

DAILY JOURNAL PAGE SAMPLE ENTRY

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SCRIPTURE

When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord’s instructions.” But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears?”

1 Samuel 15:13-14 NIV

OBSERVATION

God had given Saul instructions to completely eradicate the Amalekites. Instead, Saul decided for himself what should or shouldn’t be eliminated. Whether it was greed, or simply an emotional unwillingness, or whatever the reason, he felt his personal evaluations were superior to God’s. When Samuel arrived, Saul was straining himself to pat his own back while right behind him were the sounds that showed his disobedience.

APPLICATION

God will point out what is precious and what is not. Like Saul, I may have the tendency to “improve” on divine decrees, but I must not. I need to let God establish my priorities. That will tell me what skills I must develop, and even which risks to take.

In the end God will not hold me accountable for what I have done so much as for how much I have done of what He has asked me to do.

I only have limited time and energy to accommodate eternal priorities, so I will garner His instructions, record them, cull unnecessary activities, and follow Him fully. Then I will have the confidence to say, “I have carried out the Lord’s instructions” and not hear the bleating of sheep in the background.

PRAYER

Dear Father: Please help me in this life essential so that I prune correctly to Your priorities. Give me the strength to say no to opportunities that may hold great promise but may also lead me further from Your plans. Help me to carry out Your commands without the bleating of sheep in the background.

How will I be different today because of what I have just read?
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It’s important to provide a quick notation in the front/back of your journal about what God spoke to you, and when. In your table of contents, write out the title you gave to your entry, along with the Scripture reference, the date, and the journal page where your entry is found.

If three months later you were to ask me what God has been saying to me, I can go the table of contents and find it in seconds.