

Samuel: A Faithful Leader

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1 Samuel 7:1-10

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A Contrast of Leaders

- Finding good leaders can be tough
- Israelites chose leaders who didn't know God's Word^{154:3}, defeated
- Samuel was raised up by God^{153:20;4:1-2} spoke God's Word
- People chose not to listen to God but chose their own ways^{15am4:3}

Results of Not Listening to God:

- Paraded ark out as lucky charm^{154:10-11}, defeat, ark lost
- Philistines think they 'captured' God, bad results^{156:1-16}
- Beth-shemeshites wrongly handle God's glory, send away^{6:21}
- We must deal with God according to His Word

A Big Pause - the importance of Repentance

- A long time passed^{157:2} - 20 years
- Last saw Samuel faithfully preaching God's Word^{154:1}
- Now a whole generation later... Lamenting after the Lord
- Samuel called for repentance, God's word was effective^{15a55:11}
- Repent, turn from other gods, serve God alone^{15ms2:18-26}
- God's word shows us His holiness, people responded^{7:4-6}
- Pouring of water=deep repentance^{15ps22:14;Lam2:19;Ps62:8}
- Hannah used that image of pouring in her prayer^{15s1:15}

The importance of God's Word

- Samuel judges people by declaring God's Word
- Foreshadows Jesus Christ^{15he7:25} Word judges & calls to faith
- Jesus is our advocate before the Father^{15jn2:1}

The First Big Test

- People returned to God & repented; world responds^{7:7}
- This is a faith test: will they trust God or their own methods?
- The Philistines have been oppressing Israelites^{7:2;13:19}
- Will they use God like last time^{15s4:4?}
- Will they fail to revere God again^{15s6:19?}
- This is a Big Faith test for God's people^{15s7:3}
- Will they trust God or do what is familiar and appealing?
- Many today try to come to God on their terms, not by Word

The People Turn to God Crying Out for Mercy

- The people cry out through Samuel for mercy^{7:8}
- They turned from other gods (repentance)
- They now turn in faith to God alone for deliverance
- Victory is secured by prayer^{7:10}
- The Lord thundered, Philistines defeated
- God delivers His people as we have faith in His provision!
- We must repent (turn from our sin) and believe in God^{15mark1:15}
- Rest in God's provision alone, not bravado or self
- Gospel is quietly resting in God's provision^{15isa30:15}