

Slow Leak

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Main Scriptures: Proverbs 28: 13; 1 Samuel 9: 1- 27 ; 1 Samuel 10: 1- 2, 5- 25; 1 Samuel 11: 1-13; 1 Samuel 13: 8 - 14; 1 Samuel 14: 16

Supporting scriptures:

Notes:

1 Samuel 9: 5 shows how caring he was for his father. He didn't want to place his father in a position of worry. Verse 7 shows Saul's kindness.

It is good for us to know that it is God who chose Saul and gave him a purpose. God is sending Saul by allowing his father's donkeys to go missing. When we look at the life of Saul we should note that as Christians our bodies do not belong to us. Each of us has been given a purpose in this kingdom. There is something for us to do in the kingdom of God. God chose us, we did not choose him. Can you imagine you are on a mission to look for donkeys and a man who you are told everything comes through. You are told that the donkeys have been found but also you and your family are the focus of all Israel's hope. God never called a man having him to sit back and be comfortable to wait for the day of death or to be translated into heaven - there is work to do. We see a very humble and respectful young man - 1 Samuel 9: 21 compared to 1 Samuel 9: 1

Saul had a humble spirit.

What we see here is an individual who submits himself even to a man who the anointing of the Lord rests on. We are seeing a display of the hand of God. God silently works out his plan through an individual and now we see a young man - Saul who is showing that he is caring and obedient and humble and is now anointed as king and ruler over Israel.

When the hand of God touches you - you will be changed into another person. - When we are buried in his name and filled with the holy ghost then we have a change of heart that takes place.

A young man selected by God is told to go to Gilgal and he must wait for seven days until Samuel arrives and gives you instructions - this is no different from our lives as Christians we must live by his command.

In 1 Samuel 11 Saul is going on his first military mission and we are told about a tragedy with the citizens of Jabesh. The anointing on Saul's life stirred him in righteous anger and he wanted to move for God and the anointing of the Lord united the land to fight for the town of Jabesh. Saul had a solid start. He had a forgiving spirit - 1 Samuel 11: 13

We see a solid start. We have not seen anything in his character that would cause us to question him. The hand of the Lord is on him and he is given a word of the Lord to do whatever you are commanded to do as King.

It was Anon who said Life's greatest tragedy is to lose God and not miss him" A relationship we thought was active but it's not.

Donald Grey Barnhouse. - Whither is a slow process, barely perceptible at first either to one who is being withered or to those who look on."

John Blanchard - No Christian is ever going in the right direction when his back is to God"

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When we look at the life of Saul, a solid start as it relates to his call and his function in the office God placed him in. As Christians everyone is given a clean start with God. the hand of God rests on us and in fact as believers we have the gift of the Holy ghost which is Christ in us the hope of Glory. The spirit of the Lord would move on the people and they would prophecy but how much greater is Christ living in us.

In 1 Samuel 13 we see Saul going up against the philistines he is faced with a battle and he is waiting for Samuel and sacrificed in impatience and fear. This is the beginning of a slow leak. Backsliding does not start with a bang it is a slow leak.

What we see is an individual who at the beginning did not find himself to be so vocal in the presence of Samuel and he would listen to the instructions but now he is giving four excuses.

A great start but now there is a slow leak.

There are two things to notice - there is Saul the king of Israel at his function and there is Saul the man.

What we will see next week is to see the end result of a slow leak. The joy that is diminishing slowly dying.

We have a man who is showing that he is failing. He is acting in a way that is contrary to the will of God and when he is confronted he is making excuses.

1 Samuel 14: 19-23 - Saul seeks out the Ephod and desires to put it on to head into battle. By the time we reach 1 Samuel 15 we see now Samuel approaching Saul another time. God is still speaking even though he is giving excuses for his behaviour. God does not have to tell us when he instructs us to do something what the purpose is but how great when we are informed of the purpose of why he has given us an instruction. God who is looking down and time is progressing and in the past the Amalekites acted against the people of Israel coming out of Egypt and he says today mercy has ended and justice will be carried out against the people of Amalek. Perhaps there are those who are listening and as you look back into your birth into the church (because you are born into the church and not joined in) you may remember the solid start. Some of us begin to think about how I ended up where I am now?

If any man finds himself outside of the presence of God you don't have to ask who left, only mankind will walk away from the presence of God.

Why are we not at the place when it's not us that is working, it is Christ who is working through us? It tells us someone moved and it wasn't God. Brothers and Sisters I want us to pause and think and use our mind that God has given us- who moved?

Why did Saul become impatient and act in fear when God said He was with Him? What happened? I like talking about the past because we should not forget what he has done but we must have a current relationship. Something must be happening now. Let's reflect in the next coming days on our lives and this Christian walk because we need to get to the place where we are walking with God. There is only one result that takes place if we have a slow leak in a tire and we don't pay attention to it - this will result with a flat tire and it stalls us and we can't move. Somewhere somehow there is a slow leak and it must be identified before it is addressed.

The Lord says behold I stand at the door and knock. What makes you tearful when you reflect on how the Lord used you in the past and something has changed. What changed?