

King Saul's Disobedience

During the season of Lent, the theme of disobedience will be illustrated in many of our stories. These stories and discussion questions are meant to help us examine our own lives and the times we've disobeyed God. Disobedience to God is a sin. Sin separates us from God. God loved us so much that he sent His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us. If we follow Jesus, we will never be separated from God.

King Saul was the first king of Israel. He was chosen by God to lead the people of Israel. Samuel, the prophet of Israel, was told by the Lord that Saul was His choice.

When Samuel anointed and blessed Saul as king of Israel, he warned him: "Remember, Saul, if you want to be a good king and pleasing to God, you must be careful to obey His laws and keep the commandments."

"I promise," Saul vowed to Samuel. God was with King Saul as he led the people of Israel in battle against their enemies. These enemies did not believe in the one true God like the people of Israel did, but instead worshipped many false gods. King Saul tried to be a good king, and the people were very happy.

"Long live our king!" they said. "Praise our mighty King Saul. He has led us to victory!" they proclaimed.

"Saul is a great warrior! There has never been a man like him in all of Israel!" they cried.

But something seemed to happen to Saul when he heard all of this praise. He was so pleased with himself as king that he forgot it was God who had given him the victory. He started to rely more and more on himself, until God became displeased with him.

"I am the greatest king that ever ruled! Soon all of the land will be ours. I will defeat all of our enemies!" he exulted.

One day, Samuel told Saul to wait for him before going into battle. Samuel had instructed, "We will offer a sacrifice to the Lord before we fight. Then He will lead us to victory."

Saul became impatient and made his own sacrifice to the Lord, even though he was not a priest like Samuel. When Samuel arrived and saw the burnt offerings, he was very angry.

"Saul, you have acted in a way that is not pleasing to God," said Samuel. "Don't you know that God would rather have your obedience than your sacrifice?"

Samuel was so angry because Saul was thinking much more about himself than about God. His disobedience was a sign of his lack of love for God.

Another time, Samuel told Saul that the Lord was going to punish the wicked people of Amalek because of the way they had treated the people of Israel.

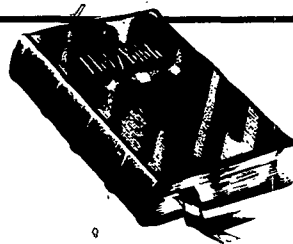
Samuel told Saul, "Go into the city of Amalek. You must destroy all the people and all of their possessions, because they are an evil people. Do not spare even the animals there."

So Saul went with his armies and destroyed the city. But again, he disobeyed God. He and the soldiers kept the best sheep, oxen and other animals for themselves.

The Lord told Samuel, "I am sorry that I made Saul king. He is disobedient and has not carried out my commandments."

Samuel went to meet King Saul on his return from Amalek. "Because you were disobedient, Saul, God has rejected you as the king of Israel," Samuel told him. "God had wanted to establish your kingdom forever, but now it will not last. Soon He will choose someone else to rule His people."

Saul was very sorry, but it was too late. He had lost the kingdom because of



The Bible Corner

Cindy Cottone

his disobedience.

Samuel returned to his own house and mourned for many days. He was sorry that Saul had sinned and would no longer be king. Samuel prayed to God and was answered.

"Samuel, it is time to stop mourning over Saul," God told him. "Go to the town of Bethlehem and visit a man named Jesse, for I have chosen a new king from among his sons."

Jesse was a good and faithful man. He called his sons together to give a sacrifice to the Lord with Samuel. Jesse had each one of his sons meet Samuel. Each time, Samuel thought, "Surely this is the man God has chosen to rule His people."

But God answered Samuel and said, "Do not judge Jesse's sons as a man would see them. You are looking too much at outward appearances. God sees what is in a man's heart."

Samuel said, "Jesse, you have shown me seven fine sons. Do you have any other children?"

"My youngest son, David, is out tending the sheep," Jesse replied.

"Please bring David here to me," Samuel requested.

David was a fine young boy. He was pleasing to God. God told Samuel that David was to be the new king of Israel. So Samuel anointed David and blessed him.

King Saul's mind became troubled and confused after that. His servants told him that an evil spirit had been sent by God.

"Perhaps if you find someone to play sweet music for you, it will soothe your mind," said one of them.

"There is a man named Jesse who is known to have a son, David, who is skilled at playing the harp," another servant said. "I am sure that his music will make you healthy."

