

Consequences (1 Samuel 31:1-13 & Mark 9:42-48 & Galatians 6:7-10)

24-Nov-19

There are **Bibles** in front of you

This is our **final look** at *1 Samuel - the final chapter 31* - and we'll also be referring to the **Mark 9 passage and the Galatians passage**

There's the usual **outline** for you to **take notes** - if that helps you **concentrate**.

Let me ask **God** for His **help** and **guidance** first - let's **pray**...

Intro

This **morning/evening** we are looking at **consequences**

So, we'd better **define** consequences

[PowerPoint 1-Defintion]

A result or effect of our actions - that is usually unwelcome or unpleasant

For **example**

[PowerPoint 1b-Examples]

- Put your **hand** in a **fire** = your **hand** will get **burnt**
- **Jumping** out of a plane **without** a **parachute** = certain **death**
- If you **buy a computer** you will **waste many hours** of your life trying to work out the **problems, they bring**
- Me singing "**Love is in the air**" by John Paul Young - will cause **Heather** to **freak out**

(pause)

In 1 Samuel **chapter 31** - there are **consequences for Saul**

But before we look at the consequences for Saul - let's **remind** ourselves of

Saul's mission

[PowerPoint 2-Saul's mission]

Saul's mission back in 1 Samuel 9:16 - God said - "...Anoint him [Saul] ruler over my people Israel; he will **deliver them from the hand of the Philistines**. I have looked on my people, for their cry has reached me."

Saul began his kingship well - he **defeated** the **Ammonites** (chapter 11) and **defeated** the **Philistines** (in chapter 14)

[PowerPoint 3-Saul's failure]

But **Saul didn't** always **obey God**

- He **failed to inquire** of the **Lord**
- He **failed to fully obey God** - especially when God told him to **get rid of** the wicked **Amalekites** (chapter 15)

And, Saul contributed to his own downfall

- By **not always following God**
- By **not saying sorry to God** -
- By **not repenting**
- By his **jealous** obsession against David
- And by his **refusal to accept** that **God had rejected him as king**

[PowerPoint 3b-Consequences]

- So, in 1 **Samuel 16:14** the **consequences** of Saul's **disobedience** began when it says - "Now the **Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul** and

an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him" - God allowed an evil Spirit to plague Saul

- If we have a problem with God doing that
- Let's **not forget** the **2nd Commandment** - for I, the LORD your God, am a **jealous** God... (Exodus 20:5)
- And let's not forget that - It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:31)
- Saul **might look** like the **best option** for a king - being **strong & brave** - and **head & shoulders taller** than everyone else
- But remember the **Lord** does not **judge** by **outward appearances** but by **the heart** (1 Samuel 16:7)
- Israel had asked for a king like the other nations (1 Samuel 8:19-20) - but Saul was a king too much like the kings of the other nations and not a godly king and not a man after God's own heart like David (1 Samuel 13:14)

[PowerPoint 3c-deliver]

- So, God had given a prophecy to Saul - in 1 Samuel 28:19 - "The LORD will deliver both Israel and you [Saul] into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons will be with me. The LORD will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines."

So, as we hit 1 Samuel 31 - let's see what the Consequences are for Saul's disobedience against God...

1. Consequences of Disobedience (1 Sam 31:1-13)

The consequences of Saul's disobedience are many...

[PowerPoint 4-Consequences]

- **He doesn't have David and his men fighting** for him - and they proved last week more than capable even when outnumbered
- **Saul's sons** - Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua are **killed**
- **Saul is wounded critically** - and wants his armour bearer to run him through - but the **armour bearer can't run Saul through** - because Saul is his king and **God's anointed one**
- **Saul falls on his own sword** and dies
- The **armour bearer falls on his sword** and dies too
- **All Saul's fighting men are killed**
- The rest of the **Israelites** along the Jordan valley and on the eastern side of the River Jordan also **fled** - and the **Philistines took over their land**
- The **Philistines gloat** - and strip the dead
- They **behead Saul** - take his **armour** as a **trophy** - and take it to the **temple of the Ashtoreths (goddesses)** - to prove "their Philistine gods and goddesses are better than Israel's God" - instead of realizing God allowed it to happen
- They fasten **Saul's headless body to the wall at Bethshan** (which means house of Ease) - as a **trophy** - and to **shame Israel** - and to set an **example** to scare the remaining Israelites

