



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 7

Lesson Title: King Saul Doesn't Wait on God

Take Home Point: Wait on the Lord for help.

Warm-Up:

What was your parents' favorite phrase for letting you know you had to wait on them? I remember my mother saying, "Well, we'll see." More often than not that meant the decision was going to be "no," but it was my cue that I needed to let her make the decision. Other time-honored waiting words? "I need to think about it." "It would be good if you waited/didn't do that now." "What's the rush?" I do the same with my children, not because I am a meany, but because I understand the situation differently, with the pitfalls of hasty action and the benefits of waiting. If as a fallen human father I can see these things, just think how it is from God's perfect perspective. Waiting on him is good!

Read: 1 Samuel 13-14

Observation (What happened?):

What was the consequence of Saul's impatience and disobedience?

From 1 Samuel 14:32-34, how did Saul's example affect the men under his command?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Saul act impatiently and offer the sacrifice instead of waiting as Samuel had directed?

What important activity appears to be missing from Saul's decision-making?

Insight:

Did you know that the events of our modern world are most affected by the decision of one man who did not wait for God thousands of years ago? Read Genesis 15–16 to learn how Abraham's impatience brought into being Ishmael, the ancestor of the Arab world. Then read chapter 17 to learn about Isaac, the son God promised who was the ancestor to the Jews. One impatient decision; centuries of hatred, hostility, and death. This is the most dramatic example of what happens when we do things in our time instead of waiting on the Lord. God understands us, that's why he emphasizes the need to wait on him. He has much to teach us in waiting—patience, of course, but also trust and confidence in him, recognition of our selfishness, humility, and understanding that we are not in control. "In his time, he makes all things beautiful. In our time we can really foul things up!"

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What situation in your life requires the Lord's help? Have you asked him to help you?

What action or response are you waiting on God for? What might he be teaching you as you wait?