

## Understanding God's Will – Lesson 12

### The "STOP" Sign: Waiting

- The Hebrew word usually translated "wait" literally means "to bind together by twisting."

#### I. Wait Training

##### a. Prelude (I Samuel 16:1-14)

1. God charges the prophet Samuel to anoint Israel's next king.
2. David is affirmed as the king although he does not immediately assume the throne.

##### b. Process (I Samuel 16:14 – 23:29)

1. David encounters Goliath before he assumed the throne.
2. David runs from Saul before he assumed the throne.
3. David befriends Jonathan before assuming the throne.

##### c. Patience

1. David behaved himself is a continual theme throughout his path leading up to the throne. (I Samuel 18:5, 14, 15, 30; Psalm 131:12)
  - David refused to kill Saul, although the opportunity was presented three separate times.

#### II. Why Wait

- ❖ "American culture promotes the idea of a self made man. Horatio Algers became famous with his series of tales describing the classic Rags-to-Riches stories.

##### a. Patience (Psalm 37)

1. Fear and envy are two signs we are not waiting on God.
2. We need to learn how to trust in the Lord before he will give us desires of our hearts.
3. Resting in the Lords and waiting patiently is contrasted.
4. Fretting and being envious are evidences that we are not really waiting in our hearts, according to v.1.

- b. Permanence (Psalm 46)
  - 1. Natural disasters are occurring which are out of their control.
  - 2. God clearly declares he will be exalted.
- c. Pleasure (James 1:17)
  - 1. We should take pleasure in the giver and less on the gift.
- d. Priority (I Timothy 6:6-10)
  - 1. There is a difference between needs and wants.
  - 2. In these times of deprivation, we learn what our limits are and what we are capable of handling as human beings.
  - 3. Waiting demonstrates faith in God instead of in ourselves.
    - You can have hamburgers at five o'clock or steak at seven.

### **III. Waiting Principles**

- a. Believe He is Sovereign (Isaiah 55:8-9)
  - 1. God's thoughts and ways are superior to ours.
  - 2. Jehosophat is relegated to fixing his eyes on God and his deliverance in the battle.
- b. Blessings in Waiting (James 5:10-11)
  - 1. James lists the prophets and Job who all waited patiently on God.
  - 2. Waiting on the Lord is time well spent.

### **IV. The Danger of Striving**

- ❖ As we begin to get a sense of what God's will is, we are in real danger of trying to accomplish His will through our own efforts."
  - a. Eternal work with eternal significance (Psalm 127)
    - 1. This verse offers a powerful motive for waiting on God.

2. Our initiatives are meaningless and will not last if God is not in them.
  3. Whatever we can accomplish outside the will of God will not be something lasting.
  4. If it is not eternal, it is eternally insignificant.
- b. Infinite work without finite interference (Genesis 16 – 18)
1. Abram and Sarai decided to help God out by devising a scheme to hurry the reproductive process.