

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

MONDAY

OPEN

Wait, wait I say. Wait on the Lord. You know it is so hard to wait. We're such an instant society, a now society. I want it now, and yet we miss the discipline of waiting. Well we're talking to my friend Linda Bandy Hines, and we're finding out from her what she learned as she waited upon the Lord, waited for a man to realize he was to marry her.

PART ONE

Kay: I know if you are a single person that you are saying I've got to know, I've got to talk to this woman. I've got to find out. God told me I was going to marry someone. It didn't happen. What do I do? Do I keep on waiting? Linda, we're looking at 1 Samuel 13; this is where we have stopped and where we are waiting, where we have paused because as we look at Saul we find out that this man got anxious after waiting for seven days and Samuel didn't show up. Now he did show up that day, but he showed up at the end of that day, but Saul got so impatient because he looked at the circumstances, the people were scattering. He became afraid and so he says,

he forced himself and he "...offered the burnt offering."(1Samuel 13:12b) and of course we know from studying 1 Samuel, chapter 13 that "Samuel [that] said to Saul, 'You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord...which He commanded you.'"(1Samuel 13:13a) He acted foolishly because he moved according to the circumstances and according to his fears rather than waiting on the Lord. Linda, you told us in our last program that Bill eventually said you know, I think we need to get married. And I want to hear more about that marriage, but before I do, I want to hear about this waiting period, and I think our audience would like to hear about it too, and especially those that are single, and those probably that didn't wait and are sorry that they rushed into something.

Linda: I can tell you I'm glad it's over.

Kay: The wait's over.

Linda: The wait is over, but from the time that I told him God was telling me that I was to marry him, and the time that he figured that out and asked me to marry him was one year.

Kay: But there was a year that went before that.

Linda: A year before that, yes, I spent a year in prayer seeking God about that to confirm it. Then he began to date another woman. Then I questioned. Then I told him what God was doing in my life and then it was another year after that before he came to that same conclusion. And that year was the most difficult for me because now I was in Chicago working in the same building, going to the same church, seeing him dating another woman.

Kay: Yeah, and his name is Bill. If you didn't listen to the last program you need to get it and listen to it. You don't want to miss this story. Okay, so this is Bill.

Linda: So that was the situation and I'm knowing that God wants me to marry him and now I'm 50 years old, and I'm thinking God, why are you dangling this in front of me? And I'm seeing this day after day after day. And so my emotions and my faith are just going up and down and up and down. And questioning was I right? Was I right to hear?

Kay: Yes.

Linda: In hearing God.

Kay: Yes.

Linda: But I also knew that I didn't want this marriage if it was me, if it was my own idea, I didn't want it. I only wanted it if it was God's idea because I knew that no marriage is better than a bad marriage, the wrong marriage.

Kay: Right.

Linda: So I had determined not to push the door at all and I waited, just waited, because I could have said, it looks like it's not going to happen, so I'll just go look for someone else.

Kay: Now were you that keen on getting married at this point?

Linda: I really wasn't, but God had put it in my heart now for the last two years to be married. So now I was thinking about marriage, but it didn't look like I was going to be marrying Bill as God had put it on my heart, so the temptation was I could have forced the issue with him or I could have gone looking in another direction and missed it.

Kay: Now tell me because he had children. Let's talk about the children for a minute.

Linda: Okay.

Kay: How old were his children?

Linda: His children at that time were about 16 and 20.

Kay: And how did you feel about the children?

Linda: I loved the children and his daughter actually was in my cabin at camp for six years prior to this. I was her cabin counselor. So I had a really good relationship with her. And his son actually asked me to marry his father a year before his father did.

Kay: (Laughing) That's so cute.

Linda: Bill really was the last one to come on board with all of this. So the relationship there was really good.

Kay: And did that make it harder in the waiting knowing that the kids wanted this and that they were proposing for their father?

Linda: It certainly was another dynamic in the picture because I wanted what was right for them as well and I knew that decision that was going to be made, whichever person he chose to marry would affect them as well. It would affect their children. It affects so many people.

Kay: Yeah, we forget how many generations it impacts.

Linda: Right.

Kay: And the ramifications of that. And so many times when we don't wait and we rush in, go back to Abraham. I mean Abraham knew the will of God.

Linda: Right.

Kay: And he knew that Sarah was to have a child, but ...

Linda: But he didn't wait for the right woman to have the child and created a lot of consequences.

Kay: That still goes on today,

Linda: Yes.

Kay: The consequences between the sons of Ishmael and the sons of Isaac.

Linda: And this principle of obedience I go back to Deuteronomy with the cursings and the blessings when God says to them [if you will obey Me in this and this and this I will bless you. But if you choose not to obey Me then there are consequences that will be ongoing.] (Deuteronomy 28 paraphrase)

Kay: And we forget that there are consequences because what we think is we think we can do what Saul does and he explains but, "...I saw that the people..." in verse 11 of chapter 13, "...were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash..." (1 Samuel 13:11b) So he has three reasons why he doesn't do this. "...therefore I said..." and now here's his reasoning, "...Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the Lord." (13:12a) So what we're seeing and we're going to see it later is that obedience is better than sacrifice. But so many times we

think okay well I can disobey. I'm under the covenant of grace. I can ask God to forgive me and He will forgive me, and He will.

