

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE

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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Is there something, Beloved, in your life that is absolutely wearing you out? You're tired of it. It's been going on now year after year after year and you need deliverance. But you don't know how to get it. It might be something in your life that is like a besetting sin and you just can't shake it. It may be a difficult relationship. It may be a number of things. Where does relief come from? We're going to see that today.

PART ONE

Do you know my friend, how much I love going through the Word of God with you verse-by-verse and book-by-book? Because I know that as you study it, as you download your study guide and as you work with me, and you look at the who of every chapter, and the what of every chapter, who are the main characters, what are the main events of this chapter and when is it happening and where is it happening, and how are these things brought about, then you are learning just awesome, awesome insights that will help

you understand how you're to live, that will equip you for every good work of life. And not only that, so that you will be able to handle the Word of God accurately, so you'll be able to do as 2 Timothy 2:15 says and that means cut it straight. You've got to realize that as we study the Old Testament what's happening is we're studying the book that Jesus studied. We're studying the book that Paul studied. We're studying the only book that the apostles had and this was their Bible; and that's what you and I are looking at. And it is a Bible that has the answers for every need. Well remember the ark of the Lord had been taken to Kiriath-jearim. And it had gone there because the people living in Beth-shemesh were scared to death because they had looked into the ark and when they looked into the ark they had to lift the cover and they touched it and God brought about a great slaughter and they didn't want the ark around. And so they sent it to Kiriath-jearim. And they took the ark of the Lord and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord. Now remember we're marking geographical locations, so you double underline Kiriath-jearim and then you go and you look for it on your map. And when you go you're going to see that it is northwest of Jerusalem, and it's not far from Beth-shemesh. All right, and then you're also marking time phrases, so let's see what you mark in verse 2. And it came about, "From the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, that the time was long, for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord." Now as we study on, you're going to find out that the ark of the Lord was there longer than twenty years. You say, but it says twenty here. Yes, what its saying is, it had been there twenty years and then this incident happened. It didn't say that it stayed there for only twenty years; but it said it was twenty years; the time was long. "...And all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord." Now what I want you to see is you find Israel in a state of sorrow. You find them grieving before the Lord. "And then Samuel spoke to the house of Israel..." Now whatever age he was when the Philistines defeated the children of Israel and Hophni and Phinehas died, whatever age he was, it is now a good twenty years after that. "And Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel saying,

‘If you return to the Lord with all your heart, remove foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your hearts to the Lord and serve Him alone, and He will deliver you from the hands of the Philistines.’ In other words they needed deliverance and they were under the oppression of the Philistines. As you read the Word of God, I mean they had no greater enemy than the Philistines that were constantly after them, constantly wearing them down, constantly coming against them. They were just not content to have those Jews as their neighbors. And it’s still today. What do you need deliverance from? They needed deliverance from the hand of the Philistines, and so God is telling them how you get deliverance. And remember if these things are written for our example then there are lessons here for you and I to get deliverance. Deliverance from something that is wearing us down, something that is oppressing us, something that is causing us to live in a state of defeat. God never wants us to live in a state of defeat. And so what God’s going to say to the house of Israel through Samuel He’s going to say to you today. All right, number one: “If you return to the Lord with all your heart.” (7:3b) Now in the study guide we told you to mark the word return, and it’s underlining it and then going around the edge and taking that arrow and going upward. “Return to the Lord with all your heart.” So you put a heart over, any time you reference to a persons heart, you need to put a heart there, because the heart is like the control center of your life. And as the heart goes so goes your behavior. As the heart goes, so goes your affections. See so it’s the heart that sets your affections. It depends on what your heart is set on. So he’s going to say, first of all, if you want deliverance, you need to “...return to the Lord with all your heart....” So apparently these people had not really made that commitment to God. They wanted the blessing of God. They wanted the presence of God. They wanted deliverance from their enemies, but they really didn’t want to love Him with all their heart. They really didn’t want to return to Him with all their heart. So today, I want to stop and ask you, what is your heart set on? Can you honestly say, Beloved that your heart is beating as God’s heart? In other words there’s nothing that is giving you a divided heart; there is no area of your life that is not under

