Faith Beyond The Ark

Greg Kline · 1 Samuel 4:1–11

INTRODUCTION

- In 1 Samuel chapter 4, we learn that the people of God were kind of superstitious.
- And what the people in 1 Samuel chapter 4 put their faith in was a good thing.
- And yet we'll see that their faith was misplaced.

1 Israel Was Defeated Before the Philistines

1 Samuel 4:1–4

- If they were with God, the people of Israel, they would experience total victory if only they would have faith in him.
- This can only mean that God was not with the people.
- The number one problem to fixing something is to recognize, first of all, that you what? Have a problem.
- When God is on our side, we will not fail. When God is on our side, we will have complete victory.

2 They Had a Faith Problem: Faith in an Ark

1 Samuel 4:3–11

- They had a faith problem. They weren't right with God. They weren't trusting in God.
- Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.
- Their faith was in an ark. Their faith was in a fancy box. It was not in God.
- In fact, they were defeated worse with the Ark of the Covenant than before.

3 Sometimes We Put Our Faith in a Box

1 Corinthians 13:1–3

- What God demands is not just some sort of faith and mental acceptance that we need him, but true faith that says, I will do what he has commanded.
- Sometimes we put our faith in different kinds of boxes, even if they're good, even if they serve healthy purposes.
- The church is the people. I'm going to the building where they meet. We need to make sure that we don't limit our faith to this box.
- If I give away all that I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Taking Our Service Out of the Church Building

Titus 2:1–8; Matthew 5:16

- When we think about our faith, we have to think about taking our service out of the church building.

- I owe God's service to him throughout my life, not just the few hours a week I end up being here.
- Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned.

5 Beyond the Church Building in Training Our Children

Deuteronomy 6:4–9; 1 John 2:15–17; Acts 2:42–45

- We have to move our faith beyond our box, beyond the church building, in training our children.
- You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise.
- But if we miss on serving God, if we miss out on recognizing who God truly is, how God wants and must be worshipped, then we've missed everything.
- If our faith comes down to a couple of lessons on a Sunday morning and one on a Wednesday evening, we will not make it.

6 Our Faith Has to Move Beyond These Walls

Matthew 5:14–16; James 2:14–17

- Our faith has to move beyond these walls and move into the community, and there's a reason for that, because we have to shine our lives.
- If we don't take our service out of these walls, if we don't live out what it means to be a Christian dedicated to God every single day, we are hiding our light.
- The church is the pillar and ground of truth. It should not be that which covers our light. It should be a beacon of light.
- So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We need to let our light shine. We need to let our lights shine proudly, widely, and let everybody know what it means to be a child of God.**

MY NOTES