

“THE MENTORING DAD WHO SERVED AS THE LAST JUDGE”

Survey of I Samuel: Part I

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The two parallel biographies coupled with two contrasting biographies:
 - 1. Ruth devoted to God coupled with Samuel (heard of God) who also was devoted to God:
 - 2. Samuel, the last judge contrasted with Saul, the first king (leadership):
- B. The command to study your history in a cancelled cultural setting:
 - 1. The imperative command: (See *Deut. 6; Josh. 23-24; I Cor. 10:1-11*)
 - 2. The history worth noting in three vital areas:
 - 3. The choice we tend to make and the results of this choice: (See *Jer. 6:16; Jud. 2:10*)
- C. The relevance of applying this book to each of us today: (*Ii Tim. 4:16-17*)

II. A FATHER’S TIMELESS VALUES DETAILED IN AN APPLICABLE HISTORY LESSON:

- A. The miracle child from a dysfunctional family: *1:1-20*
 - 1. The story beginning with a disastrous blended home: vv. 1-8
 - 2. The devoted prayer and then “hearing from God”: vv. 9-20
- B. Mama’s little boy (Hanna, “woman of grace”): *1:19-2:11*
 - 1. The vow made and kept: *1:11, 24-28*
 - 2. The joy (the song) that comes regarding the unknowns of a child’s tomorrows: *2:1-11*
- C. Learning to listen to God in a deplorable family setting: *2:12-3:21*
 - 1. The listening that exposed permissive parenting: *2:12, 17, 22-25, 29*
 - 2. The listening that grew from ministering: *2:11, 26; 3:1-10*
- D. Experiencing lonely heartache as a man of God: *Chapters 4 and 5*
 - 1. The loneliness when those around you refuse to listen to God (20 years): *7:1-3*
 - 2. The need to always offer hope that anyone can change: *7:3-14*
- E. Parenting in the midst of ministry: *7:15-8:22*
 - 1. Parenting two boys, Joel (the Lord is God - positional) and Abijah (my father is the Lord - relational) while aggressively pursuing ministry on three fronts:
 - 2. Faithfulness in spite of rejection: (unlike Solomon and Rehoboam - Proverbs)
- F. Modeling faithfulness in the midst of rejection: *12:1-25*
 - 1. The faithful judge: vv. 1-11
 - 2. Lasting instructions to the nation and his family: *19-25*
- G. Judging for the last time: *13:1-15*
 - 1. Crunch time: vv. 1-9
 - 2. The consequences for being right in your head but wrong in your heart: vv. 10-15
- H. Writing his lingering legacy and eulogy: *15:1, 28:3; 19:18-24* (See *Heb. 11:32b*)
 - 1. The legacy of finishing well: *19:18-24*
 - 2. God’s eulogy: (*I Sam. 2:35; Ps. 99:6; I Chron. 11:3; Heb. 11:32*)

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:
(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A. Children are lent to you for a very limited amount of time to mentor. So invest wisely in building Godly priorities and sending three bold messages. (See Pro. 22:6)
1. Model Biblical precepts and Godly priorities, to let your child know "it can be done".
 2. Occasionally turn around and make eye contact with your child while holding his hand, to let him know "your not alone".
 3. Continue your walk with God, trusting God to lead your child to follow, communicating, "I believe in you".

- B. The choice to be a Godly parent (even a single parent) is no guarantee that your child will walk with Christ after he leaves home. (From mentoring two sons to mentoring Israel's first king) (I Sam. 8:3; II Ki. 23:25-32, Lk. 15:11-32)

"Focus on what God will say about your parenting (mentoring) rather than those around you." (I Sa. 8:7; 12:3-5; II Cor. 5:9-10) (Joseph, Samuel, Josiah, Daniel)

- C. As a parent, I must refuse to allow the choices of a wayward grown child, to table my personal walk with God. (II Sam. 22:20-24) (What Solomon did)

"You can break my heart, but you cannot destroy my life. I will follow Christ regardless of what you do. My life is hid in Christ. You are important but you are not powerful." L. Crabb