

LESSON 48

Egermeier's Story:

Page 180 – The Ark of God Is Captured

Page 181 – The Ark of God Troubles the Philistines

Page 184 – Freedom from the Philistines

Page 185 – The Israelites Want a King

Memory Verse: I Samuel 2:30b "...but now the LORD declares, 'Far be it from Me—for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.'" NASB

Scripture: I Samuel 3:19-8:22

Teaching Resource:

Old Testament Overview Section 6 King Saul

Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 294-297

Object Lesson: Airplane pilots can fly under two sets of rules. In the first set, visual flight rules, they fly by what they see outside the plane. They look at the ground, the sky, and the clouds to fly the plane. In the second set of rules, instrument flight rules, pilots fly the plane only by what the gauges and instruments tell them. When pilots fly in the clouds, they can become confused about which way is up and which way is down because they can't see anything but white or gray out the window. Pilots who don't rely on the gauges and instruments have been known to fly their planes right into the ground. Why? Their bodies tell them something opposite of what is really happening. The pilot must trust the instruments and not pay attention to the false signals their body gives them. (Note: This happens because the way fluid moves in the inner ear can trick the mind into thinking up is down and down is up.)

Just like a pilot learns to trust his instruments instead of what he feels, we are to understand God's truth and put our faith in His promises. Sometimes the signals we get from the world will throw us off balance, just like the pilot when his body gets confused. But God's Word reminds us that if we take time to study and understand His promises and His will, we should live our life by putting faith in His Word instead of the false signals the world can give us.

Doctrinal Emphasis: Faith in God Vs. Symbols

Key Theme: *Man is driven by what he sees. The Christian Life is about putting faith in what we cannot see. The spiritual things in life.*

We see in the narrative of I Samuel 4-7 a contrast of defeat and victory. In chapter 4 the people decide to place their trust in the Ark of the Lord; and not only is there a defeat and great slaughter, but the very object of their trust is taken from them. In chapter 7 the people trust the Lord and victory is theirs.

Here we have the very heart of man's tendency to live according to what he sees rather than placing his faith in the unseen God. The fact that humanity is so bound up in the physical realm was the basis for Satan's temptation of Jesus Christ. Satan tempted Jesus twice on the physical level, with hunger and with the kingdoms of the world that Satan showed to Him.

The Christian must endeavor to overcome this tendency toward the physical at the expense of the spiritual. Ephesians 6:10ff tells us that the battle is spiritual, and we need spiritual weapons. There is a physical battle as well. Although this battle has been won in the ultimate terms of salvation, the battle of the flesh continues for the Christian who does not relate moment by moment to the will of God. This is the conflict described in Romans 7:14-25. Earlier in Romans 6:12 we are told to not let sin reign in our bodies; but in 7:20-21, we see that it does. Here, we have the conflict. We find help in the spiritual realm for this conflict. Romans 8:26 tells us the Holy Spirit will help us in our weakness. Galatians 5:16 confirms this promise. The Holy Spirit will help us, but we must take the action and depend on Him for assistance. I Corinthians 6:12-15a and 19-20 give us the teaching to help us take action. Be careful with this passage because it gets into the specific sins of sexual indulgence that the Corinthians were caught up in, but the teaching is very clear:

- The body is for the Lord.
- Our bodies are members of Christ.
- We are to glorify the Lord with our body.

Timothy is given good advice in this matter in I Timothy 6:11. Following a description of greed, Timothy is told to flee these things. With the spiritual armor that God has given us (review Ephesians 6:10-20), we resist the devil; but the Christian is to flee from the temptations of the flesh, whether greed, as in this passage in Timothy, or immorality, as in the case of the Corinthians.