

Sermon Outline

The More things Change ...

1 Samuel 12:1-14:52

Introduction: 2024 NFC Championship game – Lions vs. 49ers

Context: The rise and quick fall of King Saul (1 Samuel 11-14)

Textual difficulty: What numbers were lost in verse 1?

I. 1 Samuel 13: The downfall of King Saul

vs. 1-4: Jonathan takes initiative; Saul takes credit

vs. 5-14: Saul's impatience and disobedience results in him losing the kingdom. Is this too harsh a penalty?

Authority is an entrustment we must guard

Fear provokes disobedience (2 Tim 1:7)

The danger of hastiness or impatience (Pr 19:2, 21:5)

"Good intention" does not absolve you

vs. 15-23: Israel is helpless – even dead (but never hopeless)

II. 1 Samuel 14: Jonathan and Saul

vs. 1-23: Yahweh defeats the Philistines *by few*

Jonathan's faith and wisdom (6-14)

Saul's reliance on old superstitious methods (2-3, 18)

Yahweh's victory (15, 20-23)

The more things change, the more you become like Christ!

vs. 24-46: Saul ruins everything

A foolish vow (24-30)

Legalism leads to more sin (31-46, Romans 7)

III. The curtain closes on King Saul's "Act 2"

History records Saul is militarily a successful deliverer

But he is also a covenant breaker, so we need a better King