

A Study of the Heart Week 7
Repentant Hearts Are Restored Hearts
1 Samuel 7

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

1 Samuel 5-6 – A Comparison: Philistines and Israelites- God will not be mocked

Introduction. 1 Samuel 7:1-2

1. Remember Samuel?
2. God is about to restore Israel through repentance
3. God will use a man to lead them- “O the things He can do through a heart that is fully His”

Sorrowing Hearts. 1 Samuel 7:2b

1. Repentance includes an emotional response. They are lamenting after YHWH.
2. But if it's not supernaturally driven by the Spirit- it is superficial (scratching Poison Ivy doesn't help)

Changing Lives. 1 Sam. 7:2b-6

Samuel makes sure that they aren't just sorry (2 Cor 7)- but that they change (obey)

1. Genuine repentance requires a negative and a positive action
 - *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion. **Proverbs 28:13***
 - *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of Me. **Matthew 10:37-38***
 - *But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to*

a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.

Colossians 3:8-10

- *The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. **Romans 13:12-14***
- *That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

Ephesians 4:22-24

2. Genuine repentance is difficult.

- Fun-loving Canaanites no doubt loved the liturgy and orgies of Asheroths.
- And how convenient to have the chapel and the brothel in the same location!
- For a believing Israelite (still carrying the flesh)- with ungodly habits over a long period of time- this call to put off must have seemed nearly impossible to carry out.
- It will require a supernatural repentance- not a superficial one- to break the grip of sin

3. Genuine *supernatural* repentance requires a deeper love, a deeper longing.

- You never get over one love until another greater love replaces it- Thomas Chalmers
- William Cowper: O for a Closer Walk with God
Return, O Holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest!
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn,
And drove Thee from my breast.
The dearest idol I have known,
Whatever that idol be,
Lord, help me tear from Thy throne
And worship only Thee.
- Desperation is never in trouble when it rests in a sovereign God.

4. Genuine repentance is in relationship to His mercy

- There is no merit in repentance- but there is no saving mercy without it
- Repentance is not the cause of God's deliverance, but it is the condition of His deliverance

5. Genuine repentance leads to dependant prayer (vs. 5-6)

- When the church stops trusting in proven programs, effective gimmicks, evangelical cleverness and realizes the nature of genuine spirituality and the supernatural struggle in which she is involved- she will pray.
- Often God knocks out the props and forces us to rely only on His naked hand for support.
- Why does God hear now? Contrast how God responds here as opposed to 1 Sam 4.

- When is the last time you fasted and prayed? Has there been anything in your life these past few years that might have called for it?

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| The memory of mercy. 1 Sam. 7:11-14 |
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1. Why a memorial? Don't forget how much God loves you. 1 Samuel 8:12-17
 - God calls us to stand on the past, dwell in the present as we look to the future
 - This includes the bitter fruit of compromise:
 - Loss of the ark (manipulation)
 - Eli & sons (ungodly leadership)
 - Canaanites (so you will not love them or their idols)
 - The life-line chart- ups and downs like the stock market (but growth over the years & His continual faithfulness)
 - God has always been *conquering* us lovingly, patiently, transformingly
 - God will also always win
 - He either crushes life (Philistines) or He captures your heart
 - The conqueror comes to you
 - He does not say to you- you lose! Rather, he invites you to *know* Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WEEK 7

What words and emotions/body language do you look for in a sincere apology?

Are you quick or slow to forgive? Does it depend upon the situation or the person? How difficult is it for you to forgive a repeat offender? Are you more likely to forgive someone who has similar areas of sin to your or different struggles?

What does it mean to repent? Do you see a difference between apologizing and repenting?

What are the sins you are currently struggling with? What steps are you taking to repent; to let God conquer and transform these areas?

Would your family say that you (1) reluctantly or never ask for forgiveness, (2) are a champion at apologies, but never change the behavior that requires that apology, or (3) seek forgiveness and help in eliminating problem areas (i.e. you are repentant)?

Review Romans 8

Close in prayer

Personal Reflection:

Have you gotten to the stage of repentance where you hate the sin and flee from it? What will it take for God to get you to this stage?

When was the last time you poured out your heart before God? If you haven't done it recently, what is holding you back? Is it pride, unbelief, a hardened heart, too busy to spend time with God, or just laziness?

God called His people to remember what He had done for them in the past (a memorial or Ebenezer) so that when the next battle presented itself, they would remember His faithfulness and turn to Him again. Think of an Ebenezer you or your family should establish before the Lord, and share the story of it with others as a praise for what God has done.