



LEADER TIPS

Sermon Scripture References

Exodus 20:3; Matthew 10:37-38; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Mathew 5:6, 19; 1 John 2:8-9; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Sermon Description

Are you in need of spiritual renewal? Are you feeling spiritually lethargic? Do you feel as though sin and Satan have stolen the joy of your salvation? If so, you are not alone. Your experience as a Christian is not unique. Spiritual renewal is a need we all share at different points in our life of faith. According to God's daily mercies, spiritual renewal is a reality we can all experience time and time again as we practice ordinary means of grace (i.e., prayer, fasting, confession of sins) and exercise utterly dependent faith in Christ.

1 Samuel 7:2-17 tells a story of spiritual renewal in the life of ancient Israel. By God's grace, Israel reclaims territory lost to the Philistines as a result of God's discipline in their lives. He handed them over to their enemies as a result of their sin. At the start of this passage, Israel starting longing for the Lord once again. Through the prophet Samuel, God instructs Israel on how to pursue spiritual renewal and reminds them of the true power behind spiritual renewal. In the end, Israel's experience a renewed relationship with the Lord marked by peace and prosperity. A renewed relationship with the Lord is readily available for each of us too.

Text Insights

- In the CSB translation, the term translated "long" means "lament," which you will find in the ESV.
- Roughly 40% of Psalms are Psalms of lament.
- 1 Samuel 7 parallels with and reverses the 1 Samuel 4.

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Are you in need of spiritual renewal? How have you experienced spiritual renewal throughout your journey with Jesus?

SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN MESS MEETS MERCY: THE GOSPEL OF 1 SAMUEL
"SPIRITUAL RENEWAL": 1 SAMUEL 7:2-17

Big Idea: Spiritual renewal occurs through practicing ordinary means of grace and exercising utterly dependent faith in Christ.

Sermon Outline

- The Need for Spiritual Renewal: Recognition and Remorse (v. 2)
- The Path to Spiritual Renewal: Repentance and Resolve (vv. 3-4)
- The Power of Spiritual Renewal: Reliance and Remembrance (vv. 5-12))
- The Promise of Spiritual Renewal: Restoration and Rest (vv. 13-17)

INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- ▶ How might we move from recognizing our need for spiritual renewal to lamenting the reasons why it's needed? (One way is to pray through Psalms of Lament)
- ▶ Has the practice of Lament been a regular part of your spiritual formation? Why or why not?
- ▶ Reflect on your past week. Have are you practicing repentance and resolve in your fight against sin and resistance of the devil (1 Pt. 5:9)?
- ▶ What means of grace are a regular part of your spiritual renewal (ie. Prayer, fasting, confession, meditation)? What means of grace should be incorporated into your discipleship? How can you help each other do so?
- ▶ Share stories to jog memories of how the Lord has been your help up to this point in your journey?
- ▶ Are you feeling lost, despairing, threatened, or defeated? How will the cross and empty tomb be the Ebenezer in that area of your life?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read [1 Samuel 7:2-17](#) and explore together what the passages reveal about:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |