

SERMON-BASED STUDY: SAMUEL RESTORES

1 Samuel 7:1-11, ESV – And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the LORD. ² From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

³ And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashteroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” ⁴ So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashteroth, and they served the LORD only.

⁵ Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” ⁶ So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. ⁷ Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. ⁸ And the people 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 So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. ¹⁰ As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. ¹¹ And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car.

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we learned how the Israelites had spiritually drifted from God. Share a time in your life when you have drifted away from God. What caused you to realize you had drifted? How did you get right with God?
- 2 Looking at the passage, how did the Israelites get right with God? Why were each of these steps necessary?
- 3 What is repentance. How would you explain the idea of repentance to someone else?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Psalm 51, ESV – ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- 4 Psalm 51, a Psalm of repentance, was written by David soon after Nathan confronted him about his sin (2 Samuel 12:1-15). David begins with an appeal to God's mercy. Why does David start by petitioning for mercy?

5 David sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah, the Israelite Army, and the nation. Why do you think he says, “against you (God), you only, have I sinned”?

6 Restoration involves purging, washing, blotting out iniquities and finishing with rejoicing. What role does honesty play in forgiveness and restoration? What are we restored to?

7 How does restoration lead to heart renewal? What is God’s presence and how would you know if you were not in it?

8 The natural result of God’s forgiveness and restoration is praise and worship. How does praise and worship change our focus? How does it align us with God’s will?

9 In verse 16, David says that God is not pleased with burnt offerings, but then in verse 19 he says that God delights in these things. What makes the difference?

TAKING IT HOME

Repentance is not simply saying, “I’m sorry,” and then moving on as if nothing really happened. It involves recognition of the sin, which leads to confession. Forgiveness of the sin leads to restoration, renewal, and worship of God. It is leaving the sin, turning away from it, and turning our focus to God. Is there a sin in your life that you are aware of but have not confessed to God? Do not wait. Now is the time. Confess this to God and allow Him to begin the process of restoration in your life. Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you confess your sin and ask God for forgiveness.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

1 Corinthians 7:9-10