

PEOPLE PRESSURE

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE I Samuel 13:1-2 & 5-15

ADDITIONAL STUDY
Genesis 16:1-4
Psalm 130:5
Romans 12:2

PRAYER

Lord, I pray you deliver me from people pressure. Let my eyes be single, focused on Your faithfulness; and let my heart only believe the report of the Lord at all times in Jesus' name.

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Saul said, "When I saw that the people were scattered from me... and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, then I said, 'The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal..." - I Samuel 13:11-12

Yesterday we examined Saul's life and mentioned some of the factors that contributed to his impatience with Samuel. In addition to these factors, another reason Saul erred was because of people pressure. When he saw that the people scattered from him, he must have felt compelled to act. They may have made comments like, "Why must you take this?", "Why can't you just go ahead after all you are the king?" and "We can't keep waiting for you!"

People pressure is another factor that can make us become impatient with our situation and take the bait not to wait. Probably this was what happened to Mrs. Sarah Abraham. Sarah was barren but there were women with children all around her! Maybe people mocked her and that put pressure on her not to wait any longer for God's promised child. So she put pressure on Abraham to sleep with her maid which resulted in the birth of Ishmael. The cost of her impatience is still plaguing the world today.

In Job 2:9 Job's wife asked him, "Are you still maintaining your faithfulness to God even in this your deplorable state? Why not curse God and die?" Likewise people will say all kinds of things to you in your inbetween season. They will brand you 'stupid' for living on a meagre income when you could have taken bribes in your office that would have given you and your family a better quality of life. They will abuse you for struggling financially as a gospel artist when others have since jumped ship into the more popular secular genre of music. They will tell you things like "Stop playing the church girl, your biological clock is ticking and soon you will be unable to have children, so why not just settle down and marry any man that comes your way regardless whether he is a believer or not, etc."

As believers, we cannot let people's comments put us under pressure to take the wrong turns in life no matter how long we wait; rather like Job, we should be able to say, "...All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come." (Job: 14:14).