1 Samuel 4-8

David Duncan · Series: **Bible Class - 1 Samuel**

INTRODUCTION

- They asked among themselves, why has the Lord defeated us? It's a question I think we do well to consider.
- Israel recognized they couldn't overcome the Philistines without God. We need to recognize we can't overcome sin without God. Let's not say I can't do it. Let's say I need God.

1 God Acts for His Name's Sake

Psalm 106:8

- He makes the statement in several places that he acts for his name's sake.
- Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake.
- Because what God is doing here is not just punitive. God is acting for his name's sake. That's his character.
- He is causing them to see sorrows so they might recognize what they've done. They might come to repentance.

2 When Adversity Comes, Draw Closer to God

- One good thing to do, I think, in every situation of adversity is ask the question are we with God or not?
- We should use any adversity to draw ourselves closer to God.
- We can either draw closer to God, or we can, like Job's wife, blame him for our adversity and draw the other way.
- The Philistines did the right thing. They recognized this is from God or could be from God.

3 A Lack of Reverence and Fear

- God made a judgment against those of Bethshemish. Why? They looked inside the ark.
- The judgment was not about the sacrifice, the judgment was about looking into the ark.
- And it really shows a lack of reverence and fear.
- When we today fail to show fear and reverence for God, we can stand in the same kind of judgment of condemnation.

4 Prepare Your Hearts and Serve Him Only

Exodus 20

- If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, and then put away the foreign gods and the ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts for the Lord and serve him only.
- This is serious. This is a major rebellion. When you go after these, you have rejected God.
- Fasting is a typical way that men would approach God. It involves self-denial. It involves humbling.

- You cannot approach God without humbling yourself.

5 Here I Raise My Ebenezer

- Israel didn't gain the battle. God did.
- There is victory in God when we'll humble ourselves before Him.
- Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mespah and Shin and called its name Ebenezer, saying, Thus far the Lord has helped me.
- Here I raise my Ebenezer, because I recognize that whatever victories I've gained, I've gained them through God.

6 They Have Rejected Me

- Samuel should not have put his sons into position as judges when they were not walking in his ways.
- They haven't rejected you, Samuel, they've rejected me.
- He's going to oppress you in the sense that your working will be to go for his benefit, not your own.
- The king up to this point has always been God. It's his kingdom. And even when there's an earthly king, it's still God's kingdom.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We would do well to do likewise. Praise God and acknowledge him. Thus far the Lord has helped us.**

MY NOTES