

DISAPPOINTMENT

To thwart expectations

AREAS OF DISAPPOINTMENT REGARDING:

1. Sons (children): 1 Samuel 2:12-17

If any father should have experienced disappointment in their children, Eli should have. They were wicked and had no regard for the Lord (Verse 2)

The problem: Eli seemed indifferent to the whole situation.

Question: Could some of the blame for any disappointment rest on him?
List reasons/possibilities.

2. Our husband or wife: 1 Samuel 25:23-31

Abigail's disappointment in her husband's treatment of David and his men cause her to action. She attempted taking the blame fearing retaliation from David (Verse 24)

She considered her husband wicked and worthless in her disappointment...saying he is like his name (Nabal: fool)

Question: What are some reasons we experience disappointments with our spouse? What can we do (or don't do) to rectify the problem?

3. Failures: 2 Samuel 17:23

Ahithopel: Because his counsel to Absalom was not followed (his pride was wounded) Therefore, he went home and committed suicide.

Question: How should we handle our failures?

4. Man's wisdom: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Solomon: He laments over his seeking and exploring wisdom and the futility that comes from human achievement (Verses 12-15)

He sees how investigation into human ways is useless because man's ways are hopelessly crooked (Verse 13).

Question: Discuss this. Only in God can this come. See Isaiah 42:14 and Isaiah 45:2

5. Our acceptance: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Jeremiah complains to God. He felt God had deceived him by letting him be ridiculed. However, Jeremiah misunderstood God's promise. It was not that he would never suffer, but that God would deliver him out of the suffering (Verse 19)

Question: Discuss how misunderstandings lead to our disappointments. How can this be avoided?

6. Our mission: Jonah 4:1-9

Jonah became angry instead of appreciating the fruitful ministry the Lord gave him. He lacked God's heart.

Question: Why? Especially when he had experienced God's mercy on his repentance. Discuss how our prejudices get in the way.

7. Our hopes: Luke 24:17-24

Disciples on the road to Emmaus: Not knowing who Jesus was, they were discussing all the events that transpired. They had trusted He had been the true Messiah but things didn't transpire as they anticipated and hoped.

Question: How do our hopes and expectations get in the way?

Why is this? What happens when this occurs? How should we handle our hopes and expectations.

ANTIDOTES AGAINST DISAPPOINTMENTS:

1. Let trust in God prevail: Habakkuk 3:17-19

No matter what goes on around us, we are to trust in God knowing He is in control. Our happiness is not found in circumstances.

2. Put God first: Haggai 1:2-14

Keeping things to ourselves first instead of putting God first and moving ahead with His will won't bring God's favor or blessing. Hope and trust in Him will never disappoint. When keeping things to ourselves indicates a spiritual problem.

3. Accept God's plans: Romans 8:28

To those who love God, all things work for good (and the good doesn't mean necessarily what we may want). God sees much more a the total picture and accepting His plan will result in good for us. It is an indication of our submission to Him.

4. Remember God's promises: Hebrews 6:10-12

God does not forget our labor of love in service to Him. He is faithful to every single promise He makes.

The hope and trust we place in God (even when things may not have gone as we thought or hoped) that trust in what God has for us will never disappoint. (See Romans 5:5)