

The High Cost of a Poor Choice (I Samuel 8:10, 21-22; 9:1-10:8)

- I. Summary of I Samuel, chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7
 - A. Review of I Samuel, chapter 4
 1. Recall that Israel had not entered into battle based on the Lord's leading.
 2. Recall that they had brought the Ark of the Covenant to the battle and put their confidence in the Ark rather than in the Lord.
 3. By the end of the chapter, several tragedies had happened to Israel.
 - a. The Philistines had prevailed in the battle.
 - b. The Philistines had taken the Ark of the Covenant.
 - c. Eli's two sons had been killed in the battle.
 - d. Upon hearing the news of the Ark, Eli fell over and died.
 - e. According to I Samuel 3:12-14, God made an end to Eli's priesthood on that same day.
 - B. Review of I Samuel, chapter 5
 1. The Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant to Ashdod.
 2. The Ark was a curse to the Philistines. During the night, the Philistine idol, Dagon, was toppled and partially destroyed.
 3. In verses 10 and 11, they took the Ark to Ekron, and those people did not want it either.
 4. In verse 12, the people that did not die were afflicted with emerods ([t@chor](#)), which were tumors or hemorrhoids.
 - a. Dr. Ronald F. Youngblood (*Professor of Old Testament, Bethel Seminary West*) suggested that the affliction could have been tumors because I Samuel 6:4 mentions mice and emerods together.
 - b. Rats/mice spread the bubonic plague, so the Philistines might have been afflicted with disease rather than the physical discomfort of hemorrhoids.
 5. The Philistines moved the Ark freely.

Question: In II Samuel 6:6-7, Uzzah was killed by the Lord when he tried to steady the ark by touching it to keep it from falling to the ground. Why was Uzzah killed for touching the Ark, and the Philistines were not?

- a. David's indiscretion cost Uzzah his life (Dr. J. Vernon McGee – David was moving the Ark in the wrong way) - see Joshua 3:6-8).
 - b. The Philistines did not die for touching the Ark, but they did not get away with anything either (see verses 4 and 9).
 - 1). They were afflicted with tumors or hemorrhoids.
 - 2) However, because they did not know how they were supposed to handle the Ark, God did not hold them accountable (McGee).
- C. Review of I Samuel, chapter 6
 1. After 7 months, the Philistines decided to get rid of the Ark of the Covenant.

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2. McGee points out that the Ark of the Covenant had probably been God's way of trying to give the Philistines a chance to repent and turn to Him (II Peter 3:9). But they were vile and did not use the opportunity.
 - a. They decided to return the Ark with a trespass offering.
 - b. A trespass offering ('*asham*') meant a compensation offering for an offense.
 - c. Leviticus 5 describe a trespass offering as a female lamb or goat (verse 5) or two turtledoves or two pigeons (verse 6) or a ram and some silver (verse 15).

Question: Did Gentiles get saved in Old Testament times? See Joshua 6:25 and Jonah 3:4-10.

3. The Philistines did not follow the Jewish requirement, but they did send five golden tumors or hemorrhoids, five golden mice, and gold jewelry.
 - a. The fact that those things were made of gold probably satisfied the Lord.
 - b. Dr. Youngblood indicated that the specific offering may have been symbolic. By sending the golden mice and emeralds from their city, maybe the Lord would take away the real thing.
 4. They organized a simple test. Based on the path for delivery of the Ark, they would know if God had brought the evil upon them or whether it was from another source. In verse 9, the Ark goes to Bethshemite, so the Philistines knew that God had caused their afflictions.
 5. At Bethshemite, 50,070 men died because they looked in the Ark without authority.
 - a. The Ark in the Holy of Holies was where God met with His people, and those at Bethshemite had rebelled against that.
 - b. God holds people accountable. To whom much is given, much is required (Luke 12:48).
- D. Review of I Samuel, chapter 7
1. Samuel leads a national revival.
 2. In verse 3, he indicated that the Lord might deliver them from the Philistines if they truly repent.
 3. In verse 4, they put away their idols.
 - a. Ashtaroth – false goddesses in the Canaanite religion, usually related to fertility cult.
 - b. Baal – supreme male divinity of the Phoenicians or Canaanites.
 4. **America needs to repent and put away their idols.**
 5. The Israelis went to Mizpeh to have a national revival. The Philistines attacked them at Mizpeh, and Israel defeated them.