"Bring this boy to me," King Saul commanded.

That is how David came to live with King Saul. Whenever Saul became ill, David played beautiful songs for him on the harp. Saul came to trust David and to love him like one of his own sons. He made David the king's armor-bearer.

For discussion:

1) What important advice did Samuel give to Saul when he anointed him as king of Israel?

2) Why did Saul become displeasing to God? What was the result of this sin?

3) Why was Saul's sacrifice unacceptable to God? What could Saul have given to God that would have pleased Him more?

4) Samuel went to Jesse's house in Bethlehem. He couldn't decide which one of Jesse's sons had been chosen to be the new king. Why? Do I sometimes judge other people in the same way?

5) When was the first time in the world that a man and woman disobeyed God? What was the result?

For further reading:

1) The story of King Saul's disobedience is found in the Old Testament in 1 Samuel, Chapters 13-17.

2) The first time that people disobeyed God is found in Genesis, Chapter 3. Read Genesis 3: 17-19. On Ash Wednesday when we receive ashes, some of these words are used. Find them in these verses.

Award for Nazareth Senior

Nazareth Academy senior Lynn M. Staropoli has been named winner of a 1986 Young American Award by the Otetiana Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Lynn is one of four students in Monroe County to receive this award.

Lynn was nominated by the administration of Nazareth Academy based on her achievements over the past four years, excellence in a particular field of study, scholastic standing, and community service. She is the daughter of Frank Staropoli of Yarmouth Drive, Rochester.

Nursing Open House

St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing plans an open house Monday, Feb. 17, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Dunn Memorial Building. Prospective students and their families are invited to tour the school and explore career options with faculty members and students. Information and help will also be available for people considering nursing

as a second or mid-life career.

Notre Dame Retreat

A retreat for women is planned Friday through Sunday, March 14-16, at the Notre Dame retreat house. For information and/or registration, call (716)394-5700.

Classifieds

To place a classified ad, call 454-7050 between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classified ads cost 50 cents a word with a \$7.50 minimum. If you mail your ad to us, you may enclose payment or include a billing address.

General

Card of Thanks 2
MANY THANKS to St. Jude for favor received.
SAINTS ANTHONY, Jude, thanks for many favors granted, prayers answered.
THANK YOU St. Jude, Holy Spirit for prayers answered. MJG
THANK YOU St. Jude, Holy Spirit for prayers answered. JD
THANKS to St. Jude and Sacred Heart for favors received. D.W.
THANKS St. Jude, Jesus, Blessed Mother, Guardian Angels, all Saints, Apostles for prayers answered

Personals 4
ADOPT - MAKE OUR DAY! We are longing to adopt newborn. Have love in abundance and secure home. Legal, Confidential. Expenses paid. Call (collect) (516)783-5483 (nyscan)
ADOPTION A family of two wish to be a family of three. We can provide a newborn with a loving and secure home and all of life's advantages. Confidential. Call collect anytime. (718)634-1434 (nyscan)
LOSE WEIGHT - New diet burns away up to 15 pounds in a week! No awful-tasting diet food or powdered drinks! Offer, details rush stamped, addressed envelope and 25¢ handling fee. MEDTECH, 666 MOUNTAIN BLVD, WATCHUNG, NJ 07069

Announcements 7
MORTGAGES WANTED If you took back a mortgage when selling your property and would like cash CALL Al Overacker 594-9267

Employment

Help Wanted 14
AGENTS looking for people to work in TV commercials. For information call (602)837-3410, Ext. 470.
FINANCIAL SERVICES Career opportunity. Background in law, accounting, finance or sales preferred. Ability to earn \$40,000 - \$50,000 in first year. Call Jon Spacher (716)955-4723. EOE
GOVERNMENT JOBS \$16,040 - \$59,230/yr. Now Hiring. Call 1-805-687-6000 Ext. R-1467 for current federal list.
NEED EXTRA MONEY? Earn money at home. Flexible hours. Limited sales positions available. 34¢ video exchange program. Top Videos, all ratings. (315)686-2209 (nyscan)
TYPISTS - \$500 weekly at home! Write P.O. Box 975, Elizabeth NJ 07207
WANTED 15 people who want to lose weight and make money. Call Peggy, 381-1788

Need 11 Reliable People
Car and phone to work 15 flexible hours. Earn \$7.50/hour. Call, 398-2885

