

A Profile of Bad Leadership

1 Samuel 14:24-52

Main Idea: When leaders are committed to their own power and prestige, there are three predictable results: they're close minded, they shift the blame and they create fear in their families. All of us are leaders in some area of life.

The challenge: Weave good leadership practices into your life. Don't repeat Saul's mistakes.

1. THE PROBLEM – Bad leaders are driven by lust for power. 1 Sam. 14:47-52

- A. At the end of chapter 14, Saul's life is viewed externally, from the vantage point of history.
 - 1. You can assess a person's life in two ways: internally and externally.
 - 2. The author ends with a positive external look, but he hints at a major problem.
- B. Externally, Saul's life looks extremely noble. 14:47-52
 - 1. He was a brilliant warrior. Note the four points on the compass. 14:47-48
 - 2. He was a family man, who lived under God's generous blessing. 14:49-51
- C. Internally, Saul displays a glaring weakness that reflects his true leadership-legacy. 14:52
 - 1. He is driven by passion for power. Note his 3 oaths: 24, 39, & 44. (See Ecc. 5:2.)
 - 2. When power becomes your driving motivation, there are predictable results.

2. 1ST RESULT – Bad leaders are rigid and inflexible; therefore, they don't take into account new information or circumstances. 1 Samuel 14:24-35

- A. Saul's command – "No one eats food before evening." 14:24
 - 1. The motivation for the command was to seize the prestige from his rival...his son.
 - 2. The wording of the command displays immense narcissism. Note the "I" and the "my".
- B. The soldier's problem – They're exhausted and cannot fully seize the victory. 14:22-24, 30, 46
 - 1. Remember...they had the opportunity for a clear and decisive victory. 14:22-23
 - 2. But now they are hard pressed...then weary...then ravenous. 14:24, 30-31
- C. God's solution – Honey in the forest. 14:25-29
 - 1. Honey is the perfect energy source.
 - 2. But the people fear Saul's command, and Saul doesn't change his mind.

3. 2ND RESULT – Bad leaders bring out the worst in people, and then shift the blame for their bad decisions. 1 Samuel 14:31-35

- A. Saul's command brings out the worst in his soldiers. 14:31-32
 - 1. As the battle progresses, they act like animals, seizing then eating the cattle. 14:31-32
 - 2. In eating, they violate God's Law. 14:33a (Gen. 9:4; Lev. 7:26-27; 19:26; Deut 12:15-16)
- B. But Saul casts the blame upon the soldiers. 14:33b-35
 - 1. The way he casts blame indicates his pride. (Note: You have, etc. Roll to me.) 14:33b
 - 2. The way he solves the problem indicates his spiritual arrogance. 14:34-35

4. 3RD RESULT – Bad leaders create a culture of fear within their families, because no one is allowed to be as powerful. 1 Samuel 14:36-46

- A. Saul discovers that Jonathan violated his oath, even though he acted unintentionally. 14:36-42
 - 1. Saul inquires of God, but God is silent, and they investigate as to why. 14:36-39
 - 2. They discover that Jonathan is the problem. 14:40-42
- B. Incredibly, Saul publicly humiliates Jonathan and threatens him with death. 14:43
- C. The soldiers side with Jonathan, and the day ends in a tie. 14:45-46