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6. In verse 12, Samuel put a stone between Mizpeh and Shen as a reminder of when the Lord had helped them.
7. We share our testimonies with others to commemorate those times in our life when the Lord helped us in ways that could have only been His moving.
8. Samuel continue to judge the land for the rest of his life. He traveled regularly between Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpeh and met with the people. He settled in Ramah.

II. I Samuel 8:10, 21-22

- A. Samuel acted as a go-between between Israel and the Lord.
- B. In I Samuel 8:1, “he” made his sons to be judges over Israel. Who had made him a judge over Israel?
 1. His sons were not godly. They took bribes and perverted justice.
 2. In verse 4, the elders of Israel met with Samuel. What did they want?

Question: How reasonable was their request?

3. In verse 5, the elders thought that Samuel’s sons were unfit for the role of judges over Israel.
4. They wanted a king like the other nations.
5. In verse 7, the elders were rejecting the Lord, not Samuel.
- C. In verse 10, Samuel told the people what the Lord had told him.
- D. In verses 11-18, Samuel described what a king would do to them. He tried to convince them that a king was not really what they wanted.
 1. In verse 11, the palace would have a large number of horses, which was forbidden in Deuteronomy 17:16.
 2. “Some shall run before his chariots” (see II Samuel 15:1 and I Kings 1:5).
- E. In verses 19-20, the elders rejected Samuel’s words. They refused to be satisfied unless Samuel appointed a king to watch over them.

Question: America wants a new president. What kind of president do you want?

- F. In verses 20-21, Samuel consulted with the Lord, and the Lord told him to give them a king.

III. I Samuel 9:1-27

- A. In verses 1-2, Saul was a Benjamite and a choice young man and also good. He was also taller than most of the people around him.
- B. In verses 3-10, Saul was looking for his father’s *'athown* (female donkeys).
 1. He and his men could not find them anywhere.

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2. He came to a city where there was a “seer” (or prophet). So, they decided to seek out the man. Notice that they did not go empty-handed.
- C. In verses 11-17, Saul went to find Samuel (the seer and prophet).
 1. He was sent into the city and found Samuel as he was preparing to conduct a sacrifice for the people. In verse 13, notice that the people waited for Samuel.
 2. Samuel already knew that Saul was coming. How did he know? See verse 15-16.
 3. God also told Samuel that Saul was the choice for king.
 4. Notice that Saul had all the right outward qualities to be a king. But something was lacking on the inside.
 5. At first, Saul did not know that Samuel was the prophet.
- D. In verses 18-27, Samuel and Saul eat together, and Samuel tells Saul that he will be Israel’s first king.

IV. I Samuel 10:1-8.

- A. In verses 1-6, Samuel tells Saul about some things that are about to happen.
 1. He will go to Rachel’s tomb at Zelzah (in Benjamin), and two men will tell him that the female donkeys have been found.
 2. From there, in the plain of Tabor, he shall meet three men, and they will give him two loaves of bread.
 3. From there, he shall meet a company of prophets, and they will prophesy.
 4. While he is with them, the Spirit of the Lord will come upon him. He will also prophesy and become another man.
 - a. Prophecy (*naba'*) – to come under the influence of a divine spirit.
 - b. Another (*'acher*) – he would become a different person.
- B. Why did Saul have to become a different man? He seemed so perfect before.
 1. Did he become a better man?
 2. **Question:** When the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, was he saved?

VI. Next week’s lesson: I Did It My Way (I Samuel 15:1-35)