- The people of Jabesh Gilead (they remember Saul's victory in 1 Sam 11 and see him as a hero) - they **give** him a **decent burial** under a sacred tamarisk tree - and out of respect they mourn 7 days

Lots of consequences for Saul's disobedience against God

[PowerPoint 5-Consequences]

There are consequences for our disobedience against God too:

Romans 3:23 says: for **all have sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 says: the **wages** of sin is **death**,

[PowerPoint 6-Separation]

Physical death - we **all die** one day

And **spiritual** death - our disobedience **separates** us from God and has us in a **broken** relationship

As the prophet Isaiah says in Isaiah 59:2

But your sins have **separated** you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you...

Yet many people want to believe that God is so "loving" that He will **overlook** our "little faults," and "lapses" and "indiscretions." Little **white lies**, **cheating** on the **tax return** or **fiddling insurance claims**, taking that **pen** when no one is looking, or **secretly viewing pornography**—these are offences, not worthy of death, right?

The problem is, sin is sin, big or small.

Though God loves us, His holiness is such that He cannot live with evil.

The prophet Habakkuk describes God this way: "Your eyes [God] are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing" ([Habakkuk 1:13](#)).

God does not ignore our sin. On the contrary God says, "you may be sure that your sin will find you out" ([Numbers 32:23](#)).

Even those secret sins we hide in the recesses of our hearts will one day be brought to light: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" ([Hebrews 4:13](#)).

Which brings us to the second point and our Galatians passage - chapter 6 - verses 7 to 10 - We reap what we sow...

[Please turn to Galatians 6:7-10]

2 We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-10)

[PowerPoint 7-Reap]

In farming terms - if we **sow** or plant **tomato seeds** - they won't produce **carrots** - they'll produce **tomatoes** - we **reap what we sow**

The Apostle Paul makes it abundantly clear - sin works the same way - and has clear consequences, he says in v7 - "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows"

Paul then describes the end of those who indulge in sinful behavior: "The one who sows to please their flesh (their sinful nature), from the flesh (sinful nature) will reap destruction" ([Galatians 6:8](#)). The phrase "flesh or sinful nature" refers to our unchanged, unregenerate, shameless self. Though the

flesh may promise fulfillment and satisfaction, it can result in nothing but "destruction."

Whereas Paul says in v8 - [But the one who sows to please the Spirit will repeat eternal life](#)

Paul told the believers in Galatia that ["the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in **conflict** with each other . . ."](#) ([Galatians 5:17](#)). Then he lists the sordid works of the sin nature and specifies the ultimate consequence of such behavior: ["Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God"](#) (see [Galatians 5:19-21](#)). Those who live lives full of sin sow the seeds of destruction in their present-day life and forfeit any hope of eternal life = **Hell**

One of the consequences of sin, therefore, is more sin. There's an insatiable "lust for more," because our consciences become dull and lead to a blindness to spiritual truth ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)).

The consequence of suppressing the truth of God and disobeying Him - is that God gives the sinner over to ["the sinful desires of their hearts," "shameful lusts" and "a depraved mind"](#) ([Romans 1:24, 26, 28](#)). This means that God may allow the sinner to serve as their own god and to reap the destruction of their body and soul. It is a fearful thing to be "given over" to our own destructive ways.

