

Significant Lessons From The Seemingly Insignificant

#30 Consequences of Not Waiting On the Lord

Waiting On The Lord: Passage of time; Waiting Means Confident Expectation - HOPE;

Waiting Involves an Expectation Based on Knowledge and Trust

Waiting Involves Negatives and Positives

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Not waiting on God leads to trouble, fear, anxiety, hopelessness, and a plethora of problems.

Examples of Consequences of Not Waiting on God:

1. God chose Abraham set his heart upon him. He would be the father of the nation that would bring the promised Messiah.

2. There was one thing that nagged at Abraham's heart. Gen. 15:2-3

"What wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless... and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir."

Gen. 15:4-6 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

3. Time was passing. Abraham moved out of his place of belief and rest. His longing desire for a son trumped his faith and his belief resulting in his failure to wait for God's promise.

Note: Abraham's impatience was related to a promise of God. Abraham took Hagar and had a son through her instead of waiting for God to give Abraham & Sarah their promised son.

Gen. 16:16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

Gen. 17:1-2 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

² And I will make my covenant between me and thee and will multiply thee exceedingly.

Consider: It appears there is silence by God to Abraham for 13 years after Ishmael's birth.

While God would bless Abraham and Sarah with a son in their old age, they would still have to live with the consequences of not waiting on God.

The Fruit Of Not Waiting For God:

Gen. 16:12 "He shall be a wild man; his hand shall be against every man."

There would be hostility between Abraham's son Ishmael, born through Hagar, and Abraham and Sarah's promised son, Issac.

Taking matters into their own hands led to trouble not only domestically between Sarah and Hagar [Gen. 21:10], but from that impatience was born the Arab nation which is a perpetual enemy of Israel. The prophesied hostility still remains between the Jewish and the Arabic people even to this day, and all because Abraham and Sarah did not wait on the Lord.

Pray that God would Enable You To Wait and not neglect His Word.

Note: When God came to Abraham 13 years after the birth of Ishmael:

Rom. 4:19-21 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

1. Abraham's faith grew stronger as he waited.
2. He gave praise and glory to God during the waiting.
3. Unbelief denies the power of God.
4. Without waiting, our faith remains immature.

Heb. 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹ Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead;

2. Jacob: The Lord had given him promises, had set His heart upon the fulfillment of the covenant made to Abraham; but Jacob could not wait. From the moment when he flees for his life, there begins the sad history, through all the vicissitudes of his stay in Padanaram, years and years of feverish, fretful, impatient activity, because he could not wait for the Lord.

- His eldest son, Reuben, defiled his bed.
- His beloved Rachel died in childbirth.
- His sons sold his favorite son, Joseph, into slavery.
- Due to the famine, he must journey to Egypt and he will die in a strange land.

On his return to Canaan, Jacob wrestles with the Lord at the Jabbok River.

Jacob tells the Lord he will not let him go until he blesses him. The Lord asked him, "What is your name?" Jacob must confess: I am a deceiver, a heel-catcher. I have achieved nothing.

- The truth: I have delayed the Lord. I have held Him up.
- The Lord had been waiting for him at Jabbok ---still waiting.
- Having confessed, Jacob could be blessed.

Gen. 32:28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Jacob began the night believing his greatest need was to escape from Esau. He ended the night believing his greatest need was to trust in the blessing of God's promise. What changed him from fearing man to trusting God's Word? prolonged and painful wrestling with God.

Jacob's encounter with the Lord changed Him and he surrendered His will.

Consider: Sometimes, in your battle with unbelief, your greatest Ally will wrestle you — He might even make you limp with one crushing blow — until you're desperate enough to say, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." It is a great mercy to be brought to the point where you're desperate enough to insist on what you need the most. These excruciating events in our lives represent His grace, for in the pain He means not to destroy us but to compel us to change to surrender our will to Him.

3. Aaron: [Ex. 32:1-6] Moses had ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the tables of God's Law. "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us. The people became impatient: 'What has become of Moses we know not; we have been waiting... They wanted a god they could see.

