

FIRST SAMUEL STUDY

CHAPTER 7:1-12

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

"Getting the Victory in Life"

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Victorious Christian Living, Hope, Repentance, Success

INTRODUCTION

to the text

1 Samuel 7:1-12

Tragically, Victorious Christian Living Escapes Many Believers

1 Corinthians 3:1-3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

"Getting the Victory in Life"

1.) *Our Lives are Being Prepared*

vv.1-2

Then the men of Kirjath Jearim came and took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. 2 **So** it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years.
And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

1 Samuel 6:20

And the men of Beth Shemesh said,
**"Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?
And to whom shall it go up from us?"**

The Key Here is That Israel had Been Humbled
The nation had suffered defeat, insult, injury and now humility!

Our Lives are Being Prepared

a.) To understand His ways

Verse 1

They took the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab on the hill, and consecrated Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD

**They Had The Ark
– But They Couldn't Use The Ark!**

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

**God Had Placed Them on Probation
Israel had been grounded!**

Pride is Always a Precursor to Disaster

1 Peter 5:5c

...and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Our Lives are Being Prepared

b.) To humble our hearts

Verse 2

So it was that the ark remained in Kirjath Jearim a long time; it was there twenty years. And all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

The "**Lamenting**" after the LORD.
To cry out with a loud and long cry,
- To bemoan the situation...

Deuteronomy 8:2

"And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, **to humble you...**

Deuteronomy 8:16

It was the LORD who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, **that He might humble you...**

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?

Our Lives are Being Prepared

c.) To help us to see

Verse 2

all the house of Israel

We Think in "Comparisons"

We judge things based upon something that we have been exposed to

**Israel Naturally Should Have Seen
Themselves,
Supernaturally, Different From The
Rest of the World**

Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

THAT THEY MIGHT SEE BETTER -- THE THINGS OF GOD

"Getting the Victory in Life"

2.) *Living the Walk of Life*

vv. 3

Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, "If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

a.) *Stop going where we're going*

Verse 3

"If you **return** to the LORD with **all your hearts**,

b.) *Start doing what we should be doing*

Verse 1

then **put away** the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you

TAKING A PROACTIVE POSITION

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Start Doing What's Right – What's The Jesus Style

c.) *Go forward after God*

Verse 3

and **prepare** your hearts for the LORD, and **serve** Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

Prepare

Your heart for His Presence

Serve

Him in Worship and Adoration

...and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines."

"Getting the Victory in Life"

3.) *Living a Dedicated Life*

vv. 4-6

So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only. 5 And Samuel said, "Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." 6 So they gathered together at Mizpah, **drew** water, and **poured** it out before the LORD. And they **fasted** that day, and **said** there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

Living a Dedicated Life

a.) *Giving what costs something*

Verse 6a

6 So they gathered together at Mizpah, **drew** water, and **poured** it out before the LORD.

Living a Dedicated Life

b.) *Refusing what is desirable*

Verse 6b

And they **fasted** that day, and **said** there,

They Fasted – They Said = Made Confession

- Fasting = Expression
- Confession = Agreement

"We have **sinned against the LORD.**" And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.

The Situation Had Been Effective – *Their Hearts Were Now Ready*

Hosea 10:12

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the LORD, till He comes and rains righteousness on you.

"Getting the Victory in Life"

4.) *Living life dependent upon God*

vv. 7-9

Now when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel had gathered together at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel.

And when the children of Israel heard of it, **they were afraid** of the Philistines. 8 So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "**Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us** from the hand of the Philistines." 9 And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

Living life dependent upon God

a.) *Aware of your weakness*

Verse 7

the children of Israel heard of it, **they were afraid**

**There is the Fear of Unbelief
And there is the fear of being Overwhelmed**

This is the "Overwhelmed" Fear

They were in awe like a child
"Daddy Help Me"

THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE & TO STAY

Zechariah 4:6

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

Living life dependent upon God

b.) Calling upon "Gods" others

Verse 8

So the children of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that He may save us

Isaiah 55:6

Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

God Responds Through His People to His People

James 5:13-14

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

Verse 9

And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

"Getting the Victory in Life"

5.) Creating a Life of Worship

vv. 10-12

Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. 12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

a.) Worship is to be continuous

Verse 10a

Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. **But the LORD thundered** with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day

b.) Worship is to be powerful

Verse 10-11

and **so confused** them that they were **overcome** before Israel. 11 And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and **pursued** the Philistines, and **drove them back** as far as below Beth Car.

c.) Worship is to be Memorable

Verse 12

Then Samuel **took a stone** and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "**Thus far the LORD has helped us.**"

took a stone

"a stone is nothing in and of itself – but when a meaning and purpose is put to it, we can relate and honor and be encouraged by what it represents."

"Thus far the LORD has helped us."

"Getting the Victory in Life"

6.) Maintaining a Life with God

vv. 13-17

So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. 14 Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites. 15 And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. 16 He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and judged Israel in all those places. 17 But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he judged Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

a.) The Flesh Must Keep in Check

Verse 13

So the Philistines were **subdued**, and they **did not come anymore** into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel

THERE WAS A WATCHMAN ON GUARD, SAMUEL...

Romans 6:6-7

knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7
For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Ephesians 4:21-24

if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:9

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,

b.) The New Life Must be Given Air

Verse 16-17

16 He went from year to year on a circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah, and **judged** Israel in all those places. 17 But he always returned to Ramah, for his home was there. There he **judged** Israel, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

End of study