

A Breach of Faith 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

I came across this obituary the other day rated as one of the worst ever in the world. It was written by the dead woman's daughter and appeared in the Vallejo, California Times-Herald. Here it is:

Dolores Aguilar, born in 1929 in New Mexico, left us on August 7, 2008. She will be met in the afterlife by her husband, Raymond, her son, Paul Jr., and daughter, Ruby. She is survived by her six daughters and son; 19 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Dolores had no hobbies, made no contribution to society and rarely shared a kind word or deed in her life. I speak for the majority of her family when I say her presence will not be missed by many, very few tears will be shed and there will be no lamenting over her passing.

Her family will remember Dolores and amongst ourselves we will remember her in our own way, which were mostly sad and troubling times throughout the years. We may have some fond memories of her and perhaps we will think of those times too. But I truly believe at the end of the day ALL of us will really only miss what we never had, a good and kind mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. I hope she is finally at peace with herself. As for the rest of us left behind, I hope this is the beginning of a time of healing and learning to be a family again.

There will be no service, no prayers and no closure for the family she spent a lifetime tearing apart. We cannot come together in the end to see to it that her grandchildren and great-grandchildren can say their goodbyes. So I say here for all of us, GOOD BYE, MOM.

If not a family member but the God himself wrote your obituary, your epitaph to be placed in the NZ Herald death notices, what do you think it would say? A good question to ask when we have read and heard verses 13-14 of 1 Chronicles 10. Because, what we have here is an incredibly sad obituary, like Dolores, for a man that been called of God but whose life ended in tragedy and ruin. God states very clearly to us exactly what brought about this downfall. Today, I would like us to consider what God has to say concerning Saul that might be a warning to us all. Simply put...

Saul was Unfaithful to the LORD- meaning he breached faith with God. This was not always so, Saul was incredibly privileged:

From a natural point of view, he was an outstanding individual. The book of 1 Samuel 9:2b says about him, "There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people." So, to begin with he was physically outstanding. But not only this...

Saul was given a new heart by God when Israel's judge, deliver and anointed prophet, Samuel, proclaimed, "*the Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will... be changed into a different person...God changed Saul's heart.*" **1 Samuel 10:6,9.** That is what the Word says about how privileged by God Saul was. Saul needed this new heart because...

He was chosen by God to save Israel and be their first King. "*Samuel said to all the people, "Do you see the man the LORD has chosen? There is no one like him among all the people."* Not only this but God touched others lives around him. "*Saul also went to his home in Gibeah; accompanied by valiant men, whose hearts God had touched.*" **1 Samuel 10:4, 26**

So, Saul was privileged because he was of good standing among the tribes of Israel, distinctly called and commissioned by God, honoured with the friendship of the great prophet Samuel, Israel's last Judge, and surrounded by a band of men whose hearts God had touched. As it stands, everything was in his favour!

And as it was with Saul in the beginning Christian's are Privileged: Believer's in Christ receive a new heart. "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*" **2 Corinthians 5:17.** And as new creations, redeemed by and united with Christ through a faith commitment...

Believer's have been chosen by God to take the message of salvation to the world. "*You did not chose me, but I chose you and appointed you, so that you might go and bear – fruit that would last—and so that whatever you ask in my name, the Father will give you.*" **John 15:16**

Furthermore, God provides for us to not to have to be Lone Ranger Christians but touches the lives of others to work and labour with us. "*For we are [fellow] co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.*" **1 Corinthians 3:9**

Saul disobeyed the command of God.

Saul obeyed God but not to the letter. In 1 Samuel 15 we have Saul in obedience to the command of God, along with his valiant men, fighting the Amalekites. He won the battle, but he failed to do everything the Lord said. Rather, he chose to do it his way. Now, there are those who hold on to the philosophy that 'the end justifies the means.' But let us note what God's Word says:

*"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as much as in obeying the Lord?*

*To obey is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

*For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.*

*Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,
he has rejected you as king."* **1 Samuel 15:23-24**

To illustrate this... while on holiday, a little girl who was told not to go near a cliff wandered out toward it when her dad fell asleep. She reached out over the edge and grabbed a pretty flower then ran back to her dad and said look what I brought you. He grabbed the flower and threw it down and clutched the little girl and said, "You have disobeyed. I'd rather have you than anything you could give me."

