

CEASE NOT TO CRY UNTO THE LORD

1 SAMUEL 7:1-12

Text: 1 Samuel 7:8

And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the LORD our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

Introduction:

This is one of the greatest chapters in the Bible

- God's people needed a revival.
- The Ark of the Covenant had returned to Israel, but Israel had not returned to God
- It was time for Samuel to call them to repentance.
- They were to put away their foreign gods, meet at Mizpah to renew their allegiance to God.
- Just as God's People needed revival then - so NOW!

- It is time again to meet at Mizpeh and rededicate ourselves to God
- It is time to put away our idols and false gods, and return to the One true God of the Bible.

Psa.85:6 “Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?”

- It is time to clean up, look up and set up as they did here.

1. CERTAINTY

Prayers Are Not Always Answered Immediately

A. Israel had prayed for 20 years for the ark to be brought home.

1. The Philistines had captured it during an earlier battle - I Sam. 4:22

²²And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

2. The Glory had departed from Israel because of the sin of Eli's sons

3. Eli refused to discipline his sons, and the whole nation was defeated

4. As go the homes, so goes the nation.
The importance of a Godly Home!

B. God cannot and will not answer prayers when
there is sin in the camp

Isa. 59:1 through Isa. 59:2

¹Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it
cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
²But your iniquities have separated between you and
your God, and your sins have hid his face from you,
that he will not hear.

Psa. 66:18

¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear
me:

1. Our prayers will be hindered until we
are ready to repent

2. CHOICE

Halfhearted Repentance Never Works!

A. Samuel wanted to make sure the Israelites
turned to God with all their hearts.

1. "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts" v.3
2. They were not only to turn to God but turn away from evil too.
3. They needed a complete change of life and behavior.

B. Real repentance happens when we deal with our divided hearts

1. We cannot serve God and mammon
Matt. 6:24
2. We cannot serve two masters - we must decide whom we will serve
3. Then we must keep to that decision - without compromise
4. God is looking for sincere repentance not a shallow outward show.

2 Cor. 7:10

¹⁰For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

3. CONFESSION V.6

1 Sam. 7:6

⁶And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the LORD, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

A. Samuel poured water on the ground to indicate there was no turning back.

1. It was time to make a new start and have a new beginning.

2. Put away past failures, disappointments and sins

3. It was time to publicly admit their sin, receive forgiveness and demonstrate their firm intention to follow God wholeheartedly

B. Public confession of sin is certainly a Biblical command

Illustration: Simon the Sorcerer after becoming a Christian

Acts 8:22 through Acts 8:24

²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ²³For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. ²⁴Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

1. When we have committed a public sin, then there should be Public confession. When it is private, take it to the Lord privately.
2. Israel had sinned publicly. It was time to make a Public confession to state their serious intention to do right.

4. CHALLENGED

Revival Is Always Challenged By The Evil One.

A. Spiritual commitment draws opposition,

1. Notice how Satan stirred up the Philistines to attack Israel.
2. Satan can't stand when God's people get revived in their love for the Lord.

3. He doesn't mind a sleeping church, but he hates a soul winning church, and will fight against it

Acts 8:1 through Acts 8:4

¹ And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. ³As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. ⁴Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

B. Do not be concerned though!

1. God will deliver us no matter how fearsome the fight

2. God stepped in here to help Israel when they couldn't help themselves.

3. They erected a memorial stone
EBENEZER - Thus far the Lord has helped us.

CONCLUSION

1. We need revival in the pulpit and pews

A. We need God's people to recognize and repent of all known sin and return to God with all of our hearts.

B. The time is NOW to get right with God, get back to His word, serve Him only

2. When we do that we will have unity and peace v.14

A. In our personal lives and in our churches

B. 2 Chr. 7:14

C. Revive us again

D. God is always willing to receive and restore us to fellowship when we humbly come to Him. WILL YOU COME TO HIM TODAY?