

The Sunday School Lesson

by John R. Brayboy, Salem Missionary Baptist Church

The Consequences of Disobedience (I Samuel 13:5-14)

- I. The Philistines Threat (I Samuel 13:5-7)
- II. Saul's Disobedience (I Samuel 13:8-10)
- III. Samuel's Condemnation (I Samuel 13:11-14)

I. The Philistines Threat (I Samuel 13:5-7)
In last week's lesson, we found that God had called Saul to be king over Israel. Samuel anointed Saul and the people were happy to have him as their king. Saul organized a standing army of 3000 men. Part of that army he put in his son, Jonathan's charge. Jonathan and his army attacked the Philistines and was victorious over them. This upset the Philistines and they planned to get revenge for their defeat.

The Philistines gathered their army at Michmash, with thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand. When the men of Israel saw what was happening, they were gripped with fear and began to run and hide. Some of them even left the land that God had given them.

When people become disobedient to God and want to trust in man, then when they are faced with great odds, they are faced with fear. Israel was out of the will of God because they had insisted on having a king. So God allowed it to be. Remember: God knows what we need and what is best for us. When we insist on things that are not in God's will, and we are allowed to have them, we will have to face the consequences of our self-willed desires. The desire of every Christian ought to be to do the will of God. Romans 12:1 says "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable before God, for this is your reasonable service."

Gov. Proclaims November as Indian Heritage Month

Governor James B. Hunt Jr. has proclaimed November as Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina, urging North Carolinians to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by these native inhabitants of North Carolina.

The kick-off event for the month's many planned activities will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, near Murfreesboro during the Meherrin Indian powwow to be held Oct. 21-23. The kick-off will begin on Oct. 22 with a parade starting at 10 a.m. in downtown Winton. During the afternoon and through the evening, traditional and fancy Indian dancing, singing, arts and crafts demonstrations, traders, Indian food and educational activities will be featured.

In his proclamation, Governor Hunt notes that American Indians have inhabited North Carolina for over 10,000 years and have played an important role in the state's history.

"The agricultural, medicinal and cultural contributions of American Indians continue to be rich resources of the Tar Heel State," Hunt said in the proclamation.

For what God has done for us, we need to totally serve him.

II. Saul's Disobedience (I Samuel 13:8-10)

Saul was at Gilgal preparing for the battle with the Philistines and Samuel had told him to wait seven days and he would be back. Saul's army was dwindling, and Samuel had not showed up, so Saul began to get nervous. Saul did like many of us do today, he decided to take matters into his own hands. The first mistake that people make is to stop following God and making their own decisions. Many times we have a problem with waiting upon the Lord. Most of the time we try to work out our problems without God's help. What happens is that we make a bigger mess out of it, then we decide we can't handle the situation, so we give it to God. Many times we suffer undue hardships because we do not cast our cares upon Jesus. Let's keep in mind that God called Saul to the king over Israel. He did not call him into the priesthood. Saul was a political leader whose task was to defend and to keep law and order in Israel. Things were not looking good for Saul and Israel. Samuel had not showed up when Saul thought he ought to and the Philistines were moving closer. Rash situations sometimes call for rash decisions. These are decisions that are not always wise, especially when we leave God out of the decision making. Saul decided since Samuel had not showed up that he would offer a sacrifice to God. He failed to obey God and wait for Samuel. II Samuel 15:9 says "To obey is better than sacrifice." Sometimes we may do things that are displeasing to God when we are in a bad situation, trying to get his smile of approval on our actions to get us out of the situation. Saul, it seems, was faced with disaster, so he decided he needed to take matters into his own hands. Saul offered a

burnt offering and a peace offering. God had set the priesthood aside for the tribe of Levi, and Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin. So for Saul to offer a sacrifice was a definite wrong move. As Saul finished the sacrifice, Samuel came up and Saul met him and saluted him. Saul acted as if there was not anything wrong with what he had just done. I believe that the conscience of many Christians today has been seared because of being disobedient so long that they think that wrong things they do are pleasing to God.

III. Samuel's Condemnation (I Samuel 13:11-14)

Samuel questioned Saul about what he had done. Saul said that the people were forsaking him and the Philistines were moving in, so he decided to make supplication to the Lord. Notice that Saul said he forced himself to offer a burnt offering. Saul knew that he was wrong, but like many people who do wrong, they offer excuses to justify their actions. The problem with doing wrong is facing the consequences that follow. Sin had a payday and sin will collect on its debt. Saul's disobedience cost him and the nation Israel. The judgment for his sin was that the Kingdom would be taken from him. God had already revealed to Samuel that he had a man after his own heart to take Saul's place. We will learn later that David was the man.

I urge you Christian brethren to seek the will of God in your life. Do not allow disobedience to cause grave consequences in your life. People have lost loved ones, and people have gone to hell because of disobedience and failure to repent disobedience. To the lost, I urge you to come to Jesus now. Repent of your sins or face the consequences of eternity in hell, separated from God.

God bless you until next week. Pray for us.

Pembroke Housing Receives Grant

The Pembroke Housing Authority has been awarded \$190,000 by the United States Department of Housing and the Urban Development (HUD) under the Comprehensive Improvement Assistance Program (CIAP). The CIAP targets housing authorities with fewer than 250 units.

