

# I Might Be Mistaken

1Samuel 15:1-31

# I Might Be Mistaken

- We have made our share of mistakes. As hard as we try, we are not perfect
  - Rom. 3:9-10 - “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one”
- The question is not, “Will we make mistakes”; the question is, “What are we going to do after we make mistakes?”

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- Prov. 28:13 - “People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.” (LB)
- Why do so many have difficulty admitting they are mistaken?
- Pride or fear of losing self image are at the core of each answer

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- Some have trouble separating their actions from their character
- They have trouble separating guilt from shame
- They are afraid of further charges of guilt
- They are afraid they might absolve others of their responsibility in the matter
- They prefer anger over vulnerability

# We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- We try to justify what is unjustifiable
  - 1Sam. 15:18-20 - “Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD? 20 And Saul said to Samuel, But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.”

## We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- We try to justify what is unjustifiable
  - 1Sam. 15:13, 19 - “Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD... 19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?”

# We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- Contemporary expressions
  - “I know what the Bible says, but God understands”
  - “I’m not much on quoting Scripture, but I just feel”
  - “I don’t believe in a God like that”
- Partial obedience is disobedience.

# We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- We try to share credit for our actions
  - 1Sam. 15:14-15, 21 - “But Samuel said, What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? 15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed... 21 But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”



# We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- Adam and Eve tried to share credit
  - Gen. 3:8-13 - “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you? 10 So he said, I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself. 11 And He said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat? 12 Then the man said, The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate. 13 And the LORD God said to the woman, What is this you have done? The woman said, The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

## We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- When we are unwilling to take complete responsibility for our actions, it's a strong indicator we've done something wrong.

## We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- We give a religious spin to our disobedience
  - 1Sam. 15:21 - "...to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal."
  - "I don't go to church, but I watch religious programming on television, and do my praying at home."
  - "I do that (make compromises in the faith) to try to influence them to come to church."

# We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- We are more concerned with what people think about our actions than with what God thinks about them
  - 1Sam. 15:24, 30 - “Then Saul said to Samuel, I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice... 30 Then he said, I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel...”
- How often do we base our decisions upon what people think?

# We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- We do more work to hide it than it would take to confess it
  - 1Sam. 15:25-30 - “Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD. 26 But Samuel said to Saul, I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel. 27 And as Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. 28 So Samuel said to him, The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you. 29 And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent. 30 Then he said, I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.”

## We Know We've Made A Mistake When:

- Note the contrast in their perspectives of Saul's actions.
  - 1Sam. 15:19-20 - "Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD? 20 And Saul said to Samuel, But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites."

# When I Am Mistaken

- Psalm 32:3-5 - “When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”

# When I Am Mistaken

- 1John 1:8-10 - “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”



# When I Am Mistaken

- May we learn when we make a mistake and done wrong, not to defend, excuse, argue, get angry, or attempt to spin our way out.
- Instead, humbly confess that we made a wrong choice, repent, and learn from our mistake
- 2Chron. 7:14-15 - “If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.”