Ex. 32:2-4 Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears and brought them unto Aaron.

⁴ And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Result of Not Waiting on God: 3000 men were slain by the Levites!

4. Saul is a classic example of impatience in the Old Testament.

I Sam. 10:8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings:

seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do.

I Sam. 13:8-14 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

- The days are passing; the seventh day has come; the evening of the seventh day, and Samuel has not come. Saul must do something! He begins to fret, to be anxious: he offers the offering; he cannot wait.
- As soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.
- Samuel said, What hast thou done? Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

¹² Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore and offered a burnt offering.

¹³ And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: FOR NOW would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel forever.

¹⁴ But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee. It cost Saul his kingdom!

5. Children of Israel: According to I Cor. 10:1-12: Written for our admonition

Ex. 15:17a *You will bring them in and plant them in the mountain of Your inheritance,*

- God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt to take them into the Promised Land.
- Israel was called into existence to rule on the earth at the head of the Gentile nations with God dwelling in Israel's midst.

- The Israelites were to be God's people, distinct, and living under His protection, direction, and provision as they experienced His fellowship and manifested His glory.
- Establishment of God's firstborn son in the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob at the head of the nations, within a theocracy. It was a place of joy, celebration and authority; a place that would show all people His love, presence and fellowship.

Psalm 106:13-15 shares some insightful lessons on learning to be content which is so vital to waiting on the lord.

Problem #1: "They quickly forgot His works" (13a)

The Reason for Problem #1: "They did not wait for his counsel" (13b)

Forgetting God's Works Their lost focus on the mighty works of God is placed first for emphasis. "His works" is a reference to the mighty deeds of God's love and deliverance beginning with Israel's deliverance in Egypt through the Passover lamb, and then out of Egypt by God's power at the Red Sea and extending on into the wilderness in one great event after another. What did these works show? God's works manifested God's person as loving, gracious, powerful, and committed to His people by special covenants as first spelled out in the Abrahamic covenant and later in the Mosaic covenant.

"Forgot" = Hebrew word *shakach* = carries the idea of being oblivious to something. How sad! They forgot because they lost their focus on the LORD. They lost their focus because they failed to wait on God's counsel.

What is God's counsel? The Hebrew word is *etsah*, "counsel, plan, purpose, design."

Ultimately this refers to God's Word, but in particular it refers to God's purpose and plan for the nation as His people, along with His principles by which the plan would work, and the promises of God's love and provision. This counsel was given that they might walk with Him through that counsel and manifest themselves as the people of God, a priesthood nation. But they forgot who they were as God's people because they failed to reflect on God's counsel. [Ex. 19:4-6 with I Pet. 2:5-11]

"Wait" is *chakah* which originally meant "to adhere, cling to," and then "to wait."

It means they failed to cling to the LORD and rest in the promises of His love, provision, timing, and wisdom as it pertained to their needs and His purpose for them.

When we fail to wait on God's counsel:

1. Fail to cling to Him through prayer and fellowship with Him in the Word by which we reflect on His love, faithfulness, purposes, and resources,
2. We quickly lose our focus and forget who God is and what He has done.
3. In a spirit of idolatry and human foolishness, we begin to look to and depend on
 - (a) The details of life, the things of the world like pleasure, position, power, and prestige
 - (b) Our strategies to get what we want or think we need for our happiness, security, and satisfaction.

Problem #2: "They craved [lusted exceedingly] intensely in the wilderness." [Ps. 106:14a]
The struggle we all face in learning patience and contentment in God's provision, timing, and plan for each of us.

Notice: This occurred in the "wilderness" which represents the testing places of life, the places and conditions God uses in our lives to train and develop our faith, enhance our walk with Him, and prepare us to be His people.

