



**“Character Under  
Construction”  
1 Samuel 13:8-14**

# We Live in an Impatient Society!

- **Fast Food**
- **Microwave Ovens**
- **“Drive Throughs” - and Especially with COVID 19**
- **Express Lanes (We count how many items the person ahead of us has, to justify their position in line)**
- **Pizzas delivered in less than 30 Minutes**

## **What's Bound to Tick Us Off?**

- **Long Lines Anywhere, even Socially Distanced Lines**
- **Waiting for Hours at the Doctor's Office**
- **Slow Drivers in the Passing Lane**
- **Long Sermons! (fill out a response card if not on your list)**

# Our Impatience May Not Be Just a “Quirk” in Our Personality

- It may signal the initial spark of anger in our lives (our impatience may be at the root of our anger)
- It may underscore a basic selfishness on our part  
Ex. Many in our society are *“Tired of COVID19 Demands!”* and we’re impatient about it (wash your hands, wear your mask, practice social distancing has gotten old for many of us) Let’s go back to *“our regularly scheduled program already in progress!”*
- It may be the first indicator of our primary feeling of entitlement in relationships with our loved ones
- It also may serve as a hindrance to a closer relationship with God

# Observations

- The Bible, as usual, gives us examples of men and women that exhibited behaviors that God didn't like
- There are people in the Bible, who serve as role models to avoid, as we consider our relationship with God

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”*

*Romans 15:4*

# Background Story

- In the Old Testament, God's people wanted an earthly king, even though God's idea was that He would function in that capacity. 1 Samuel 8:7-22
- The prophet Samuel was instructed by God to acquiesce to their wishes and anoint a man named Saul to be Israel's king
- Saul is described in scripture as a handsome young man, no one any better looking, and a head taller than anyone else (1 Samuel 9:2)
- On the outside, he looked impressive, BUT there is more to a man than looks. 1 Samuel 16:7 *"for the Lord seeth not as man seeth...."*

# Background Story

- **Saul leads Israel on their first military victory in years over one of its oppressive neighbors, the Ammonites, thus causing Israel to believe that they had made the correct choice for their King, 1 Sam 11:8 (their army numbered 330,000 men)**
- **Another oppressive neighbor, the Philistines, try to defeat Israel in some “border skirmishes” with them as well**
- **Now with an earthly king of their own, Israel feels “emboldened” to let border nations like the Philistines know that they would not be intimidated or overtaken by them. Saul had only 3000 men with him at the time, 1 Samuel 13:2**
- **Word gets to the Philistines of Israel’s newly found “autonomy,” and so they marshal a huge army to go against Saul’s new army, 1 Samuel 13:5 (30 thousand chariots, 6 thousand horsemen, and troops as numerous as the sand on the seashore)**

# Background Story

- **Needless to say, the new Israelite army lost its composure when they were faced with the risk of dying at the hands of this powerful Philistine show of force!**
- **Many of the men in the Israelite army were afraid, and began to desert their posts—hid in caves, in tombs, and behind rocks, and in pits—when they were faced with the arrival of this huge enemy, 1 Samuel 13:6**
- **Now the prophet Samuel, had charged King Saul to look to God for protection and victory—not to rely on his own power**
- **In an expression of trust, Samuel clearly had told Saul to wait for him for 7 days; and he would come and offer a sacrifice to God and instruct him on what to do to ensure his victory over the Philistines' forces, 1 Samuel 10:8**
- **He was to wait—while the Philistine army was coming, while his own men were running away, and while those who remained with him were frightened**

## Background Story

- Here is what happened: every hour that passed, every day that passed, every deserter that left, made King Saul believe that his chances for victory grew less and less. For almost all of 7 days he waited
- Then on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, Saul takes charge. As if to say, *“Look, Samuel is not coming, it’s day 7. Bring me the burnt offerings. Let’s do this. I’ll play the part of Samuel, we’ll sing a few songs, pass the plate, conclude with Just As I Am, and we’re finished. I’m losing men by the second. Just sprinkle your bottled water (Holy Water) on us and let’s go!”*



Just As Saul Was  
Finishing his  
Ceremony on  
DAY 7, Samuel  
Shows Up!  
Saul's Busted!

## In Saul's Impatience, He Shows His True Heart; 1 Samuel 13:11-12

- Samuel asked him, "what have you done?" Saul says, "*Well when I saw my army running away, and you had not come like you said (he came on day 7), and the Philistines were poised to capture me, and I hadn't ask the Lord for help, I forced myself to take matters in my own hands.*"
- This Is Us! - This is the type of posture we assume, and fail, when we try to JUSTIFY our own impatience with our issues and not wait on God to help us (*We sing it but don't practice it! ;...They that wait on the Lord shall renew...*)

# Sometimes We Believe God's Timing Isn't Very Reasonable, So We Act On Impatience!

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*"I'll quit my job and put my family in a financial tight because it's unreasonable to have to put up with my job so long, and my supervisor has demanded so much from me!"*

*"God hasn't shown up, so I'll take matters into my own hands."*

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*"I'll go ahead and marry this person because I'm lonely and it's unreasonable to wait. Besides, the clock's ticking on me, and who knows if ever, another option will come along!"*

*"God hasn't shown up, so I'll take matters into my own hands."*

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*"I'll go ahead and get this ill-advised loan, whose interest is off the charts, because we have all of these needs that must be purchased."*

*"God hasn't shown up, so I'll take matters into my own hands."*

## At Other Times, We Use God as a “Cosigner” to Bless What We Have Already Decided to Do!

- *“I know that God wants me to be happy, so I’m just going to go out and get (buy) it and expect Him to bless what I have already decided to do!”*
- *“I know that I need guidance from God, so I’ll just depend on my horoscope, and my lucky number.” “God will bless it.”*
- *“God wants me do great things, but He’s not showing up like I expected Him to; so I’m going to play amateur Holy Spirit and manipulate people and get the leaders to ordain me for God!”*
- Notice as Saul sputters out excuses for his disobedience to Samuel, the REAL reason comes out of him: *“I decided that I needed to take matters in my own hands; I felt compelled to do what I did! I needed to take control of my situation!”*

# What's Behind Impatience Many Times Is SELF!

- Saul told himself that “God wasn’t acting fast enough”

“He’s not meeting my needs like He said He would”

“God didn’t stop that from happening to me, He’s too slow”

“He’s not keeping me happy”

“He is not rescuing me fast enough from the trouble He knows that I’m in. So I’ve got to make it happen”

So Saul Takes Matters In His Own Hands and “*Gets Busted, ON DAY SEVEN” When Samuel Comes!*

# Observations

- Samuel tells Saul that he has acted foolishly
- This experience has uncovered a heart that was untrusting, without faith, and a heart that refused to hold onto God's love when times got hard, Matthew 7:24-27
- Saul loses his kingdom for a lack of several hours of patience
- God, then sought out a man after His own heart, 1 Samuel 13:14, Acts 13:22 (that's where David enters the picture)
- This was supposed to be a Character Building Experience in Saul's life, sponsored by God, and he failed. Romans 5:3-5
- This story is meant to teach us the importance of waiting on God (patience) as a Building Block for Our Character

***Our Impatience May Say, "I Don't Trust God For My Life!"***

# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**