So, applying this idea - that we reap what we sow, to our lives today

Here's some applications:

If we sow **unforgiveness**

- Our minds are consumed with negative thoughts
- We will be bitter
- And God will not forgive us - if we don't forgive others

If we sow **jealousy**

- It consumes our thinking
- We always desire more
- We are never satisfied with what we have
- The things or people we want - become more important than God = idolatry

If we sow **anger**

- It changes our thinking to be negative
- It can lead to violence
- It destroys our relationships
- People won't want to be around us
- It leads to murdering people in our hearts (Matthew 5:21-22)

If we sow **lying**

- It affects our relationships with others
- We gain a bad reputation
- Others will not trust us

- We will be speaking Satan's native language (John 8:44)

If we sow **pride** [pride's not always a bad thing] - but if we sow pride - and have tickets on ourselves

- People won't want to be around us
- Our relationships are all about us
- God opposes the proud and shows favour to the humble (James 4:6)

If we sow **pornography**

- It changes normal brain activity
- It negatively affects our relationship with our husband/wife/girlfriend/boyfriend
- It is addictive

If we sow **gluttony**

- It leads to high blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Heart disease
- It leads to stress on our knees and joints
- It can lead to diabetes
- Remember our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)

If we sow **alcohol abuse**

- It leads to liver damage

- Impaired memory
- Impaired judgment
- Can cause problems in our relationships
- Can affect our work
- Can lead to addiction

Maybe some of these examples apply to you - or to someone you know

(pause)

We reap what we sow...

So far, all we've done is said there are **consequences** for our sin and **we reap what we sow**

All very **negative** and **depressing**

So, what should our **response** be

That's our **third point**

Our response is - from **Mark 9:42-48**

If you'd like to **turn there now...**

3. Our response (Mark 9:42-48)

This is quite a **challenge**

[PowerPoint 8a-Cut it out]

Jesus tells us **our response to sin**

If your **hand** causes you to **sin** - cut it **off**

If your **foot** causes you to **sin** - cut it **off**

If your **eye** causes you to **sin** - cut it **out**

Now Jesus is **not** talking **literally** here

But He's saying - we need to **examine our lives** - and **cut out sin in our lives**

Let's be honest we ourselves this morning/evening - what sin do we have in our lives right now - that needs to be cut out?

Jesus' point is - we need to **repent** [turn to Jesus - admit our sin and say sorry] - **or face Hell?**

Those who habitually live their lives outside of a relationship with Jesus, yet whose hearts have been convicted by the message of Christ, should follow the example of the first converts of the church: "They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" The answer was simple yet profound: "Repent!" ([Acts 2:37-38](#)).

[PowerPoint 8b-Repent]

Jesus' first words when He began His ministry were, "The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" ([Mark 1:15](#)).

What is the good news? "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" ([John 3:16](#)).

[PowerPoint 9-Rom 6:23]

The Good News is that the verse in Romans 6:23 - which we had earlier - which says - **the wages of sin is death** - has a BUT in - **but "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"** (Romans 6:23).

The **Gift** of God is **Jesus** - and **His death** - and **His resurrection**

When we compare **Jesus' death** to **Saul's death**

- **Saul's death** led to **everyone** with him **dying**
- Whereas with **Jesus' death** - **all can live** - **IF** - **they care to believe** in Him

In 1 John 1:9 - The Apostle John promises

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

[Altar Call]

Conclusion

So, to finish up then

As we leave here this morning/evening

Just remember this:

[PowerPoint 10a-Saul]

Saul's sin had **consequences** - a **broken relationship** with God and **death**

[PowerPoint 10b-Us]

Our sin has **eternal (forever) consequences** - a **broken relationship** with God and **death (physical and spiritual** - separated from God forever)

[PowerPoint 10c-U5

BUT - Jesus' death and resurrection - removes those **eternal consequences** - our broken **relationship** with God is **restored** thru Jesus taking our punishment and giving us **forgiveness** - and **our death is removed** - thru Jesus resurrection - giving us **everlasting life with Him** - IF we believe

That's surely - **Good News worth sharing** - with everyone we come across - isn't it?

Let's pray...