

A Study of the Heart Week 6
A Comparison: Philistines and Israelites
God will not be mocked
1 Samuel 5-6

Review:

Everyone lives for some kind of treasure.
Whatever you treasure will control your heart.
Whatever controls your heart will control your behavior.

If lasting change is going to take place, it must take place through the heart.
How are you guarding/keeping your heart?

- 1 Samuel 1 – A desperate heart becomes a dependent heart.
- 1 Samuel 2 – A complacent heart becomes a compromising heart.
- 1 Samuel 3 – A listening heart becomes a fruitful heart.
- 1 Samuel 4 – Hardened hearts become God-manipulating hearts

The Philistine idols are judged. 1 Samuel 5:1-5
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1. 1 Samuel 5:1, 2 – The Philistines take the ark and put in their pantheon of gods.
 - They believe Dagon is superior to Yahweh and they bring the ark in to honor their god.
 - The Ark did not *fall* into their hands. God is in control.
2. 1 Samuel 5:3-5 – Dagon is found in a position of submission before the ark of the LORD.
 - The idol is humbled, revealed as helpless, and then annihilated.
3. God is making it clear that He cannot be manipulated or overpowered by men or false gods.
 - Psalm 115:3-7

The Philistine idolaters are judged. 1 Samuel 5:6-6:18

1. The Philistines bow before the devastation in fear but not before God in worship.
 - They recoil at the destruction and recognize God but will not submit to Him. They want to get rid of Him.

2. 1 Samuel 5:6, 8, 10, 12– the people experience the judgment of God
 - The idolaters are humbled, revealed as helpless, and then annihilated.
 - God will not be mocked.
 - Psalm 115:3-8
 - *We become what we worship to our ruin or to our restoration.*
G.K. Beale
 - Romans 1:22-25 – God gave them over to their desires
 - Philippians 2:10 – every knee will one day bow to Jesus
 - Galatians 6:7-8 – Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked...

3. 1 Sam 6:6-9 – God proves His sovereignty by having untrained milk cows who would not leave their young pull a cart uphill toward Israel away from home and their nursing calves.

The Israelites irreverence mocks God and they too are judged. 1 Sam. 6:19-21

1. The Ark comes back to the Israelites – but they too failed to recognize God’s holiness.
 - The term, *looked*, indicates staring and possibly gloating, with a connotation irreverence.
 - God’s holiness is the attribute most referenced in Scripture.
 - Psalm 99:9, 71:22; Isaiah 6:3, Leviticus 19:2; Hebrews 12:10,14; Revelation 4:8, 15:4 (to cite just a few verses)
 - *Power is God’s hand or arm, omniscience His eye, mercy His bowels, eternity His duration, but holiness is His beauty.* Stephen Charnock
 - They ask the right question in verse 20, but have the wrong answer, which is to remove the holiness and presence of God.

2. We can have intimacy with God but we need to beware of irreverence and over familiarity with Lord of heaven and earth.
 - God is both immanent and transcendent
 - We come to God through Jesus the mediator of a new covenant...
 - Hebrews 12:14-29
 - Sometime read chapter 13 to see the practical implications that flow from the proper worship of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK 6

What are some common idols of our culture? How do you see the statement, *we become what we worship to our ruin or to our restoration*, being lived out in our society?

What position does God hold in your life? Is He first and foremost in your heart and mind or have you traded the glory of an intimate relationship with God for time watching TV, playing video games, surfing the net, advancing your career, investing in your hobbies etc.? Is God merely relegated to a position among all the other “gods” in your life?

How is the statement *we become what we worship to our ruin or our restoration*, being lived out in your life? (read Galatians 6:7-10)

Read Ezekiel 14:6-8. What idols of your heart have been exposed during our studies together? What does repentance look like given your particular idol?

Review Romans 8

Close in prayer

Personal Reflection:

Read Galatians 6:7-10 - What kind of seeds are you planting in this life? Are you sowing to the Spirit or to the flesh? Are you mocking God?

If your children, friends, neighbors, and co-workers were asked those questions, how would they answer? Would they speak of the consistency of your actions and your words? Would they make reference to your example of prayer, study, and worship? Or would they be hard pressed to find examples of Christ-like behavior in your life?

What changes do you know you need to make in your life? Set up a time to meet with another man and ask him to hold you accountable to making these changes and encourage you along the way.