



~ A Famine of the Word ~

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD, “That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. – Amos 8:11

When God first anointed King Saul as Israel’s first king thru the prophet Samuel, His Spirit filled Saul to the point that his heart was actually changed. He came into close contact with God and received teaching on what was required of the Lord to be a commander over Israel. He saw the truth of God as they really were and accepted them wholly. When God calls us for His purpose, He always gives us exactly what we need to do the job before us.

But, in time God had to put the new leader under a test of character to ensure he could stand under trial and prove himself faithful to God and therefore trustworthy to lead God’s people. The first test was a call to simply wait for Samuel in Gilgal until he came to offer the sacrifice to the Lord and give instruction from God on what to do against the armies of the Philistines they were facing. Unfortunately, Saul did not keep his army encouraged in the Lord during this waiting period and many soldiers began defecting as they saw the vast Philistine army they faced.

Saul, feeling under pressure to do something since Samuel had delayed, acted presumptuously against the instruction given him and went ahead and sacrificed before the Lord which was also forbidden. Only those ordained for this service could do that. Right after he was done, Samuel showed up and saw that Saul had disobeyed. Samuel rebuked Saul’s behavior and instead of repenting and accepting correction, Saul made excuses for his actions and became resentful of what Samuel said to him.

But, God did not give up on him. He gave him another chance when He told Saul to gather the army against the Amalekites. He was told that EVERY man, woman, child, and livestock was to be killed. Everything was to be destroyed.

However, again Saul did not listen to the command given and because of pride did not kill the Amalekite king so that he could be paraded in front of Saul as a victory trophy when he returned home. The army also took for themselves the choicest of the livestock, but killed the rest. Their

excuse was they would sacrifice them to God as a thank offering for the mighty victory He gave them, but again that excuse came from a heart of greed. They thought to use those animals for sacrifice in place of their own at home.

Again, Samuel rebuked Saul and let him know that as a result of his actions, his kingdom would eventually be given to another family, from another tribe in the land. He had lost the kingship because he refused to listen to the spoken Word of God. Instead of repenting of his sin, he continued to harbor anger and resentment towards the reproof given. He rejected the very avenues God could use to reach him and as a result it cut him off from God. In vain, he tried to receive counsel from the Lord that it might go well with him, but it was never with a repentant heart. Eventually, it led him to consult a sorcerer for advice which was a direct counterfeit to God. His life ended in battle as he committed suicide so he would not die in enemy hands.

Saul's sad story is a lesson for us. When we close down our hearts to the spoken voice of God in our lives, when we ignore truth that God wants us to understand and follow, we begin to slowly ebb away our ability to hear God's Word to our hearts. We begin closing the avenues God has to be able to reach us. As events begin to unfold around us today, many people are running to and fro desperate to find answers and help. Unfortunately, many people reject the truth to their questions because it doesn't line up with what they want to hear.

When we are genuinely searching for truth to the questions we have, God will reveal it to us if we are willing to submit our own ideals for His. Anything less will leave us barren of His Word and rob us of our ability to hear Him when we need Him most. Seek the Lord today and ask Him to give you a humble heart and open ears that you might hear His Word and follow. His truth never fails.

Kimberly Mills

Elijah Road Ministries Devotionals

Daily tools of inspiration and hope for the journey home.