

“DEPARTURE POINT”

1 Sam 15:17-23

Train derailments – due to speed/track breakage. The departure point is where the train began to go off the rails. Saul: The departure point of his life/ministry was his attitude towards leadership.

I. NEEDING LEADERSHIP

A. God has planned for destiny to be connected to leadership

1. No one finds the complete will of God by themselves: God works in our lives through a man of God
a. Josh 1:6 ...for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them.
2. **He does this to humble us:** We crave independence – but God only helps us through others
3. **He does this to help us:** A man of God locates you/rescues you/helps you find the will of God for your life/trains you/guides you...
 - a. You find destiny – enter destiny only through a man of God
 1. **1 Samuel 10:1** Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"

B. So a wise strategy is to take advantage of leadership/a man of God in your life

1. Recognize your need 2. Connect yourself with 3. Seek the wisdom of

II. DESPISING LEADERSHIP

A. Internal factors: It's clear Saul had rejection issues/identity issues

1. Hiding in the baggage – afraid of Samuel's word/afraid to do what God called him to do
2. Rejection/identity issues causes us to see leadership incorrectly
 - a. We avoid/we fear/we fail to seek wisdom...*I don't want to be a bother*

B. Success:

1. It is often easier to recognize our need of headship before we are successful
 - a. When we have no direction b. When we have no confidence c. When we are in crisis
 1. **1 Samuel 15:17** So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"
2. But success has a way of changing our perspective
 - a. Now we do know what we should do b. Success can give us confidence c. We are no longer in crisis
3. Success makes us think we no longer need connection or instruction
4. Success makes us think we know better
 - a. Look how successful I am – forgetting how we learned that!

C. Mistrust:

1. Life will bring situations that cause you to doubt headship
 - a. Can be based on a flaw: If he has one area – I can't trust anything!
 - b. Can be based on a limited perspective
 1. **1 Samuel 13:8** Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.
 - a. I don't like what's happening b. I don't see why he is doing this...
2. So we start to view our leaders differently: *It's not fair – he doesn't care – he can't be trusted*
 - a. **1 Samuel 15:27** And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.

D. This can bring destruction in our lives

1. Saul's destiny changed when he despised headship
 - a. **1 Samuel 15:23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."
 1. It can open the door to rebellion – a twisting of our heart/spirit

III. CHOOSING LEADERSHIP

A. Our attitude towards headship is internal

1. It doesn't work to tell someone they don't value leadership: *It has to come from within*
2. We have to examine our own hearts
 - a. Am I seeking connection/seeking wisdom? b. Do I have unhealthy heart attitudes of rejection/pride/bitterness?
3. We have to trust God's plans: He planned for me to need leadership
4. We have to value and trust headship over time
 - a. I don't outgrow my need b. I see the wisdom over time – I may not have seen before