To disobey God is the ultimate treason. To say, "No, Lord," is a contradiction of terms. He is not Lord when God is told, "No"! In verse 13 of our scripture so it was written in Saul's obituary that he died for his unfaithfulness, which he had committed against the LORD, because, he did not keep the word of the LORD! Saul died for his unfaithfulness, his breach of faith. He broke faith with the LORD when he did not keep the command of the LORD.

Instead... Saul sought the advice of the world.

V13 So Saul died for his sin of divination and spiritual adultery which he committed against the LORD, going against and breaking the word of the LORD, when he desired the counsel of one that worked through an occultic spiritual power.

This goes to show that Saul did not have a sincere faith and therefore a genuine connection with God when he did not seek God for the difficulties of his life. He was willing to consult a medium for guidance, but not the LORD God.

Saul then said to his attendants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, so I may go and inquire of her." "There is one in Endor," they said. 1 Samuel 28:7

Paul warns the believer to beware of "the wisdom of this world" (1 Corinthians 1:20; 2:6; 3:19) The world system is committed to at least four major objectives, which I can summarise in four words: fortune, fame, power and pleasure.

First and foremost: Fortune, or wealth and materialism.
The world system is driven by money; it feeds on materialism.

Second: Fame. That is another word for popularity. Fame is the longing to be known, to be somebody in someone else's eyes. Many people desire their public moment of glory in the likes of Reality TV shows and You Tube posts, such things are a testimony to this.

Third: Power. This is having influence, maintaining control over individuals or groups or companies or whatever. It is the desire to manipulate and maneuver others to do something for one's own benefit.

Fourth: Pleasure. At its basic level, pleasure has to do with fulfilling one's sensual desires. Living life for your own pleasure, it is what is also known as hedonism. It is the same mindset that is behind the slogan: "If it feels good, do it." Whereas Jesus Christ says, *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33* And God says, *"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked..." Psalm 1:1.* Saul had failed at this because....

Saul failed to seek God and His will.

Verse 14. *"And did not inquire not of the LORD. So the LORD put him to death, and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse."*

Saul did not have a genuine connection with God and did not seek God over the challenges of ruling Israel as King and in the face of the difficulties in his life. Instead, from the story recorded in **1 Samuel 28**, Saul consulted a medium for guidance, and not the LORD God. Now it does say that after Samuel had died in verse 6 that Saul inquired of the LORD, but the LORD did not answer him. Saul in his approach to God was in no way humble, repentant,

sincere or confident in his. His feeble enquiry of the LORD was, in fact, a mere mockery, and his true heart was exposed when he rushed off to the occult medium, a devilish imposter. There are many today like Saul who seek counsel from everywhere but God and His Word! Usually, it is because they do not want to hear what God has to say! But we are Christians and are to turn to God and God's word for the truth.

James 1:5 states: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."* Saul failed to do this, so

Saul lost everything that God had given to him [because of his sin]
Verse 14b *"So the LORD put him to death, and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse."*

Saul had lost contact with God, lost God's anointing, lost his character, lost his kingdom- he lost everything!

The Lord has never exaggerated in warning us of sin's devastating consequences - for us and for our descendants.

The Word of God declares in **Exodus 34:7** that God is One who "maintains love to thousands, who forgives wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet God does not leave the guilty unpunished; punishing the children and the grandchildren for the sin of their parents to the third and fourth generation." Have you heard the saying, 'Sin will take you further than you want to go. Sin will keep you longer than you want to stay. And sin will cost you more than you want to pay.'" The apostle Paul said in **Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Saul brought tragedy to those nearest him. Vv6-7

"So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together. When all the Israelites in the valley saw that the army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them."

Saul brought desolation to his own life, to his family, to those who had served with him, and to the nation of Israel. We must never forget that we do not operate in a vacuum and that one person's sin affects others well beyond himself. Remember the story of Achan and his sin that brought disaster to Israel at Ai? **Joshua 7**
 As with both Saul and Achan...

When we sin, our sin affects others. As John Donne put it, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main."

The Apostle Paul **1 Corinthians 12:26** *"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together."* Saul committed a breach of faith & it cost him dearly. When you accepted Christ, you pledged your faith to Him. So have a think now... have you breached that faith by your actions?

If you have thank God for this word, **1 John 1:8-9** *"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

God remains forever faithful so there is no breach of faith with Him.