

PART FOUR HANDOUT: DRESSED TO SERVE Character Under Construction...PATIENCE

READ: Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice. 1 Samuel 13: 6-14

God Blesses Our Obedience...Not Our Thinking or Feeling! Obedience is the Root...Emotions are the Fruit!

- Obedience is the Foundation to a God Centered Life... *Thinking and Feeling that is Not in Accordance with God's Word or His Will...Always leads to Disaster!*
- A person who is Impatient Runs Ahead of God... *A Patient Person will Trust God and Walk Beside Him...Waiting for God's Clear Direction!* Saul, Looked to his own self...Not to God's Clear Direction.

Many things are Revealed in Saul's Excuses that Relate to Our Justifications for Impatience: **First**, We *Justify Impatience* for the Sake of Prudence. "I was Losing My Army, I Just did what any person would Do." **The Second Set** of Excuses for Impatience that Sound even Better than Prudence, and That's Piety. Saul says, *"I Can't go to War Before I've said my Prayers! That Would be Wrong!"* Some of Our Impatience is Excused on Spiritual Grounds: *I Know God Wants to Bless Me with this or that, so I'm Just Going to Go Out and Get it... I Know that's what God Would Want.*

- Sadly, We Excuse Impatience... "I" want a good thing done. "I" want direction, healing, protection But Underneath, our response reveals something is really wrong...The Problem is the Word or Letter **"I"!!**
- What's Behind our Own Impatience...Is Thinking **"I"** must take matters into My Own Hands!
- **When we take matters into our Own Hands...We Literally Wrench Control Away from God!**
- The God who loves Us, who seeks Our best, who is powerful to care for Us and nurture Us and parent Us...Is Disregarded as we take Matters into our own hands!
- **In taking control We Violate our Relationship with God and reap the Consequences.**

I want Us to Understand what's Really Behind All this Impatience...All the Law Breaking and All the Sin! Behind it all exists the Same Problem...We are Disconnected with God...He isn't Doing it My Way or at My Time...Therefore...I would rather Trust Myself!

*When You Choose to Not wait on God and Choose to Become Your Own god, Like Saul...Your Life Will Begin Falling to Pieces. **KEY:** If You Choose Impatience over Obedience to God...You Will Loose As Well!*

I think Most of us have heard the Expression "he has the Patience of Job." In the opening chapters we find this out about Job...He was honest, a man of his word. He was totally devoted to God and hated evil with a passion. God blessed him: he had many children, a lot of property and livestock, a huge staff and influence. **Then, In a single day, Job's life is Ravaged**, his children are killed in a freak of nature, his properties are all stolen or destroyed, and all his servants are murdered.

- There are two situations where we're prone to be impatient...When we're not experiencing a good thing we really want...and when we are experiencing a bad thing that we really want to end.
- Job is All about the Mystery of Suffering that Cannot be Explained by Moral Cause and Effect.
- God Allows Problems in Our lives to both Grow Us and to Glorify Himself! Therefore, Job's Life is one of the best laboratories to study Patience.

Job Lost everything except his life but still he Clings to his Trust in God and says: *"We take the good days from God – why Not the bad days also?"*

Job Patiently Hangs on to Trust in God in hard times, however, Job was brutally honest with God about his suffering. He asks, "Why Me?"

- **But here's the Key:** Job put his Questions to God. He didn't Paste on a Smile and he didn't Reject God... he took his Stance before God... and Poured out his Heart.
- **KEY:** When You're in a bad situation that You want to end, or when You're hoping for a good situation to start...You will be tempted to take matters into Your own hands, like Saul...But Wisdom is when You Choose to wait on God, like Job did.
- 1 Pet 4:19 says, *"So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."*

Waiting on God Involves Two Things:

1. Daily committing ourselves to God & Committing our situation into his hands. If needs be, crying out to God. Let him know that You're perplexed, impatient, needy, confused.
2. Then Re-affirm Your trust as Job did, *"though he slay me, yet will I hope in him."*

While waiting on God it is important to Not run ahead of God or take matters into your own hands. But God wants You to carry on under stress; to endure, to have a great weight on Your heart and still run; to have a deep anguish in Your spirit and Still Perform Daily Tasks. **Continuing to do Good while we wait!**

Many are convinced that God wants to give us happiness, wholeness and blessings. God Does Want to Bless You...**But that Relationship Cannot Flourish Until the Roadblocks are Taken Out of the Way.**

KEY: Our impatience Hinders God from Working In and Through Our Lives! Because All the commandments get broken when we take matters into our own hands. Jesus will Not settle for You "Doing it Your Way" making Excuses, while You Relegate Christ to the Back Seat.

Patience is about How You Respond to things Not Going the Way You Planned. Too Often We want to Take Matters into Our Own Hands...But God Wants Us to Trust Him as He Grows us through waiting periods.

- While you are waiting God wants You to Look to Him for His Leading and Provision...Not to Your Own Thinking and Feeling!
- God wants You to Seek Him, to Cry Out for Him, and say, God, You're My Only Hope, I'm Waiting On You, You're All I Have, I Trust in Jesus Christ Alone.
- It Is In that moment, when you turn to God in the midst of a Life Situation...that You will have gained something of Infinitely More Worth, than family, friends, health, work, success or pleasure.

You will be Leaning on Jesus Christ Alone in Radical Trust and Faith...And That is When God Blesses and Accomplishes His Purpose in Your Life.

Today...if you are Fighting Trusting God in any situation...I encourage You to let Go, Surrender the issue to God...Trust Him that He Wants to Use whatever it is in your life to Grow You...To Mature You...To Make You More Like Christ and Bless You! **God Wants You to Wait With Confidence in HIM!**

When Job experienced all of his problems – he asked two questions in Job 6:11 *"What strength do I have, that I should still hope? What prospects, that I should be patient?"*

- **Job had both the strength "to go on waiting" and an "end to look forward to"**, and in the end Job's confidence in God increased. He set an Example for All of Us to Follow.

Some of you right here may be thinking – "I just can't make it through another month". I encourage You to put your trust in God – and make it through another week.

You may say – "I just can't make it through another week" – then I say, "Put your trust in God and you can make it through another day".

You may say – "I just can't make it through another day" – **then I say, "Put your trust in God and you can make it through another hour."** Because todays Point is:

"LIFE" POINT: Inch by Inch – Life's a Cinch...Yard by Yard – Life is Hard.

Trust God Every as you Walk Through Every Inch of Your Day! He Will Provide!