

Facing Crisis
Prophetic Living – Part 5
Life Church St. Louis – March 29, 2020
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker
Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

James 1:2 (ESV) Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

James 1:3-4 (ESV) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

1. Follow God in crisis

1 Samuel 13:2 (ESV) Saul chose three thousand men of Israel. Two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin. The rest of the people he sent home, every man to his tent.

1A. Don't give in to fear

1 Samuel 13:5-7 (ESV) And the Philistines mustered to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen and troops like the sand on the seashore in multitude. ... When the men of Israel saw that they were in trouble (for the people were hard pressed), the people hid themselves ... Saul was still at Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

1B. Don't disobey God's command

1 Samuel 13:8-9 (ESV) He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering.

1 Samuel 13:13-14a (ESV) And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the LORD your God, with which he commanded you. For then the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue.

2. Follow God in victory

1 Samuel 15:3 (ESV) Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."

2A. Don't be prideful in success

1 Samuel 15:4 (ESV) So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah.

2B. Don't take what is God's

1 Samuel 15:9 (ESV) But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

3. Follow God in humility

1 Samuel 15:12 (ESV) And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, "Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal."

3A. Don't justify your sin

1 Samuel 15:19-21 (ESV) Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?" And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. ... But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."

3B. Obedience is better than sacrifice

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (ESV) 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. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

Action Plan for This Week

- Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read 1 Samuel 13-15).
 - Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun
 - Invite a friend to watch the service online next week.
 - How will I obey God's Word this week? _____
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Facing Crisis Study Guide
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Intro. What is our normal reaction to trials in life?

Intro. How does God's Word instruct us to respond to trials (James 1:2)?

Intro. How can we have joy when trials are testing our faith (James 1:3-4)?

Intro. How is the Coronavirus crisis testing our faith?

1A. In what ways is lack of resources often the cause of crisis (1 Samuel 13:2)?

1B. What effect do you think the reaction of the people to the Philistine threat have on Saul (1 Samuel 13:5-7)?

1C. Why do you think that Saul disobeyed God's command (1 Samuel 10:8, 13:8-9)?

1D. How can fear in our own lives cause us to disobey God in times of crisis?

2A. Why did God command the complete destruction of the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:2-3, Deuteronomy 25:17-19)?

2B. How could God's blessing of Saul lead to pride in his life (1 Samuel 15:4)?

2C. Why do you think that Saul did not completely obey the Lord (1 Samuel 15:9)?

2D. How can pride lead to disobedience in our lives?

3A. After his victory, how should Saul have celebrated (1 Samuel 15:12)?

3B. In what ways did Saul minimize and try to justify his sin (1 Samuel 15:19-21)?

3C. Why is obedience better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22)?

3D. How is rebellion like divination and presumption like idolatry (1 Samuel 15:23)?

3E. Why is partial obedience disobedience to God?

3F. How might we be tempted in times of crisis to only partially obey?