God's control. So you need to stop; when we finish the program or sometime before you go to bed tonight, some time you need to be quiet before the Lord and you need to pray, and you need to say to Him, God, show me if I have a divided heart in any way. Show me if I am not fully, passionately following You. Show that to me. Because you're not going to have deliverance from anything until you are connected with God by your heart. You know I have told this story before, so if you've heard it bear with me. But I was walking through the living room one day and Jack was sitting there, my sweet husband, with our youngest son David, who's now a pastor; but sitting there and they were watching a science program. They had taken tissue from two different hearts and that tissue will continue to beat, but it was beating at different paces because they were from two different hearts and different heart rates. But what they did was they this little instrument and they moved one piece of the heart next to the other heart and the minute they connected they both started beating in unison. So if you need deliverance then you need to return to the Lord with all your heart so your heart beats in unison with God's. Number two: You need to "remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you." (7:3c) In other words listen, if you're going to return to Me with all your heart and you are to love Me, as the New Testament Jesus said, you are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. Well if you're going to do that then you've got to remove any idols in your life. Now idols in your life can be the things of this world. It can be the lust of the eyes. It can be the pride of life. It can be what you are boasting in, what you are giving your time to, what you are consumed with, what you are passionate about. And an idol is something that gets between you and God and keeps you from giving God your all. So this is the second thing you need to do. The third thing, and he has it right here. And in your Bible we suggest that you would mark a three over this next thing. You would mark it one, two, three. This is the way you observe the text and you see okay, what is he saying; what am I to do or how am I to be delivered from the hands of my enemies the same way they were, and so this is what I

do. Number three is you need to “direct your hearts to the Lord.” (7:3d) Now you return to Him with all your heart. You get rid of the foreign gods and the Ashtaroath. You put aside anything that is going to keep you from loving God fully, any idol that gets between you and God. And then you purposely direct your heart to the Lord. And listen, this is what you’re doing, as you meet with me day by day, or as you listen to other great men and women of God that are teaching the Word of God; not manipulating you, but teaching the Word of God. What you’re doing is you’re directing your heart to the Lord. As you turn on Christian music, what are you doing? Directing your heart to the Lord. But listen very carefully: If you like the music, but not the Word, you have not directed your heart to the Lord. Because what is the Word? The Bible is the very words of God. And so if I’m going to direct my heart to the Lord, then I have to be in the Word, because otherwise I’m not going to know who the Lord is, what He is like, how He operates, what He expects of me, what He commands me, what He promises me, because I’m not listening to Him. So if you have time to listen to television or you have time to listen to the radio, or you have time to go to your ballgames, or you have time to do all your exercising, or you have time to go to the beauty parlor, or you have time to go to the barber shop, wherever, or whatever you’re doing, or go work out and you don’t have time for the Word, then you cannot expect deliverance, because deliverance, Beloved, comes from the Word of God. It is your one and only offensive weapon against the enemy, and taking the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. So you’ve got to direct your heart to the Lord. Well we have more to say, but we need to take a break.

PART TWO

Welcome back my friend. Well, we’re talking about deliverance and what do you do when you need deliverance? And we’re looking at the children of Israel. They needed deliverance from the hand of the Philistines. And God has told them through Samuel three things to do, and now we move to the

fourth. And the fourth one is this: And serve Him alone. You see they had the Ashtarotheim. They had this female deity. They had other foreign gods. They had a syncretism in their worship. A syncretism means that you take two things and you blend them. And listen to me very carefully: you don't blend anything with God. If you have God you have all you need and you're not to blend Him with anything. So they had to get rid of these foreign gods. They had to direct their hearts to the Lord and they were to serve Him alone. And I want to ask you a question. It's a hard question, but it's a question I ask myself and it's a question I have to ask you. Whom are you serving? I mean are you self-serving? Or are you a man-pleaser? Or are you a servant of God? Who is uppermost in your mind in all that you do, in all that you plan, in the way that you use your energies and your time and your talents, and who is in uppermost in your giving, in the way that you spend money? See all of this shows whom you are serving. Do you remember in Matthew, chapter 4 when Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness to be tempted by the devil? And remember how the devil came to Him. And in verse 8 it says, "The devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory." Now listen, He got a view of every kingdom on the face of this earth. He got a view of their glory. In other words, the glory is, is that which seems; it's the word *doxa* and it means to give an impression of, to give a correct expression of. And so He saw the world. And listen, the world has, in a sense, its own glory. It has its own allure. It has its own promise. It has its own greatness. And he said to Jesus: "All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me." In other words, you know, all You have to do is give me Your allegiance and I'll give it to You. He was offering Him a crown without a cross. "Then Jesus said to him: Be gone Satan, for it is written..." In other words, He's going back to the Old Testament and He's going to quote the Old Testament. He was a man of the Book. He was the God-man, yes, but He was a man of the Book and you and I need to be the man of the Book. And remember I told you that the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. It's our one and only offensive weapon against the enemy because it's all we need. "So Jesus

