

The Life and Times of Samuel

Part 4 - Samuel the Judge

1 Samuel 11-16

Review - The Life and Times of Samuel

The bridge between judges and kings, God and man

The voice of God proclaiming truth throughout the land

The prophet of God giving the word of God to the land

But also the Judge of God

1 Samuel 7:15 Now Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

Judges in the Biblical account were Leaders appointed by God to bring truth and justice to the land. They were not a part of the government under Kings but served directly under God

Duties of a Biblical Judge

I. To Rally the nation in seeking the Lord

1 Samuel 7:5-6 He called them to repentance

1 Samuel 10:17 Thereafter Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah; He admonished them and anointed a King to serve God

1 Samuel 11:14 Then Samuel said to the people, "Come and let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there." He renewed the Kingdom under God

II. To Rebuke civil leaders who disobey God

A. 1 Samuel 13:1-14

Saul's impatient sin 1-9

Samuel rebuke 11-14

B. 1 Samuel 15:1-23

Saul given a second chance 1-3

Samuel's rebuke 10-23

Made a monument to his victory

Claimed to have obeyed - except King

Blamed the people again

Said the animals were for sacrifice

Samuel named it rebellion and told God's judgment

III. To Reveal God's perspective - the truth

A. Obedience is better than sacrifice

But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams. 1 Samuel 15:22

B. God is unchanging and always true to His word

And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!" 1 Samuel 15:29

C. God judges by what is in a man's heart

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The LORD doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Saul's sad history

He exchanged

Pride for humility

Saying for doing

Excuses for confession

Sacrifice for obedience

By contrast David also sinned but

Humbled himself

Fasted and prayed and changed his ways

Sought the Lord with his whole heart

One very sad note about Samuel

Although he saw Eli fail to rebuke his sons - **1 Samuel 3:13**

He failed to rebuke his own sons **1 Samuel 8:1-3**

Fathers are called to be the Biblical judges for their families

We are called to Rally our families to seek the Lord

You are the spiritual leader

Lead by example

Lead by the Word

We are called to Rebuke disobedience to God's Word

You are to bring up children in discipline of the Lord

We are to correct and train in righteousness

We are to nurture our children in the Word

We are to Reveal God's perspective

You are the first image of God your children will have

You are to follow after God - they will follow you

You are to humble yourself and confess your sins

You are to seek the Lord with your whole heart

God will help us if we yield ourselves to Him!

We can chose the path of Saul - make excuses and try to cover our sin

Or we can follow David - confess our sins and seek the Lord.

Will we make mistakes - yes - but God in His love can remove them