

## 1 Samuel 7:3 “Steps to Revival”

When we come to the Book of 1 Samuel the state of the nation of Israel is still in a mess.

A) This is still the time of the book of Judges where everyone is doing what is right in their own eyes.

B) **The People of Israel are not right with God** - The Priesthood is a mess.

1) The High Priest is a guy named Eli – his sons Hophni and Phineas are the Assistant priests –

C) **Today’s vernacular – Eli is the lead pastor** of the Church and his sons are the assistants.

1) His sons are stealing from the offering and having sex with the women!

D) That is how bad things are – It is a mess!

If you were here on Wednesday night – Pastor Jason told a story about a young assistant Pastor in his church in Texas that **was sleeping with multiple women in the Church** - {Not good}

A) Jason shared how mad he was when he found out.

B) What he didn’t tell you is what I told him to do when he called me to tell me what was going on!

C) I told him to get a couple of big deacons and take that guy out back and beat the tar out of him.

That is mean Pastor Rob – Maybe !

A) That is how serious **I take the role of being someone’s Pastor!**

B) See You are precious to God – Paul referred to the Church as **God’s church which he purchased with His own blood.** Acts 20:28

C) That is how precious you are to God – Jesus purchased you with His own blood!

In my opinion anyone who tries to manipulate God’s people or takes advantage of God’s church – **should be disqualified immediately**

A) I am passionate about this – I hate when people use spiritual positions to take advantage of or manipulate God’s people

B) If Myself or Jason or anyone here did that I would Expect the leadership of this church to say: You are done

1) Immediately ask for our resignation.

Bb) I will be the first to admit – we are not perfect – we make mistakes – **we might say something wrong – we might be misunderstood –**

1) But our hearts – never ever – use this position – take advantage or manipulate God’s people

C) Why are you so passionate about this?

Cc) **Jesus was** – That is what Drove him to going into the temple - turn tables

1) Religious leaders were taking advantage of God’s people, manipulating God’s people and putting burdens on God’s people

D) Made Jesus really Angry – Righteous Anger! – **In fact the only people Jesus speaks ill of in the gospels are the religious leaders**

1) Not the Romans, not the sinners - But the religious leaders –

E) **God's people are precious to Him** – so it doesn't surprise me here in 1 Samuel when God says to Hophni and Phineas – you are done – kills them

1) This is **SERIOUS STUFF** –

**But in the midst of all this evil – God raises up a man – really a boy by the name of Samuel {Met last week}**

A) Samuel is going to be used by God to get Israel back on Track!

B) We will see how the Children of Israel go prepare for Battle at a place called Ebenezer – Chapter 4 –

1) They lose the Battle – the Ark of the covenant gets captured – by the Philistines -

C) Some really comical things happen to get it back.

The Ark ends up in the home of some Levites at a place called Kirjath Jearim – for 20 years – they are blessed!

**Finally after many years of not being right – the people of Israel are gathered to Samuel – at a place called Mizpah –**

A) They are ready to get serious about God again.

B) Samuel says to them: V.3 again <sup>3</sup> Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel, saying, “If you return to the LORD with all your hearts, *then* put away the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths from among you, and prepare your hearts for the LORD, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you from the hand of the Philistines.” <sup>4</sup> So the children of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and served the LORD only.

C) V.3 Gives us four simple steps for Revival!

1) Whether talking Individual heart

2) Church

3) Community

4) A nation.

D) Four simple steps to getting right with God and seeing Him bless our lives!

**#1 Return with all your heart!**

A) If you return with all of your heart!

B) This is really what is at the heart of true repentance –

1) Sunday School teacher had asked her class of third graders what repent meant.

**C) A little boy responded, "It means you are sorry."**

1) A little girl said, "It means that you are so sorry you quit doing it."

D) The little girl had a better understanding of the word.

**If you would poll the inmates at Vista Jail as to whether or not they were sorry, I think that most would confess to being sorry.**

A) If you questioned a little deeper, you might discover that a lot of them were not sorry for committing the crime, but sorry that they were caught.

B) The Word repent means to Change!

1) It Starts with a Change of mind.- You realize – what you were Doing and Thinking was Wrong

C) It is a Change of mind that results in a Change of action!

1) Running in this direction – away from God – Away from His will / His way.

**D) You do a 180 and return to Him!**

**E) This is what the Lord promised in Jeremiah 29:13**

**<sup>13</sup> And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your bondage.”**

**Heart is a relationship word**

**A) Coming to that place when your personal relationship with God meant more to you than anything else in your life.**

**B) A common problem is a divided heart.**

1) You have a heart for God, but also a heart for other things, and you find yourself torn between the two.

