

The With-God Journey

Date: May 21, 2023

Title: Saul's Unwillingness To Wait

Text: 1 Samuel 13

Pastor Dave Ripper

Description: Israel's first king, Saul, started his reign with strength and valor. But his life ended in disgrace and tragedy. What went wrong? Rather than patiently wait on God, Saul took matters into his own hands. If we're not careful, we can fall into the same trap ourselves. This week, Pastor Dave Ripper will challenge us to overcome our besetting impatience by cultivating deeper trust in God.

Small Group Questions

1. How would you define patience? Compare your definition with those below:

"Patience is the freedom to stay with something or someone, not hurrying, not rushing for a result."
-Eugene Peterson, *Traveling Light*

"Patience is the willingness to let the life we are living grow and take the wise course." -Dallas Willard, forward to *Falling for God*

2. Based on these definitions, how might you grow in the fruit of the Spirit of patience? (See Galatians 5:22-23.)

3. Read 1 Samuel 8. How do God's people display impatience in trusting God's purposes and plans? What ultimately resulted from their desire to have a king rule over them?

4. Read 1 Samuel 13:1-15. How did Saul choose a with-out God life instead of a with-God life in this challenging moment of leadership?

5. Read the following prayer. What words or phrases particularly challenge you to trust in the slow work of God? How might trusting God be the radical antidote to the besetting sin of impatience?

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress

that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—

and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;

your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,

let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

—Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

6. What's a situation in your life where God is calling you to patiently trust him?

7. Close by praying for one another.