

Lessons From Samuel

Summer Series – Life of Samuel 1 Samuel 1-15

- Foundations of A Legacy
- Are You Listening?
- Emergence of a Leader
- Conforming to Culture
- Leaders We Love
- Now Hear This
- Giving God a Hand
- I Did It My Way
- Leaders God Looks For

1. Viewing Difficult Circumstances

- two perspectives – what I see, what God sees

- a) trusting God when I can't control things

- 1 Sam. 1-2

- b) trusting God when all seems dire

- 1 Sam 7:7-12

- c) trusting God when I don't agree

- 1 Sam 8:4-9, 19-21

- Samuel clear about who God is, what He has promised, and trusts Him in the circumstances

2. Remaining Faithful

Samuel remained faithful in serving God

a) When the Message was difficult and unpopular

- 1Sam 3:10-17, 1 Sam. 15

b) When he felt rejected and disappointed

- 1 Sam 8:6-7

c) When he was hurting and felt loss

- 1Sam 12:20-25

- 1 Sam 15:10-11, 34-35

Obedience to God's call, speaking the truth – not subject to how Samuel felt in the circumstances - faithful

3. Reviewing Heart Condition

rise and fall of Kings and Nations – dependant on heart condition before God

a) Unwilling Heart

- Eli – knew and refused to address situation

b) Ungrateful Heart

- forgetting what God had done
- demanding from God what they desired

c) Arrogant Heart

- selected without qualifications
- self reliant, blaming others, changing the plan
- rebellious and unrepentant

So What

1. My Circumstances can be seen two ways
 - how can I have God's perspective
 - do my actions show a trust in God, in what I don't control, when all seems lost, when I don't agree?
2. God Calls me to be Faithful
 - to an unpopular and often difficult message
 - when I am rejected – disappointed
 - in my hurt and feelings of loss

3. My Heart Condition Needs Review

- have I developed an unwilling heart in dealing with sin, making right what God has revealed, taking a stand?
- have I allowed an ungrateful heart? Forgetting what God has done in my past, demanding what I desire from my perspective?
- has my heart become arrogant? Do I realize God chose me without my earning or deserving it? Have I become self reliant – running ahead of God, blaming others? Have I become rebellious – changing what God has asked to suit my view and circumstances – and demanding his blessing in that?