

Here I Raise Mine Ebenezer

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SAY WHAT? ⇒ The Cry for Help [1 Sam. 7:1-9]

- **Samuel's steps to spiritual renewal...**

- 1) return (to the Lord)
- 2) remove (any idols)
- 3) re-direct (your hearts)

2 Cor. 5:9, *So we make it our goal to please Him...*

- Sometimes God may allow us to get to a place of helplessness and desperation so that we can learn to trust in Him and experience His grace.

Psalms 34:8, *Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.*

SO WHAT? ⇒ The Stone of Help [1 Sam. 7:10-13]

James 5:16, *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective*

- ebiezer: eben = stone + ezer = help; "stone of (God's) help"

Isaiah 41:10, *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."*

- If God is for you, it doesn't matter who's against you. (v.12; Rom. 8:31)
- But, if God is against you, it doesn't matter who's for you. (v.13)

NOW WHAT? ⇒ My Milestones, My Ebenezers

Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on April 19, 2015
Here I Raise Mine Ebenezer- 1 Samuel 7:1-13

■ Questions for “Group Discussion”

- What has God used to in your life to “return - remove - re-direct” something in your life?
- Read Isaiah 41:10. Brag on how God has “strengthened and helped” you and your family?
- What can you do in your family to create an “Ebenezer” in your home to remind the family of God’s help & provision?

■ Questions for “Personal Growth”

- **Monday-Are you willing to make a “U-Turn” straight back to God?** Please read 1 Samuel 6. What did the Philistines know/learn about God? Did they intend to turn to God even if the ark was divinely led back home? Now please read 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 18:21-23; Acts 3:19 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. From these verses, how would you describe “repentance”? What causes some to refuse to repent even when confronted with the truth of God?
- **Tuesday-Sometimes it takes a “crisis” to expose our lack of faith...** Today, please read 1 Samuel 6:19-7:13. Though the people of Beth-shemesh received the ark with joy and thanksgiving, glorifying him with a sacrifice and celebration, why did God respond so harshly to seventy of the men? What was their reaction? (6:20; 7:1-3). Now please turn to 2 Samuel 6: 6-11 and describe David’s “crisis of faith” reaction in a similar situation. From his reaction, what might have been some of David’s preconceived notions about God? How has our society lost this side of God and do you think it needs to be recaptured?
- **Wednesday-Purge, then Surge...** Now, please read 1 Samuel 7 and list all that the Israelites did to demonstrate their repentance and turn back to the Lord (vv2-6). What does it mean to love Him with all your heart (vv3-6; Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 6:24)? How would your life be different if you served the Lord only – purging your life of all worldly idols?
- **Thursday- How to worship with humility and a repentant heart...** Focusing on vv5-9, describe what actions the Israelites took as a part of their “corporate worship”. What did they realize about their situation that caused them to pour out water unto the Lord (2 Samuel 14:14)? What were they trying to demonstrate in doing so (Psalm 22:14; 62:8)? Along with this was public confession. What do you need to pour forth unto the Lord in prayer and confession? How can you show God that you depend on Him alone?
- **Friday-Remember, and fear no more.** Please read 1 Samuel 7:10-13. How did God intervene for the Israelites following their obedience and worship? What did the stone monument that Samuel erected, the “Ebenezer”, represent? Read Hebrews 13:8 and take some time to remember the many times that God has intervened in your life for good, praising Him with thanksgiving. How does remembering how he has acted on your behalf in the past, comfort you now and for the future? If time permits, try creating a chart or drawing or something that would serve as your own “monument” to remember God’s faithfulness in your life and then place it somewhere visible as a daily reminder.