

Waiting With Eyes Wide Open

1 Samuel 13:8-14

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8 He waited seven days, the time appointed by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring the burnt offering here to me, and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 As soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came. And Saul went out to meet him and greet him.

1 Samuel 13:8-14

11 Samuel said, “What have you done?” And Saul said, “When I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines had mustered at Michmash, 12 I said, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the favor of the Lord.’ So I forced myself, and offered the burnt offering.”

1 Samuel 13:8-14

13 And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

Waiting

1. When we try to hurry God's timing by doing things our own way, we do so foolishly.

Samuel had told Saul *exactly* how long to wait.

"Then go down before me to Gilgal. And behold, I am coming down to you to offer burnt offerings and to sacrifice peace offerings. Seven days you shall wait, until I come to you and show you what you shall do."

1 Samuel 13:8-14

- * The situation did not look good:
 - The Phillistines were coming
 - The Israelites were terrified
 - The people were scattering
 - The sacrifice had not been made
 - Samuel was no where in sight
 - And time was running out

1 Samuel 13:8-14

And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.

1 Samuel 13:13

“done foolishly” – implies both intellectual and moral failure

* Disobeying God, even for good reasons, is still disobedience

Abram and Hagar

"Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."

Genesis 16:1-4

Abram and Hagar

And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress."

Genesis 16:1-4

1 Samuel 13:8-14

2. Knowing Who is in control provides the faith to trust and obey.

* Saul had already seen God fulfill signs and promises, yet he grew impatient.

* Jonathan, his son, knew exactly Who was in control

"Jonathan said to the young man who carried his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised. It may be that the Lord will work for us, for nothing can hinder the Lord from saving by many or by few."

1 Sam 14:6

David Spares Saul's Life (1 Sam 24)

David also understood that God was in control.

"Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.'"

1 Samuel 24:10

3. When we wait on God, we can expect the best result.

* Saul lost his kingdom because of his disobedience

And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the command of the Lord your God, with which he commanded you. For then the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.

1 Samuel 13:13-14

3. When we wait on God, we can expect the best result.

Wait for the Lord and keep His way,
And He will exalt you to inherit the land;
When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psalm 37:34

Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed;
Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

Psalm 25:3

"The Lord is good to those who wait for Him,
To the person who seeks Him."

Lamentations 3:25

4. Though we may not see it, there is purpose in the waiting.

The Israelites had no choice but to wait for God to act.

When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” 18 But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.

Exodus 13:17-18

“And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.”

Exodus 14:4

Application

1. When we try to hurry God's timing by doing things our own way, we do so foolishly.

What things are you waiting for?

A good job / higher position.

A godly husband or wife.

Children who serve the Lord.

Have I gotten tired of waiting and tried to get _____ through disobedience?

Application

2. Knowing who is in control provides the faith to trust and obey.

Do I understand that He is in control of all things?

Or have I let worry or fear control my life and decisions?

Application

3. When we wait on God for His timing, we can expect the best result.

How have I seen his blessings as I abide in Him?

How has my life suffered because of disobedience?

Application

4. Though we may not be able to see it, there is purpose in the waiting.

How is God showing Himself to me now as I wait for ___?

What is He doing in and through me now as I wait for ___?

In what other ways might He be using this time for His glory?