said to him: Be gone Satan, for it is written, you shall worship, bow down before the Lord your God, and serve Him only.” (Matthew 4:10) Now this is Jesus’ statement. And this is what we see in 1 Samuel. We’re seeing that if we want deliverance, then we are to serve Him alone. Now you may want deliverance from a marriage that didn’t turn out the way you wanted it to turn out. It’s not the dream that you dreamed. It’s the not the ideal that you were striving for. As a matter of fact, it’s a disappointment. And I know that that’s hard. But I want to tell you something; you are to serve God and you are to serve God alone. And so deliverance is going to come, not by walking out of the marriage, but deliverance is going to come by you returning to God with all your heart and saying this marriage and this dream that I had has taken part of my heart away from You. It has divided my heart and I’m going to give this marriage to You. “Remove the foreign idols and the Ashtaroth from among you.” (1 Samuel 7:3b) What are things that you have wanted, and that you have longed for and you can’t have? They’re like an idol. They’re like what the world sets up. You have to get rid of that. You have to direct your heart to the Lord and you have to serve Him alone. So then you say, okay Lord, my marriage is not what I wanted it to be. It is not what I dreamed of. I feel like I’ve missed it. I feel like I’m never going to know the love that I have always longed to know, the admiration, the relationship, the affection. I’m not going to have it. But God I’m not on the face of this earth to have my ideal marriage. I’m here to serve You. I am here to serve You alone, and so God, my deliverance will come, not in You taking me out of the marriage, but in me learning what you want me to learn and serving You alone and loving You with all my heart, soul, mind, body and spirit. See, deliverance doesn’t always come out of the situation or out of the trial, but it can come within it. In other words you can live in it and you can still, in that trial, be everything that God wanted you to be. So I don’t know where you’re coming from, but I can tell you, here are four principles. And I can tell you that if you will take these and spread them before the Lord and say, okay Lord, here they are. Now You are my teacher; the Holy spirit is in me; You lead me; You guide me and You show me what

to do. Now watch what the sons of Israel did. “So the sons of Israel removed the Baals and the Ashtaroath and served God alone.” In other words they did what God said. And they served God alone. And so “then Samuel said, ‘Gather all Israel to Mizpah and I will pray to the Lord for you.’” (7:5) In other words, when he saw their obedience, when he saw that they were serious, when they saw this lamenting after the Lord, this longing in their hearts to be the people of God that they should be, and to have God be all that He should be to them, when he saw this, and he saw them remove the Baals and the Ashtaroath and start to serve God, he says okay, I want you all to come to Mizpah and I am going to pray for you. Now I want to stop here for a minute and I want to take you to Matthew, chapter 3. And I want to show you that before God can move He has to see that there is a genuine repentance. And people are going out to be baptized by John and they’re confessing their sins. And when he saw many of the Pharisees and the Sadducees coming for baptism, he said, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance.” (Matthew 3:7-8) In other words, before I baptize you, show me that you are really, really sincere. And when you show me that you are really sincere, when I see fruit in keeping with repentance, which is a change of mind that results in a change of action, he says then you’ll be ready for baptism. But just know this don’t suppose that you can say we have Abraham for our father. In other words, don’t hang on to your religion. It’s not a religion; it is a relationship. And so gather all Israel to Mizpah and I will pray to the Lord for you. Well there are more exiting insights in all this, but you know what? We’re going to have to look at those in the next program. Just know this, that you’re loved and appreciated deeply. And I thank you so very much for supporting this program. You know radio cost money, and I thank you for helping pay for what you are benefiting from.