

Pastor Ron Case
12/14/14

“The Lock of Saul”

“And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets.” (Samuel 28:6)

“Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together.” (1 Samuel 31:6)

Stultifying Stubbornness

1 Samuel 15:23 – (22) “And Samuel said, ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. (23) For rebellion *is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness (to peck at) is as iniquity and idolatry.* Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being king.*” (KJV)

The Sad Analysis

Kings 17:6-14 – (6) “In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. (7) And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods (8) and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. (9) And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. (10) They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, (11) and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger, (12) and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, ‘You shall not do this.’ (13) Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, ‘Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.’ (14) **But they would not listen, but**

were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God.”

Key Point: Stubbornness Saps Spiritual Strength

Hope for the Stubborn

“Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.” (Deuteronomy 9:6)

Help for the Stubborn

“Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.” (Deuteronomy 10:16)

“because your [*King Josiah*] heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.” (2 Chronicles 34:27)

Hazard of the Stubborn

“He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.” (Proverbs 29:1)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Am I “pecking away” in a manner that is grievous to God?
(Heb. 3:12-14; Eph. 4:30)

How do I circumcise my heart in order to mitigate stubbornness?
(1 John 1:9; Heb. 4:12; Psalm 119:11; Heb. 10:24-25)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)