

Message Notes

June 26, 2011



The Search for Significance #2 “The Stretch To Significance”

1 Samuel: Chapters 4- 7

Introduction:

1. Israel and the Philistines: Round One

“Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines...and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. When the soldiers returned to the camp, the elders of Israel asked, ‘why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines?’” 1 Samuel 4:1-3 (NIV)

“...If you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands...The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven... Your carcasses will be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and there will be no one to frighten them away.”

Deuteronomy 28:15, 25-26 (NIV)

“Let us bring the ark of the LORD’S covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies... and they brought back the ark of the covenant...and Hophni and Phinehas were there with the ark of the covenant of God. When the ark of the LORD’S covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.”

1 Samuel 4:3-5 (NIV)

“The Philistines fought and defeated Israel. Every Israelite soldier fled to his tent. It was a major defeat in which 30,000 Israelite foot soldiers died. The ark of God was captured. Both of Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

1 Samuel 4:10-11 (GWT)

Hophni & Phinehas were:

2. Israel and the Philistines: Round two (20 Years Later)

“A long time passed after the ark came to stay at Kiriath Jearim. For 20 years the entire nation of Israel mournfully sought the LORD. Samuel told the entire nation of Israel, ‘If you are returning to the LORD wholeheartedly, get rid of the foreign gods you have, including the statutes of the goddess Ashtoreth. Make a commitment to the LORD, and serve only him. Then he will rescue you from the Philistines.’ So the Israelites got rid of...Baal and Ashtoreth and served only the LORD.” 1 Samuel 7:2-4 (GWT)

Think About It: The transition from success to significance means you have to stretch yourself. Most people _____ stretching because it takes them out of their _____.

- “Most people avoid stretching because it takes them out of their comfort zone.”
- “Most people don’t realize that the need to stretch _____.”

Examples:

And Samuel said, “Gather all Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the LORD. And they fasted that day, and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” 1 Samuel 7:5-6 (NKJV)

When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. ⁸ They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” 1 Samuel 7:7-8 (NIV)

The Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites... so the Philistines...did not invade Israelite territory again.” 1 Samuel 7:10, 13 (NIV)

- “Most people look back at stretching experiences as their _____.”

Closing:

“Samuel took a single rock and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it “Ebenezer” (Rock of Help), saying, “This marks the place where God helped us.” 1 Samuel 7:12 (Msg)