**C) Sometimes our hearts can even get divided by good things**

**Church of Ephesus – Jesus commends them - I know your works, your labor, your patience, {Active Church} and that you cannot bear those who are evil. {Pure Church} And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; {Sound in Doctrine} <sup>3</sup> and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. {Faithful Church}**

**D) We read that description and think – where is that Church – I want to Go there – sounds like a great church.**

**E) Jesus says – But I have this against you – you have left your first love!**

**Going through the Motions – regular routines – right beliefs – But NO PASSION –**

**B) Jesus said: Remember from where you have fallen, repent and return – do the first things again.**

**C) Get back to the thing that means most to you in your life – Is you and Jesus!**

**E) Description of you? Divided heart? Sin? Wrong priorities -**

**#1 Return with all your heart**

**#2 Remove – Put away the foreign Gods**

**A) The Israelites had become so corrupted by the influences around them that they had taken up the practice of Idolatry.**

**B) Worshipping false god’s – Idols made of stone or wood!**

**C) Interesting: The pagans make their gods; their gods do not make them.**

1) They carry their gods; their gods do not carry them.

2) They protect their gods; their gods do not protect them.

3) They sacrifice to their gods; their gods do not sacrifice for them.

**D) On the other hand our God... made us, carries us, & sacrificed Himself for us!**

**The Israelites had abandoned the one true God and were worshipping popular gods of the day:**

**A) They had been worshipping the sex goddess Ashtoreth. They were into pornography.**

**B) They worshipped Molech the god of pleasure.**

1) Baal, the god of intellectualism.

**C) Mammon, the god of power and possessions.**

## **Interesting those same gods are being worshipped today in our culture: Here in the USA**

A) We worship the goddess of sex – Pornography –

B) **Ministry covenant eyes** – shared these stats – 68% of men and 18% of women visit porn sites – once a week.

1) 20 billion dollar a year industry – Destroying lives and homes

C) **We also worship the god of intellectualism** - 1) Schools in the name of science – pushed God out of the classroom.

2) Pursuers of knowledge – but ignore the facts – Intelligent design

D) **We worship the gods of pleasure**: Our whole culture is geared around entertainment

1) We worship the god of power and possessions – Money and materialism - Drives our culture.

**Until a person gets into trouble – Person gets into trouble – Never hear them crying out.**

A) In a Jam dying - cry out to Materialism

Cry out to American express

B) They don't Cry out to Education – Oh masters degree ....

C) Don't Cry out to Pleasure & Sexuality – Oh Playboy save me -

D) Are things that become a focus and a priority: Spend your days trying to figure out how – spend more time doing that .....

1) More ways to get more of those.....

E) Remove - Put them away the foreign gods!

### **#3 Prepare your heart to meet with God!**

A) We prepare our hearts for everything that is important to us!

B) Wedding date: Most brides to be and even a lot of grooms – Diet, start working out – Want to look good – Preparation

C) Prepare for Job interview – Haircut – Shave – Suit – nice dress –

1) Final exam

D) Meeting your girlfriends parents for the first time.

### **DO WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO MEET WITH GOD?**

Paul Harvey tells a story about an attractive airline flight attendant who was being hounded by two flirts – one at the front of the plane, the other at the back.

She was obviously very put-off by the very forward advances being made by the two men, but she kept right on doing her job.

Near the end of the flight one of the men became particularly bold and as the plane was about to land he handed her a key to his apartment and the address and said, "**See you tonight.**"

So she took them, then she walked to the back of the plane, handed them to the other flirt, winked and said, "Don't be late."

Later on that evening I bet there were two very disappointed men in some apartment somewhere.

**What does that have to do with anything? Nothing really – but the Lord tells us in his word – “When two or more are gathered together in my name I am there in the midst of them.”**

A)When we gather like we are today – the Lord is always here – He is in our midst.

B)But there is a difference between Him being in our midst and manifesting His presence.

**C)The Hebrew word for Glory is the word – Kabod – not Kabob – like meat and Barbecue –**

1)Kabod – means – weightiness – heaviness – thickness in a good way

D)Sometimes – We sense his presence – Weightiness in the room –

1)God’s presence is thick – you just know He is here and He is working –

E)But why isn’t it that way all the time?

**I personally think the way that we approach God has something to do with it!**

A)If you are visiting today – Not a Christian today- Permission to tune out for a minute - talk to our church family.

B)Listen Church – When we come here to worship God – we need to realize – **WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT US! – ABOUT HIM!**

C)God is worthy of our Praise – All He has done for us – Saved us

1)He deserves our praise –

D)We should prepare our hearts to meet with Him like we were meeting the most important person on the planet!

**I want us to be – God wants us to be a Church that is passionate about worship!**

A)Applegate Christian Fellowship – first time visit – **BLOWN AWAY!**

B)But here is what we do – we get hung up on who is leading worship! – **OH BUMMER**

1)We get distracted – some of you think – **TOO LOUD** – others of us think it is not loud enough

C)Loudest spots in the room – Over there – windows – reflective – up front

1)Quietest spots are over there – and in the back

**D)I MEAN THIS IN SINCERE – LOVE – Precious church – NONE OF THAT IS THE POINT!**

**Worship is about Him – and I think if more of us – genuinely prepared our hearts to meet with God – every Sunday/ Wednesday / other times**

Aa)The less we are going to be concerned about **who is leading worship** - less concerned we will be about the loudness or lack thereof of the music

A)**The More God is going to manifest His Presence** - Sense it – feel it – Recognize – God was really moving today.

