
A Study In 1 Samuel
"The School Of Hard Knocks"
1 Samuel 5:1-7:2

06-11-23

Introduction: We are in the midst of a study in 1 Samuel.

1. 1 Samuel is a book of transition.
2. God will use Samuel to lead Israel out of the defeat in the times of the Judges to the victory and greatness in the reign of King David.
3. As we come to chapter 5, this morning we are focused on the aftermath of the catastrophe of chapter 4.
 - The armies of Israel had been defeated.
 - Eli, Phinehas, and Hophni are dead.
 - The Ark has been lost to the Philistines.
 - Shiloh has been destroyed.
4. This looks bad, but God is not dead. He has big plans for Israel. They will be realized.
5. In chapters 5-6 we see His work, but the starting point is "rock bottom".
6. As the story unfolds, we will get a glimpse of what it's like in the school of hard knocks.

I. The Philistines

- A. Their Presumption
- B. Their Experience
- C. Their Understanding
- D. Their Humility

II. The People Of Beth Shemesh

- A. Their Joy
- B. A Hard Lesson

Conclusion: What should we learn from this story?

1. It is easy to think the Philistines are getting what they deserve.
2. The judgment of Beth Shemesh seems harsh.
3. Is there a lesson there?
4. I think there are several.
 - It is unwise to resist God.
 - It is very wise to submit to His will.
 - God holds His people to a higher standard.
 - God will never forsake His people.
5. Each of us have a choice:
 - We can learn from stories like this.
 - We can learn in the school of hard knocks.
6. Choose wisely!