Linda: And He will...

Kay: But what?

Linda: There will be consequences.

Kay: Exactly.

Linda: That will be ongoing.

Kay: Yeah. And you didn't want those ongoing.

Linda: I didn't want those consequences. And there was a critical point during that year when I began to panic like those people. They were scattering and he said I have to do something because it's falling apart. And I panicked and, and I was angry at God, and I said to Him, God, what are You doing? I'm 50 years old. You've dangled marriage before me and now You're pulling it back. Why are You playing games with me? And at that point that very moment is when the character of God came back to my mind. And I stood right up and I said no. I know the character of God and He does not play games with people. So He was good enough for me for 50 years. If Bill chooses not to marry me God is good enough for me until I die, but I know His character. I may never know what this is all about. I may never know what part I had to play in all of this, but I know that God is good enough for me. And at that point I had total peace and it was shortly after that that it all came together.

Kay: Now let me just stop and ask, do you think it's right for you to talk to God that way, to say to God, I mean, what are You doing to me?

Linda: Absolutely.

Kay: Why? Cause some people don't think they can be honest with God.

Linda: Well scripture tells us to come to Him. And it may be in Job that He said come and reason, bring everything to Me and we'll fight it out.

Kay: Yeah, that's what He does in Job. I mean Job goes back to God and says now what are You doing? And God reminds Job when He's telling him what He's doing, He reminds him of who He is.

Linda: Right.

Kay: I mean were you there when I laid the foundations of the earth? And the morning stars sang for joy. And He reminds him Job come back and rest in who I am.

Linda: Right, and Job ends up saying, "I knew God, but now I see Him."

Kay: Yes, yeah. ["I heard of Him with the hearing in my ears, but now I have seen Him with the seeing of my eyes, and, and I'm humbled"] (Job 42:5-6) and then it happens.

Linda: Right. And that was what really was the turning point for me was when I recognized in all of this God is still in control. It's His character that I need to focus on. And whatever He has for me is going to be what's best for me and for the kingdom. So the wait became irrelevant. I knew, I knew, I knew what He wanted me to do was just to be obedient and not push the envelop, not make things happen because of the circumstances.

Kay: Yeah, and I'm the kind that want to make things happen. I'm the kind that wants to orchestrate the circumstances or think O maybe I should have been here so that could have happened or if I had been there. I don't know if it's typical with women, but I know it's typical with some of us, that we think that we have to help God, and that if we don't show up at a certain place where that person's going to be then they're going to forget us. And so we begin to play God and to manipulate the circumstances and this is what you find in Saul's life. I mean this is a basic character flaw in Saul's life. And it's a character flaw because his heart is not after God, and God makes that very clear in 1 Samuel, chapter 13, verse 14 when he says to him, "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart..." (1 Samuel 13:14a) Now beloved, you remember that one of the key words that we're marking and you'll want to mark it all the way through the Bible is the word heart. So you draw a heart over that word and if you want to show that it's after God's heart, instead of coloring

it red, you can color it yellow. You can come up with your own method. We want you to learn how to study the Bible. We're going to continue this conversation with Linda. But I want to remind you that you need to know God like Linda knows God. And the way that Linda learned to know God was through studying His Word precept upon precept.

PART TWO

Kay: Welcome back beloved. This is interesting isn't it? And we still have more to explore. Linda, I have to tell you that when I got the Christmas card this past year and I looked at that picture of you and Bill and the kids, I thought this is awesome, absolutely awesome, a miracle. Who would ever think that a woman who was 50 years old, a virgin, working for the Salvation Army of all things would marry a man that is such an awesome man? I mean in case people missed how you and Bill reconnected, I want to go there and talk about how God brought Bill around. You were waiting for Bill. God had settled this that you could trust His character and then you go to a wedding and what happens?

Linda: At that wedding he asked me to dance.

Kay: What happened when he asked you to dance?

Linda: My stomach did a little flip.

Kay: O my.

Linda: Because I began to think it's going to happen. It's beginning to happen and so we danced this dance. And he realized at that point that I was the woman he was supposed to be with, but then he had to process all of that and where he was in his life. So it took him another year before he worked that out and realized that what I had told him that God was saying was the truth.

Kay: I admire that, that he did not go on somebody else's word.

Linda: Right.

Kay: And I think that that's so crucial. You know the girl told you that she knew that you were to marry Bill.

Linda: Right.

Kay: But then you didn't go on what she said, but you began to take that to the Lord and ask Him.

Linda: Absolutely.

Kay: And wait. Now Bill has to deal with what you've told him and he has this other woman that he's been dating and thinking that he was going to marry, so he has to go through a process.

Linda: Right, and since he also is a man after God's own heart then he's seeking the Lord on what is the right decision.

Kay: And that's very important because he thought the other woman was God's choice apparently.