B)You will personally get More out of the messages!

1)See more people get saved!

**C)Saw this all the time as youth Pastor Wed nights - end of an evening – Invitation – every week students got saved**

1)Unbeliever – What – Worship – Watching these kids – sense something – these kids have something I don't

D)That is what happens – **unbeliever comes in here: Person who isn't walking with God –**

1)In Worship, the Holy Spirit is already working – Sense – Something amazing is happening here – these people have something I don't

E)We have had times like that – I really desire that to be the norm and not the exception

1)Precious church – Can we Make an agreement today – to start making time to prepare our hearts – before we get here.

2)Pray

**How many of you are with me on that ?**

A)The rest of you can come back now – one more thing –

B)4 simple steps to Revival –

#1 Return with all your heart

#2 Remove the foreign gods

#3 Prepare you heart to seek the Lord

**#4 Serve the Lord only**

A)1 Corinthians 10:31 **“Whatever you do, do it for God's glory!”**

B)Colossians 3:17 **“Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord.”**

C)**Your life is about bringing God glory!**

1)God is glorified when you do your work for Him! Hardest worker Maybe not the best – hardest worker – most reliable – honest

D)Working for God – Your place of employment is your mission field – Your sphere of influence – shine for Him

**Mom – Sign in her kitchen: Divine service happens here three times a day!**

A)Changes the way that you approach everything – not working for a paycheck – impress a boss – spouse – **THE LORD**

B)You make these 4 simple steps – the focus of your life and things **are going to get radical – REAL FAST**

C)Now before we go – I want to tell you what happened to Israel

1)See in more detail on Wednesday.

**Here is what happens – The People of Israel are gathered at Mizpah – Revival is breaking out.**

A)Philistines get wind of it – they think Israel is preparing for war – so they get their troops together to attack.

B)Someone comes to the people of Israel and says – Philistines heard what is going on here – they are coming to attack us.

### C) LISTEN CHURCH – ALWAYS THE REACTION OF THE ENEMY

1) You start getting right with God – You get excited about the Lord and the enemy perks up -

D) **Common fallacy** – If I am seeking the Lord – I will escape trials

1) If I am in a trial it is because I am doing something wrong!

E) **Opposite is often true** - If you are in a trial it probably means you are doing something right!

**If you are a lukewarm Christian, Settle for Status quo – If you are content to live a mediocre Christian life –**

A) Satan is not going to bother you too much. – **He has got you right where he wants you.**

B) He may not be able to affect your life – your salvation – but he also knows you are not going to affect anyone else.

1) **Leave him/her alone.**

C) But the minute that you get fired up about the Lord – the minute you want to impact friends, family neighbors, co-workers

1) The minute a church – starts wanting to make an impact in their community – SATAN – PERKS UP – GOT A LIVE ONE HERE

D) **ATTACK** – Greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world

### **WATCH WHAT HAPPENS HERE! – AWESOME**

A) ISRAEL HAS prepared their hearts to seek the Lord – confession of sin – fasting – praying going on!

<sup>9</sup> And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered *it as* a whole burnt offering to the LORD. Then Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him.

<sup>10</sup> Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel. But the LORD thundered with a loud thunder upon the Philistines that day, and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel. <sup>11</sup> And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and drove them back as far as below Beth Car. {House of the lamb}

<sup>12</sup> Then Samuel took a stone and set *it* up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

<sup>13</sup> So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

### **A) V.9 Samuel began by sacrificing a lamb – interesting picture**

1) The day of victory BEGAN with the sacrifice of a lamb and ENDED at the house of the lamb

B) **Victory ALWAYS starts with THE Lamb Jesus Christ** and comes to completion in the lamb

C) **Our victory started on Calvary** {Jesus the Lamb of God was sacrificed to pay the price for our sins - and will end in our home in the heavenlies

1) All of Heaven sings *Worthy is the lamb*

D) It STARTS with the sacrificial work of Christ and ENDS with us dwelling in the house of the Lord forever

**AFTER the victory, Samuel erected a stone monument**

A) Ebenezer stone = stone of Remembrance – Memorial

B) Today- We are ending service – Ebenezer Stone – Memorial

1) Communion: Victory was won!

*Ps 138:8 The LORD will work out His plans for my life—for Your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever.*

***Php 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He which has begun a good work in you will perform [it] until the day of Jesus Christ:***

*1Th 5:24<sup>24</sup> Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.*

**SO the Ebenezer stone is a reminder of the Faithfulness of God – but The EBENEZER STONE also keeps us from leaning on the arm of the flesh**

A) See, The EBENEZER STONE reminds us that we have come this far BECAUSE of His work

B) Having BEGUN IN THE SPIRIT may we FINISH in the Spirit

*Ga 3:3 Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

C) Personally - reliance on the Lord