

set APART



SET APART TO WAIT.

We've all been there:

Your chest tightens..

Words are bubbling up.

Your face starts to flush.

If you don't do or say *fill in the blank* immediately, you just might implode.

And so we react.

And after our reaction, there is retaliation, and after retaliation there is hurt, and after hurt there is lack of trust, disappointment, feelings of betrayal - the list continues.

Reacting quickly and passionately is tempting - but God often calls us to wait. Breathe. Evaluate. Respond. He calls us to do it all with grace, out of respect, in love for our neighbor, and in *His* timing.

IN THE BIBLE.

1 Samuel 13:7-14

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

"What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikmash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the Lord's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

"You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

James 3:3-5

We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire.

Proverbs 10:11

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

QUESTIONS.

1. What are some of the mistakes Saul made in 1 Samuel 13?
2. Have you ever made similar mistakes?
3. What does James 3 say about the power of the tongue? When have you seen that in play?
4. What can you do to begin to make your mouth a "fountain of life"? (Proverbs 10:11)

Remember that in every interaction, in every conversation, there is always grace. There is always opportunity to ask for forgiveness. Through Jesus, there is always the offer of a fresh start and a new life. No matter what you've done or what you do - God is still a God of restoration and redemption.

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?