He is not going to look aside when you sin or give you a pass when you come up with a creative excuse. Your wrong choices will brings real consequences.