

FIGHTING FOR FAITH

Expectations: Landmines of the Mind

I. _____ Expectations

Eve – *Gen. 3:1-13*

- Scheme –
- A. Captured her attention
 - B. Challenged her _____
 - C. _____ her perspective
 - D. Commandeered her course

II. Unmet Expectations

Cain and Abel – *Gen.4:1-8*

Leah and Rachel – *Gen. 29:14-30:8*

- Scheme –
- A. Struggle for _____
 - B. Struggle for satisfaction

III. _____ Expectations

Saul – *1 Samuel 10:1, 13:1, 15:10-12,30, John 12:24-25, Matt.10:37-39*

- Scheme –
- A. _____ the Giver
 - B. Overvaluing the gift

Abraham – (*Gen.15:1 and Gen. 22*)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. You read 1 Samuel 13-15 last week about Saul. How would you describe his leadership style?
2. In your opinion, how did he handle fear and anxiety associated with the position to which he was called as king? Cite examples in your answer.
3. Joshua 1:1-9 gives us God's expectations and instructions for the leader of His people, Joshua. Describe them.
4. Evaluate how Saul lived up to these commands by God as a leader.
5. Read 1 Samuel 17 and 30 and describe David's leadership abilities.
6. How did David handle fear and anxiety differently than Saul?
7. Now consider Abraham. How do Genesis 12, 16 and 20 reveal his struggle with fear and anxiety?
8. Use Biblegateway.com or other such resources to do a word study on "fear". What can you learn about the definition of the word, how often God says "do not fear" or "do not be afraid" and what that would reveal to us?
9. Read 2 Kings 18-19 about King Hezekiah. How did he handle fear and anxiety from the threat of the king of Assyria?
10. Is there fear/anxiety you feel from a current struggle in your life? Explain.
11. How are you responding to this fear? Do you find yourself responding more in line with Saul, David, Abraham or Hezekiah's way of dealing with it?
12. What can you learn and apply from Joshua 1:1-9 to improve your response to the fear/anxiety that makes you feel threatened?
13. God allows us to face very difficult, threatening circumstances at times in our life. We do not know whether He will deliver us from them or whether we will be asked to walk through them. What can you gain from Scripture to enable and comfort you during the times when you are asked to walk through them?