Linda: Exactly. So through his processing their relationship and what I had told him about God's will for my life and what his decision would be for his life, then he had to take that to the Lord and wait for the Lord to tell him what to do, which was that year that I was waiting for him to process that.

Kay: Yeah and I want very crass for just a minute, because one of the things that we're not doing is we're not controlling ourselves sexually.

Linda: Right.

Kay: And we're not reigning in our desires. If we want to have sex in our society today we simply have it and we have it like a frivolous thing. Here is a man who's a man after God's own heart, so he's not going to be having sex, but who is willing to wait,

Linda: Exactly.

Kay: A whole year to find out is this God's will.

Linda: Is this God's will? Yes. And when he discovered that it was very clear to him, just all of a sudden, it was like this is the right thing. And that's when he approached me about it and on our first date then he said, "What

are you doing January 3rd?” And our first date was August 24th. And we had been planning our calendars, so.

Kay: The Salvation Army had been planning their calendar.

Linda: Right, because, because we travel a lot separately. So he said because I’m thinking you know a year ago you told me that I was supposed to marry you. Now I am willing to date you knowing that. So the real question is how much longer do you want to be single? That was his proposal.

Kay: (Laughing), so what are you doing January 3rd, hey?

Linda: So, so, so yes, and he had chosen a date that was free and he thought made good sense. And I looked at my calendar and I said well, I’m free that day. But because I already had been two years with God on this issue, even though it was our first date, I knew it was the right thing. Because for two years I had been seeking God on it.

Kay: Yeah, yeah, so you knew it was right. It reminds me of my granddaughter. Gets a hold of my calendar when I’m out of town with her husband to be to find out when Mimi’s going to be in town so that she can you know, plan her wedding around that time, which I was very honored that she wanted to do that. But I understand these busy calendars. Okay, so you got married. Tell me a little bit about the wedding and then what’s happened in the marriage?

Linda: The wedding was amazing because it showed how God is so faithful, because he had a very happy marriage. It was a very happy family and then tragedy took Wendy from him. And this marriage showed people this full circle that God can restore joy in tragic situations. And so the wedding there was so much energy. People were very excited about it. But mostly about seeing how God works to restore joy from tragedy. So for me it wonderful because I never thought that I would get married. And now I’m 51 and I’m walking down the aisle to a processional that he had written for me, which is beautiful.

Kay: Isn’t that something? It is beautiful. It is beautiful.

Linda: Yes, he's a musician and composer. So the wedding was just really a tribute to God and His faithfulness and it was all about covenant, covenant teaching obviously, because that's what I believe, marriage is a covenant.

Kay: We're going to see that as we come on that covenant that Jonathan and David are going to make.

Linda: Yes.

Kay: And really that's where I opened out Precept course on covenant I believe and starting there and then taking people back. So you understood that marriage was a covenant. Go ahead.

Linda: Absolutely. Inside Bill's ring I had engraved my covenant love because I know that it is permanent, this marriage. And one of the first things that Bill and I talked about when we were engaged was our ministry together. We both work with the Salvation Army. He is in charge of all of the music programs for the eleven central United States and I'm in charge of the Bible programs, and that makes a really good team. So we're able to travel together and he does the music, does praise and worship in an event and I do the teaching and two together enhance each other. So we both feel that God has brought us together, not only for us, but for ministry.

Kay: To worship in Spirit and in truth as Jesus said in John, chapter 4.

Linda: Exactly. And so together we have traveled many places teaching the Word and bringing the music and the Bible together. And we're able actually to in some cases, while I'll teach and then he chooses the music.

Kay: Wow.

Linda: And my favorite one is Psalm 95 that we work through with the teaching and he was able to just, we interject the praise and worship songs in there.

Kay: Wow

Linda: And it says "shout to the Lord, bow down in worship and listen today, hear His voice." (song lyrics) And we're able to bring the truth of the

Word with the music and put those two things together that are so edifying to people, that draw them into scripture.

Kay: Now when you got married you had children now. Tell me about how the children and how this has worked with the children.

Linda: The children are wonderful. I couldn't ask for anything better. When you think that you're not going to have them and then you have them and they're great, they're both now graduated from college and pursuing their careers and serving the Lord. And it's just been a great union you know for the four of us. And we, we all have the same heart for God and to do His ministry.

Kay: Isn't that wonderful?

Linda: Yes.

Kay: I mean so many people long for that and, and it never comes.

Linda: Right, and it was just one of the benefits, one of the blessings that God added to my marriage.

Kay: It's the blessing of obedience beloved. And it's the blessing that comes when you and I have a heart after God. That's what God is seeking. His eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for a man, looking for a woman whose heart is fully His, that He might show Himself strong on that person's behalf. And that's what we've seen Linda with you.

Linda: Obedience and following His will to marry Bill and that's a blessing in itself, the blessing and of the ministry that we have together, the blessing of the children.

Kay: Yes, and it all came because you were willing to wait upon the Lord.

Linda: to wait.

Kay: To wait, and that is the key. Well, Beloved, I want you to pause and think on these things and tell God, God, I will wait upon You. I want my heart to be fully Yours. You speak, I'll listen and I'll obey.