

Taking It Home

This week we compared and contrasted the stories of two men who both had transgressed against the Lord. In the case of Saul, he refused to take responsibility for his sin, going from denying any wrongdoing to blaming the soldiers for the wrongdoing. As a result, God decided that day that the kingdom would not remain in Saul's hands and his relationship with God was fractured. In the case of David, when he was confronted with his sin, he immediately took responsibility and repented with his whole heart. His relationship with God remained intact and probably grew stronger as David's heart was broken and contrite. Do you have any relationships in your life that have been damaged? When you examine them, can you recognize any wrong on your part? If so, consider going to that person and taking responsibility for your actions that helped damage the relationship. It may not heal it, because both parties must want it to be healed, but you will have done your part in taking responsibility for your actions.



Life group lesson— **A New Battery**

Week of 1/18/15

Quick Review:

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

My Story:

1. Can you remember a time in your life that you took responsibility for something that you had done wrong? What was the outcome of that?

Digging Deeper:

Healthy relationships require not only respect, as we learned last week, but also responsibility. The Bible gives us two examples where people failed to adhere to God's commands and shows us how the response makes a huge difference in the outcome. In the first, we looked at King Saul, who was commanded by God to completely destroy the Amalekites and all that belonged to them, because they were enemies of Israel. But rather than completely destroy all that belonged to them, they kept the best of the flocks for themselves and spared the king. When confronted by the prophet Samuel, Saul blamed it on his men and didn't accept responsibility, and even though he later admitted his sin, it was a half-hearted attempt in order to save face in the eyes of the people. As a result his kingdom was taken from him. Then we looked at King David, who committed adultery, abused his power and committed murder. When approached by the prophet Nathan, David admitted his guilt, took responsibility for his actions and repented from his heart, as we read in Psalm 51. The result was that he kept his kingdom, he was forgiven, and he is still remembered today as a great king of Israel and a "man after God's own heart."

1. Read 1 Samuel 15:9. Why didn't Saul fulfill the word of the Lord completely?
2. What does 1 Samuel 15:10-11 say about God's reaction to Saul's failure?
3. In 1 Samuel 15:12 Saul goes to Carmel to set up a monument. Why do you think he does this? What does it say about his heart?
4. Read 1 Samuel 15:13-25. Samuel rebukes Saul three times in this passage. How does Saul respond to Samuel's arrival and to each of the rebukes?
5. In 2 Samuel 12:1-4 Nathan tells David a parable of a rich man who takes the possession of a poor man. Why did Nathan use a parable to confront David?
6. How does David's reaction in 2 Samuel 12:13 and in Psalm 51 differ from Saul's reaction?