

## Adult Impact Study Sheet

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August 20, 2023

If possible, read **1 Samuel 13:14** from several translations.  
For additional insight go to [www.studylight.org](http://www.studylight.org) and [www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org).

1. Read the entire passage, 1 Samuel 13:1-14
2. Benjamin Spall writes, “The phrase ‘the end justifies the means’ is used to suggest that any activity, whether or not that activity could be considered ethically or morally bad, is worth doing so long as a desired end result is achieved.”<sup>1</sup> He goes on to say, “Don’t ask whether you are proud of what you have achieved. Ask whether you are proud of how you achieved it.”<sup>2</sup>

Keep those thoughts in mind as we consider the event in our Scripture passage.

3. Begin by reading carefully 1 Samuel 13:13-14. What was the command of the Lord which Saul did not keep? (See 1 Samuel 10:8) God spoke to Saul through Samuel. What did Samuel tell Saul he (Samuel) would do when he came to Saul seven days later? In what two ways did Saul sin?
4. Consider the setting as described in verses 2-7. What kind of thoughts do you think were running through Saul’s mind and the minds of his people?
5. In verses 8-9 we see Saul offering sacrifices to God. Impatience leads to impulses which, too often, lead to sinful acts. How might we see that play out in a believer’s life?
6. It appears that Samuel arrives immediately after Saul offers the burnt offering and asks, “What have you done?” Saul immediately begins with his excuses. “Samuel’s ominous question recalls God’s questions to Eve and to Cain (Genesis 3:13; 4:10) as well as the sailors terrified question to Jonah (Jonah 1:10.)<sup>3</sup> Discuss the excuses they made.

How might a believer be tempted to make excuses for disobedience, similar or otherwise?

7. Discuss Saul’s sin of disobedience in 1 Samuel 15:1-15, his confrontation with Samuel in 15:16-21, and Samuel’s final words in 15:22-23.

How do those words apply to the believer today?

8. Discuss the consequences for a believer in responding to circumstances rather than responding in faith.

<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Spall, *When Does the End Justify the Means?*

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> CSB Study Bible, 428