

Dangerous Opportunities

David's 2nd Dangerous Opportunity

1 Samuel 26:1-25 (See also 1 Samuel 24)

The Truth About Opportunity

- ✓ Some **OPPORTUNITIES** are just **TEMPTATIONS** in disguise.
- ✓ When we rush God's **TIMING**, we wreck God's **PLAN**.

To Experience God's Perfect Timing

1. Start with **HUMBLY SUBMITTING** to those in **AUTHORITY**.
Romans 13:1-3/ 1 Peter 2:13-15/ Acts 4:18-20/ Exodus 1:15-21/ Hebrews 13:17
2. Never take **JUSTICE** into your own hands.
1 Samuel 26:10-11/ Deuteronomy 32:35/ Romans 12:19/ Hebrews 10:30/ Proverbs 24:29
3. Never do the **WRONG THING** to speed up the **RIGHT THING**.
1 Samuel 24:12-13 & 26: 9-11/ Acts 7:23-34/ Genesis 12:1-4; 15:1-16; 21:1-6/ Matthew 4:1-11
4. Be prepared to wait **FAR LONGER** than you **EXPECTED**.
Genesis 15:12-21/ Psalm 73:1-22/ Revelation 6:9-11/ Hebrews 11:39-40

A Final Thought

- ✓ We'll never be **DISAPPOINTED** when we **WAIT** for God's timing.
We'll always be **DISAPPOINTED** when we **RUSH** God's timing.
1 Peter 5:5-6

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- ✓ When we rush God's _____, we wreck God's _____.

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4. Be prepared to wait _____ than you _____.
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A Final Thought

- ✓ We'll never be _____ when we _____ for God's timing.
We'll always be _____ when we _____ God's timing.
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Life Group Study Questions

For the week of March 27, 2022

WELCOME TO THE SPRING QUARTER OF LIFE GROUPS!

This week we kick off our Spring Life Group Quarter. Your first meeting is designed to give you time to get acquainted and connect with each other, as well as time to discuss how to make your Life Group meetings great!

To prepare for your first meeting, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great meeting!

Online Groups - If your group is meeting online, your leaders will be sending you the link for your group. Use this link for help on meeting with your group online: lifeqgroups.northcoastchurch.com/pro-tips/

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What is the most fun, interesting or unique job you've ever had?
2. Larry warned us that some opportunities are, in reality, temptations in disguise. Can you think of a time in your life when you were tempted to do or actually did do the right thing the wrong way or at the wrong time? If so, explain.
3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. We heard this weekend how David was a great example of someone willing to wait for God's timing. Saul, on the other hand, on at least a couple of occasions, provides a great example of someone who was unwilling to wait for God's timing. One such occasion is found in 1 Samuel 13:5-14. As you read that story, what do you notice about Saul's reasons for not waiting and how he explains his unwillingness to wait to Samuel?

1 Samuel 13:5-14 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven. ⁶ When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. ⁷ Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. ⁸ He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. ⁹ So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. ¹⁰ Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

¹¹ "What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, ¹² I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

¹³ "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command."

What do you think could have been going through Saul's mind while he waited those seven days for Samuel?

Can you think of any other excuses/rationalizations people come up with for not being willing to wait for God's timing?

Psalms 13 was written by David and reflects his familiarity with waiting. What can you learn from this psalm about how to respond to a time of waiting?

Psalms 13 New International Version (NIV)

¹ How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

How long will my enemy triumph over me?

³ Look on me and answer, LORD my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love;
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing the LORD's praise,
for he has been good to me.

2. In the sermon, Larry called us to humbly submit to those in authority. It's hard to do this if humility isn't a part of our everyday lives. The importance of humility can be seen in the fact that "humble" is one of the only two character qualities Jesus ever used to describe Himself (the other is gentleness—see Matthew 11:29). What do you learn about the process of developing humility from the following passages?

Luke 14:7-11 New International Version (NIV)

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

1 Peter 5:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

"God opposes the proud

but shows favor to the humble."

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

How would you define humility in light of Philippians 2:3-4?

Philippians 2:3-4 New International Version (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Can you think of anything in your life that has helped you or could help you to learn humility?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Larry talked about four ways we can experience God's perfect timing. Which of those ways is most important for you to remember?
2. As you think about this quarter, what is one thing you hope to get out of your Life Group experience?

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

SHARE

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.