

NO SMITH FOUND THROUGHOUT THE LAND 1 SAMUEL 13

Text: 1 Samuel 13:19

"Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:"

Introduction:

As I sat and thought and prayed about this message for this special day the Lord seemed to lead me to this portion of scripture.

Now let me say this morning, I'm an American, and I love America. However I'm afraid that the America that you and I enjoy today is not the America the founding American's founded. We have come a long way in these 223 years.

We have become just like those in Laodicia.

(Revelation 3:14-22) "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; {15} I know thy works, that thou art

neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. {16} So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. {17} Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: {18} I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. {19} As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. {20} Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. {21} To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. {22} He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

We are living in a day of lukewarmness. A day where absolutes have been so muddled that our philosophy today is if it's right for you then that's OK with me.

We are living in a day of prosperity, and think that we have need of nothing, not realizing that wretched, miserable, poor, blind , and naked.

May I remind you that God not only deals with individuals and their righteousness and their sins but with nations as well.

(Psalms 9:17) "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

(Psalms 33:12) "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

(Proverbs 14:34) "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

I believe that America has enjoyed good days because America for the most part put God in His proper place. However, today America for the most part has forgotten God, and has become a reproach.

What has happen? I believe the same thing that happened to Saul in our text this morning.

Notice

1. HORRENDOUS CONDITION

(1 Samuel 13:19) "Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:"

(1 Samuel 13:22) "So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found."

A. Lacked Workers

(1 Samuel 13:19) "Now there was no smith found throughout all the land of Israel: for the Philistines said, Lest the Hebrews make them swords or spears:"

B. Lacked Weapons

(1 Samuel 13:22) "So it came to pass in the day of battle, that there was neither sword nor spear found in the hand of any of the people that were with Saul and Jonathan: but with Saul and with Jonathan his son was there found."

1. By the way that is where we are headed today in our nation. May I say today that it is not the weapon that kills, but it is the one using the weapon.

C. Lacked Wisdom

1. They were not sure what to do.
2. Hideous Cause

This passage in 1 Samuel refers to a time in history when Israel demanded a king. They had rejected the rule of God, and they did not want to obey the prophets. They said, "Give us a king like other nations."

(1 Samuel 8:3-10) "And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. {4} Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, {5} And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. {6} But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. {7} And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. {8} According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. {9} Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. {10} And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king."

The Bible introduces that king in 1 Samuel chapter 9. His name was Saul. The Bible says that Saul was from a very wealthy family. He was strong, he stood head and shoulders above all the Israelites, and he was valiant.

A. Saul Had a Heart That Was Proud

(1 Samuel 13:1-4) "Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, {2} Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent. {3} And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. {4} And all Israel heard say that Saul had smitten a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal."

1. Religiously self-willed

- a. Claimed to have done something that he really didn't
- b. Called for the sacrifice in which he was not to conduct

(1 Samuel 13:9-11) "And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. {10} And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him. {11} And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;"

- The sacrifice was only to be carried out by the priest.
- He thought so much of the victory and of himself that he would carry out the sacrifice.

c. One of the greatest tests of a person's character comes when God begins to bless him.

d. Too often Christians become filled with pride and want to practice religion their own way.

2. Openly Rebellious

(1 Samuel 15:23) "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."

- a. God hates rebellion
- b. God will not use a heart of rebellion but will reject it efforts.

Direct Disobedience follows Open rebellion

3. Directly disobedient

Saul's sin was not only that he made up his own way to serve and worship God; it was also open disobedience.

(1 Samuel 15:1-8) "Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. {2} Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. {3} Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass. {4} And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah. {5} And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley. {6} And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites,

lest I destroy you with them: for ye showed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. 7} And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt. {8} And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword."

a. Instead of following God's command, he made excuses.

(1 Samuel 15:21-22) "But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. {22} And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

2. HUMANISTIC CURE

(1 Samuel 13:20) "But all the Israelites went down to the Philistines, to sharpen every man his share, and his coulter, and his ax, and his mattock."

A. Went to the enemy to help solve their problems.

B. America today has gone to the enemy to help solve her problems.

C. Examples of going to the wrong sources

1. Traded proverbs for psychology
2. Traded God for gold
3. Traded fellowship for fellowship
4. Traded prayer for pleasure
5. Traded Grace for good works
6. Traded piety for popularity
7. Traded service for slothfulness
8. Traded standards for secularism
9. Traded the cross for comfort
10. Traded self-denial for self-esteem.
11. Traded independence to dependence.

D. Nothing is ever accomplished in going to the enemy for help.

Close:

God help us to never get to the place that we are going to the enemy for the cure. What America needs today is to put God back into His rightful place in our hearts, homes, churches and nation.