\$60.00/Hundred, Securing-Stuffing Envelopes Offer - For Details: Rush Stamped Self Addressed Envelope to: Imperial - PN850x17410, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33318

Knights of Columbus is looking for an individual to service the Greater Rochester area. Leads provided. Salary, expenses, benefits pension. Sales experience preferred.
Call Collect: (315) 451-7223

Situations Wanted 15

BABYSITTING in my home (Lyle-Mt. Read area). Infants up. 22 years experience, very good references, reasonable. 254-7461

Business Opportunities 16

EARN up to \$5,000/month as a Real Estate foreclosure representative. No license and no experience necessary. National company offers complete assistance. Call (213)459-8431 (nyscan)

Buy/Sell-General

Pets/Supplies 31

DO YOU HAVE A PET that needs a home? The Courier-Journal will print your ad for \$2.00. Be humane - give someone a chance to care for your fuzzy friend! Call the C.J. at 454-7050 to place your ad.

SNOWDEN HILL KENNELS Champion sired black, yellow, chocolate Labrador Retriever puppies. Field show, obedience lines. Guaranteed. \$400. 3094 Snowden Hill Rd., Sauguit, NY 13456 (315)737-9486 (nyscan)

Sporting Goods 33

NEW SNOWMOBILE and utility trailers. Sizes 48" x 6' long; 60" x 8'; 64" x 8'; 90" x 8'; 93" x 8', starting at \$320.00. Dealer inquiries invited. DON GEORGE'S SPORTS CENTER, Clarence NY 759-6873 (nyscan)

Wanted To Buy 37

FURS: Any kind, good condition. cash. Connie's, 544-3331 Tues. thru Sat., 11-6.

Household Goods

Household Sales 41

HOME SWEET HOME. Estate & Household Sales. 10 years' experience; free estimates. We also buy accumulations. Nancy Flaherty, 533-1746

Property

Resort Property for Sale 49

LAKE PLACID MOTEL. Health reasons. Thirteen clean, modern units. Spacious living quarters, pool, one acre. Terms with \$85,000 down - \$260,000. Phil Thayer, Lake Placid Real Estate, 159 Main St. Lake Placid, NY 12946. (518) 523-4404 (nyscan)

Homes for Sale 51

GOVERNMENT HOMES from \$1. (U repair). Also delinquent tax property. Call 1-805-687-6000 Ext. GH-1467 for information.

Condos/Townhouses for Rent 54

HILTON HEAD SC Condo for rent by owner, reasonable rates, great location, 1,2,3 bedroom. Call (716)624-3126 or (716)385-5540 collect.

Uprn. Apartments for Rent 58

NORTHEAST. One-bedroom apartment. Mature woman preferred. \$250. includes heat. 288-9306 (4:30-8:30)
ONE BEDROOM apartment. Dewey-Lyell area. Private entrance, garage, no pets, security. \$300 plus. 254-7959

Services

Driveways 92

DON WARNER BLACKTOP, sealcoating. Driveways, parking areas. Free estimates. 24 years' experience. 254-7461 or 458-1357.

Income Tax Services 103

VERY REASONABLE. Free estimate. Hours 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily (in your home if desired). Anthony Cimino, 458-8542

Painting/Papering 113

EXTRA CARE taken by a lady painter and paper hanger. Free estimates after 4:00. 244-1892
PAINTING & PAPERHANGING. textured-swirl ceilings. Free estimates, quality work. Dan Burgmaster, 663-0827

C & F Painting & Wallpapering

Quality Workmanship and materials. Neat dependable service. Free Estimates. 671-4119 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.) or 265-9515

Plumbing 116

ACCU-PLUMBING Service Today! Free estimates, senior citizen discount. John Viele, 342-0916. Near Ridge Rd.

Roofing/Gutters 121

GUTTER CLEANING \$24.95. Fully insured, friendly service. Call 533-2260 or 334-0701

Snow Plowing 124

D & D Maintenance

Snow Plowing - Interior & Exterior Painting Electrical Plumbing Catpentry Roofing Free Estimates 663-8989

Weight Loss 130

SPRING INTO SHAPE with the #1 weight control program as seen regularly on cable TV. Call Sue at 223-4668

Special Maintenance 136

PIANO TUNING

Repairing, Rebuilding, & Appraising Also sell used pianos. Call. Rosenberg Piano Service 865-2585