

1 Samuel 7 – The Power Of Repentance

February 27, 2022

Most people are beaten down enough by life. They already feel guilty enough.... I want them to come to Lakewood or our meetings and be lifted up, to say, "You know what? I may not be perfect, but I'm moving forward. I'm doing better.

—Joel Olsteen, CBS Sunday Morning Interview

People are used to [churches] condemning people to make them feel bad so that they'll repent, so they'll know that they're sinners, but I think there's a different approach.

—Joel Osteen

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:2 (ESV)

Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Matthew 3:8 (ESV)

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Luke 13:5 (ESV)

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (ESV)

1. Background

And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the LORD. From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.

1 Samuel 7:1–2 (ESV)

- **Even when there is faithful preaching of God's Word, sometimes there is little response to God's Word because people refuse to listen.**
- **Don't give up preaching the gospel. Sometimes repentance only comes after a long time.**

2. The Gospel According To Samuel

And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroath from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the

hand of the Philistines." So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only. 1 Samuel 7:3-4 (ESV)

A. Return to the Lord with all your heart.

And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart,..." 1 Samuel 7:3 (ESV)

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)

- **Don't confuse worldly grief with godly grief.**

B. Put away foreign gods.

...then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you... 1 Samuel 7:3 (ESV)

You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3 (ESV)

a. Baal and Ashtaroth worship were popular.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4 (ESV)

- **Turn away from what is popular but sinful in the world around us.**

b. Baal and Ashtaroth worship were sensually appealing.

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)

- **Turn away from sexual sin.**

C. Direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only.

...direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only... 1 Samuel 7:3c (ESV)

D. God will deliver you.

...and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." 1 Samuel 7:3 (ESV)

So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only. 1 Samuel 7:4 (ESV)

3. Samuel gathered the people and prayed for the people.

Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." 1 Samuel 7:5 (ESV)

So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD."...

1 Samuel 7:6 (ESV)

4. Samuel judged Israel.

...And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. 1 Samuel 7:6 (ESV)

Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel... 1 Samuel 7:7 (ESV)

...And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

1 Samuel 7:7 (ESV)

And the people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. 1 Samuel 7:8–9 (ESV)

- **The most important way to prepare for the battles of life is to be in a right relationship with God.**

5. The Lord answered Samuel.

...and the Lord answered him. 1 Samuel 7:9c

As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel... 1 Samuel 7:10 (ESV)

...But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. 1 Samuel 7:10 (ESV)

The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven... 1 Samuel 2:10 (ESV)

And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car. 1 Samuel 7:11 (ESV)

6. Don't forget when God rescued us.

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us." 1 Samuel 7:12 (ESV)

- **We are not a people who live in the past. We live out of the past.**

7. God protected His people after repentance.

So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites. 1 Samuel 7:13–14 (ESV)

- God honors those who honor Him.

8. God sustains His people with repentance.

Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places. Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there, and there also he judged Israel. And he built there an altar to the LORD. 1 Samuel 7:15–17 (ESV)

Application

- Repentance to God through Jesus is essential for receiving God's forgiveness and favor.

Life Group Questions

1. What did you learn in this week's lesson that you did not know? What questions do you have?
2. Repentance is the key to understanding 1 Samuel 7. What are the components of genuine repentance? Why are all of them necessary?
3. How often do you examine your life for sin, repent of it and call out to Jesus asking for forgiveness?
4. What does this chapter teach us about the kind of leader God's people need?
5. Why are confession and repentance essential for revival in the church?
6. Samuel called Israel to repent of their national sins at Mizpah. Do you think churches can be guilty of corporate sin? How does a church repent of corporate sin? If you were to analyze CrossWinds, what do you think might be our greatest corporate sin. **Read Revelation 2:1-7, 12-17, 18-23, 3:14-22.**
7. **Read 1 Samuel 7:3-4.** The people of Israel adopted the sinful practices of the culture around them. What are the sinful aspects of our culture that many Christians find themselves adopting of which they might need to repent?
8. What does the Bible teach us about fasting and when it might be appropriate? **Read Daniel 6:17-18, 9:3-6.**