

MESSAGE # 3: IMPULSIVE AND INCONSISTENT IN HIS JUDGMENTS

Biblical Passages: 1 Samuel 14

I. Introducing the Subject:

That none of us happen to be consistent in all things at all times is not secret so we are not going to blame Saul for a weakness that is often observed among us. We are going to note that in combination with other things it is a contributing factor of considerable weight. It is, in my view, not always easy to know when to decide or to do things...if we wait too long the opportunity passes and if we act too soon we may make a complete blunder---so we have to act and in good season. But many of Saul's actions are outside the bounds of reasonability and are "spur of the moment" that do not work for the success of the total project. Spiritual effectiveness does not hinge on one point, of course, but each item in consideration is vital. Saul's decrees in this chapter show a loss of thinking and an unreasonable approach to the battle situation in which he was set.

II. Discussion: This matter is shown in the following points observed in his conduct.

A. Lack of consideration for others.

In the opening of the chapter we read of the gallantry and success of Jonathan and his armor bearer and how their actions led to a great victory for Israel. But in vs 24 we read of an impulsive decision given by Saul beforehand that really put the whole campaign in jeopardy...an unnecessary oath against eating, etc., until all was completed. Jonathan in verses 28-29 points out to his father how his eating of a little honey made him more competent in battle and how the people would have been able to have won a greater victory if they had taken some nourishment. Things the king did not think of were to work against his victory.

B. Unwillingness to admit fault...Saul stayed with his initial decree.

In verse 44 he is willing to put Jonathan to death for his eating of a dab of honey...but the camp will not allow it. Saul is