Lemarr Harris, Executive Director, states that "Pembroke Housing Authority is pleased to be awarded these funds. Considering the amount of competition among small authorities, we are very fortunate to receive this grant. During recent years, the amount of appropriations for the CIAP has decreased while the demand for funding has increased. Such a trend dictates the competitive nature of these grants."

The Authority will use this grant to meet the Section 504 modernization goals mandated by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Bazaar to be held Nov. 19

West Robeson United Methodist Women will sponsor a Christmas Crafts and Collectibles Bazaar on Saturday, November 19, 1994 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The event will be held in the church fellowship hall. There will be a variety of crafts and collectibles for sale, along with a bake sale, refreshments and entertainment. Hourly door prizes will be given and a drawing held for a quilt with quilt rack.

The church is located on Hwy 74, east of Maxton, in the White Hill community. For more information or to reserve a space call Elizabeth Marshall at 844-5192 or contact Beneva Jones.

Health Clipboard

by Robert M. Childs, M.D.

Hello! I will soon be in Tahiti, Oklahoma.

Decisiveness Yields Healthier Choices

Women ought to be experts on decision making—they do it all the time. Women make countless decisions every day on issues as diverse as life itself, from career planning to parenting, from housekeeping to health care, both themselves and for others.

Women have different styles of decision making. Some handle the decision making role with confidence and a feeling of decisiveness or control. For others decision making can be a frustrating or uncomfortable emotional challenge. Women generally place a high value on relationships, and it's difficult to balance conflicting demands, to be fair, wise and to make the "right" choice often on behalf of children or aging family members.

When confronted with the need to make a decision regarding breast cancer treatment, women in one study generally responded by naturally gravitating toward one of three decision making "styles."

"The 'deferrer' opted for an expert's opinion or advice.

"The 'delayer' considered at least two options, but only superficially, generally choosing the most popular option.

"The 'deliberator' expressed personal responsibility for making a quality decision and took charge in a more deliberate and purposeful way than the others. Clearly, decisiveness is half attitude and half action. The attitude is built of self-confidence and knowledge of the issue in question. The action is one that's been carefully considered and taken by choice. Decisiveness doesn't guarantee perfection, but rather, growth and progress. It empowers a woman by strengthening her position in a situation that involves or affects her.

by allowing her to resolve conflict and to move constructively beyond it. Decisiveness is an asset in every facet of a woman's life.

*Approaching personal and family health care issues;

*Making career choices or work place decisions;

*Setting consistent standards and responses as a parent;

*Establishing realistic expectations within family, work and other relationships.

*Encouraging self improvement and personal growth.

Just as physical exercise builds body strength and stamina, there are strategies which can strengthen a woman's decision making skills and the self confidence needed to take necessary action.

Studies suggest that some techniques effective in the prevention or treatment of depression and anxiety are also useful tools for decision making.

Problem solving techniques and coping and stress management strategies "are essential, because they provide a mechanism by which some women can establish some measure of control over their day to day situation," one study notes.

Problem solving strategies include:

*Brainstorming with friends, professional advisors or family members to generate a number of options to consider. On important medical decisions, this may mean seeking a second opinion.

*Gathering information about the most promising options.

*Clarifying personal goals or expectations of the decision.

*Reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of the options.

*Committing to the decision and any related efforts needed for success.

*Remaining flexible, open to new information and willing to reconsider a decision if circumstances change. God bless you.

ATTENTION ROBESON COUNTY VOTERS

Can we afford to have a Non-Democrat elected to a key position in Robeson County? Have you really thought about the consequences should that happen? Think seriously about it—do we want to stand by and allow one of Robeson County's most important offices to be Don-Democrat? Of Course Not!

**Democrats Unite
Vote
Straight Democrat
November 8**

Paid for by the Robeson County Democratic Party, Wade Sealey, Chairman

Local 4-H's attend conferece

Several 4-H volunteers from Robeson County were part of over 500 4-H leaders who attended the Southern Region 4-H Leader Forum held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Georgia.

According to Cathy M. Lowery, Extension agent, 4-H, 63 workshop over the three-day conference allowed the volunteers to develop new skills and knowledge in areas of youth at risk, the environment, 4-H projects, and federal initiatives. Workshop topics included subjects such as understanding youth development, camping, cultural diversity, science, woodworking, entomology, volunteers and the law, the gift of learning, calligraphy, the environment, and a wide variety of other topics. These workshops will help 4-H volunteers help youth in their communities develop into competent adults providing local leadership for the future.

Attending from Robeson County were Katherine Bethea, Marilyn Merritt, Bobbie Oxendine, Roberta Grissett, Aggie Rogers, and Jo Ann McDuffie. Thirteen states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico made up the delegation for the southern region. The keynote speaker was Ola Madson from Kentucky. Other activities included square dancing, general assemblies, a Latin party, and canoeing.

Contact the Robeson County Center of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at 671-3276 for additional information regarding the Robeson County 4-H Program. Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.



**NAVY.
IT'S
NOT JUST
A SNUFF,
IT'S AN
ADVENTURE.**



Helms Tobacco Company

In The May Democratic Primary, I was a candidate for Sheriff of Robeson County and now I ask all my supporters to vote for Glenn Maynor for Sheriff and all democratic candidates on Tuesday, November 8, 1994.

Emmett G. Brown

EMMETT G. BROWN

Paid For By Robeson County Democratic Party, Wade Sealey, Chairman.