"Craved intensely" shows they were anything but content with God's lot for their lives or with His plan and direction at that particular moment. Rather than resting in what God was doing in their lives at that moment, they looked back on the past and craved after some of the pleasures of Egypt—the meat, fish, cucumbers, the melons, the onions, leeks and garlic. How quickly they forgot the slavery under the whip of their task masters.

The New Testament defines coveting as a form of idolatry

Eph. 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

When we covet the details of life (position, power, praise, pleasures, possessions, comfort, etc.), we value and worship them as though they were gods with the power to give security, significance, and satisfaction—things which only God can truly give.

The desire for food, clothing, pleasure, comfort, love, significance are not in themselves sinful. They become sinful when they control our lives and they cause us to abandon God's purposes and His timing.

Problem #3 Ps. 106:14b "They tempted God" in the desert. When we fail to wait on the Lord and crave after the details of life as our source of happiness, we are tempting God.

Men test God by behavior which constitutes in effect a defiant challenge to Him to prove the truth of His words and the goodness and justice of His ways.

[Ex. 17:2; Num. 14:22; Ps. 78:18, 41, 56; 95:9; 106:14; Mal. 3:15; Acts 5:9; 15:10].

The place-name Massah was a permanent memorial of one such temptation.

Ex. 17:7 He called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

To tempt God betrays extreme irreverence, and God himself forbids it. [Deut. 6:16; *cf.*

Mt. 4:7; 1 Cor. 10:9ff] In all distresses, God's people should wait on Him in quiet patience, confident that in due time He will meet their need according to His promises.

[*cf.* Ps. 27:7-14; 37:7; 40; 130:5ff; Lam. 3:25ff; Phil. 4:19]

Results of Problem #2 & 3:

a. Ps. 106:15a "so He gave them their request"

In other words, they received what they thought they needed to be happy. They finally got what they wanted. So now, they would be happy and satisfied, right? Absolutely not! God does not force His will on us, and sometimes He allows us to get what we think we must have. He sometimes allows us to live by our own strategies and substitutes through the energy of the flesh. The results, however, are always disappointing and often disastrous to some degree. The only blessing to come from such self-centered, self-dependent living is when, in the face of our disappointment or the problems incurred, we come to the end of ourselves, repent of our rebellious ways, and return and cling to the Lord.

b. Ps. 106:15b "but sent leanness into their soul"

"A Wasting Disease" Or "A Leanness Of Soul" God's judgment on their spiritual condition. There was a spiritual leanness to their inner life. This portrayed
(a) their erroneous belief that the things they craved would give them security, joy, and satisfaction, and
(b) their lack of faith and confidence in the living Lord.
Out of this leanness of their walk with God, they craved the details of life. In their craving, they turned to their human schemes. They reached into their bag of tricks to get what they wanted. They murmured, complained, and blamed both God and Moses.

Examine Num. 11 to see if we can glean more insight into man's tendency to lustful cravings rather than trustful waiting.

Numbers 11:1-3 *Now when the people COMPLAINED, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. ² Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. ³ So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.*

V. 4-5 different set of events: reveal more of the process and cause of leanness of the soul. Numbers 11:4-6 *And the rabble who were among them had GREEDY DESIRES [same Hebrew word as craved intensely]; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "who will give us meat to eat?" ⁵We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

Verse 6: Don't forget: The blessings God had in store for the nation once they reached the land, a land flowing with what? Milk and honey!

V. 10 Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, each man at the doorway of his tent; and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly, and Moses was displeased.

V. 18, 20 Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, "Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt." ...²⁰but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the Lord who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"
[The things they craved soon became loathsome!]

Num. 11:32a-33 And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails. And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

By their cravings and their complaining, they were saying in essence:

God is not enough.

God is not sufficient for the adversity we are facing.

God does not know what he is doing. He has brought us out here to die in the wilderness.

The Psalmist referred to the events of Numbers 11:1-35, especially the terrible plague with which the Lord struck the people. Kibroth-hattaavah, *the graves of craving*

Ps. 107:9 For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

The Only One who can satisfy the human heart is the One who made it.