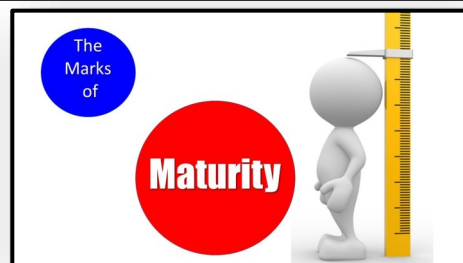


## Maturity Illustrated

In a study of Maturity, no one wants to be identified as being immature. And, while many may talk a good game, maturity is best illustrated in a moment of crisis. In this lesson, we will look at a Biblical example.



David was the new national hero. Saul was the king.

### 1 Samuel 18:5-9

**So David went out wherever Saul sent him, and prospered; and Saul set him over the men of war. And it was pleasing in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul's servants. <sup>6</sup> It happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup> The women sang as they played, and said,**

"Saul has slain his thousands,  
And David his ten thousands."

**<sup>8</sup> Then Saul became very angry, for when he heard this saying he was displeased with him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup> Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on."**

1. What descriptive terms are used to describe Saul's attitude?
2. Why did he feel this way?
  - The immature has a hard time putting someone else in the spotlight of praise. Why?
3. How would a mature leader do things differently?
4. What happens when an immature person gets in the position of leadership?

#### Handling Criticism:

Prov 15:31 He whose ear listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the \_\_\_\_\_

Prov 17:10 A \_\_\_\_\_ goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred \_\_\_\_\_ into a fool.

A. 1 Samuel 15:10-26 When questioned by Samuel as to why Saul had not obeyed the Lord, three different reasons are listed:

- I did \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (13, 20)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ did this (15)
  - This was done to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord (21)
5. What do we learn about how the immature handles criticism and mistakes?
    - Change the settings and place Saul as an immature spouse or parent today. What would you notice?

- Change the settings and place Saul as an immature Christian today. What would you notice?

- How would a mature Saul do things differently with Samuel?