

David Part 2 | The Rise & Fall of Leadership | Pastor Steve 08.4.2019

Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

**Memory Verse:** 1 Samuel 7:3

<sup>3</sup>Then Samuel said to all the people of Israel, 'If you want to return to the LORD with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the LORD and obey him alone; then he will rescue you from the Philistines.' "

**Read: 1 Samuel 5**

- How did the people in Ashdod feel when the whole city was in turmoil?
- Why didn't they give the Ark back right away? What was the result?
- Why—even though we see the signs that what we are doing is wrong—do we not repent and fix what we are doing right away?
- Would you consider the Philistines not giving the Ark back provoking God? What do we do that angers God?

**Read: 1 Samuel 6**

**1 Samuel 6: 1-9**

- How do you think the people felt when preparing the "guilt offering"?
- Do you think they thought the offering would work "IF" it arrived?

They chose two cows that had "just given birth" and had "never been yoked to a cart", they also places their calves inside the cart where the cows couldn't tend to them, and then "let them go wherever they want".

- Do you think they expected the cart to make it?
- Why are all of these details important?

**1 Samuel 6: 10-12**

- How do you think the Philistine rulers felt watching the cows follow the correct path?
- Verse 12 says the cows were "lowing" as they walked. What do you think this means? Why was it mentioned the cows were "lowing" the whole way?

For this to be carried out the way it was could only be because of God. God had the cows go where He wanted them to go.

- When have you seen a result to a situation that only God could have made happen? (Something that doesn't "add up" but worked out because God had His hand on it.)

**1 Samuel 6:19-21**

- Why did the people who looked into the Ark die? What did it mean for them to look into the Ark?
- How did the people of Beth-shemesh feel after those men died?
- What did they do next?

**Read: 1 Samuel 7**

**1 Samuel 7:1-4**

- Verse 2 says "It seemed the Lord had abandoned them", why did the people feel like they were abandoned?
- Do you think God did abandon them? Why or Why not?
- Samuel told the people what to do if they really wanted to return to the Lord—"If you want to return to the LORD with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the LORD and obey him alone; then he will rescue you from the Philistines." -do you think this was hard for the people to do?
- When we feel distant or alone- is it because we have put something else as a higher priority than God?
- We are also called to "Turn your hearts to the LORD and obey him alone". What things do we sometimes allow our hearts to turn towards instead?

**1 Samuel 7: 7-9**

- The people confessed their sins and fasted. Have you ever fasted? Why? Why not?
- Why do you think this was important for them to do?
- How did the Israelites respond to their fear of the Philistines advancing towards them?
- When danger is approaching in your life—how do you react?

**1 Samuel 7:10-17**

After defeating the army—Samuel publicly praised God giving Him all the glory. When you come out of a battle—do you remember to thank God, giving Him all the glory and praise? Do you do it publicly, as well as privately?