God, Are You Sure You Know What You’re Doing?

In 1 Samuel 15, Saul was given very specific commands to rid the planet of the Amalekites, devoting all men, women, children as well as all livestock to destruction. Saul, in keeping with his previous pattern (1 Sam 13:9) partially obeyed, choosing to do things his own way. When confronted about his disobedience by Samuel, Saul made excuses, blaming the Israelites over whom he ruled. He also argued with Samuel, trying to justify his disobedience as a better plan than God had originally communicated (1 Sam 15: 20-21 ESV).

Because of Saul’s continual disobedience … “Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel” (1 Samuel 15:35b ESV). Scripture notes that Samuel was very upset that Saul was such a disappointment as Israel’s first king.

“(But) God was completely aware of the situation. After all, Saul was the one (that) God was going to use to shape David’s life in the in-between years, between the sheep and the throne. God knew Saul very well” (Swindoll, C “Great Days with the Great Lives” p104). Throughout the remainder of 1st Samuel, we go on to see just how badly Saul hated David, chasing him for years, hunting him like prey, seeking to kill him as his top military priority.

Dr. Swindoll goes on in his writings to say “Is there somebody (or something) who irritates and rubs and files and scrapes… you? God knows all about it. That person (or thing) is all part of His plan. God was (and is) completely aware of (our) situation.” (Swindoll, C “Great Days with the Great Lives” p104)

The things (or people) that shape us between the figurative “sheep and the throne” in our lives are not oversights that God forgot to consider. They are there on purpose. In fact, they are intended as Dr. Swindoll notes to foster “…close fellowship with God as we walk our earthly path… (where) God engages us in His eternal plan.”

In a time when illnesses, sharp disagreements over political positions, civil unrest, unchecked rudeness, and an unending surrender of the conveniences and privileges we have long taken for granted… let us all embrace the circumstances in our lives that keep us humble, maintain our focus on eternity, and draw us close to God. Let’s not forget Apostle Paul’s words from a dark, dank jail cell:

“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians4:1-3 (ESV)
May God richly bless as you embrace the “Sauls” that help shape your character in the in-between years – between the sheep (as young teenagers) and throne (eternity).

Jeffrey A. Bates, Pharm.D., CPFI Board Member
Yellow Springs, OH

CPFI 2021 Online Annual Conference & National Student Retreat

REGISTER NOW
National Student Retreat: June 4, 8:00 AM ET to Noon ET
Annual Conference: June 4, Noon ET to 9:00 PM ET and June 5, 7:45 AM to 5:30 PM ET
12 Hours of ACPE Approved CE
$150. Pharmacist Member
$270. Pharmacist Non-Member (includes cost of membership)
$10. Student Member
$40. Student Non-Member (includes cost of membership)

Register before March 15th and be entered in a drawing for prizes!

CPFI’s Prayer Ministry
Join us Easter Sunday, April 4 at 5:00 PM ET!
The CPFI Past Presidents Committee was asked to implement a prayer ministry on behalf of CPFI. In March, we started a weekly Prayer Meeting on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. ET, initially to pray about Covid-19 needs. In August, we began meeting monthly on the 1st Sunday of the month. We’ve been having around 12 participants. We want to give other members a chance to join us. If you would like an invitation, e-mail Nena Lindrose at Office@cpfi.org. She will send a reminder e-mail with instructions on how to join and some suggested prayer concerns during the week prior to the meeting. We hope you will join us Sunday, April 4, 2021 for our next session. By signing up you are only committing to participate when able and praying out loud is voluntary.

Fred Eckel, Past President
RightNow Media is the world's largest library of biblical on-demand video resources and CPFI is offering it FREE to members!

If you have not already signed up click here to register for FREE or text RIGHTNOW CPFI to 41411

You must be a member of CPFI to sign up.

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