

LifeGroup Questions

Based on: 1 Samuel 7:2-10

February 24, 2019

Overview

I have read that in everyone's heart there is a throne and a cross. Either Jesus is on the throne and you are on the cross or Jesus is on the cross and you are on the throne. This is basically describing who is at the center of your life. Is it your wants and desires or are you willing to submit to God's will? Submitting doesn't mean you won't get anything you want or desire. It just means that God's will comes first in your life.

The nation of Israel was caught in a pattern. They kept falling for the foreign gods of the nations they failed to drive out of the promise land. Whenever they worshipped these false idols they would usually become oppressed by another nation. During the time of oppression they would cry out to God and seek deliverance.

Sometimes when reading through Judges and Samuel it is difficult to understand how Israel, who has been repeatedly delivered by God from foreign nations, can keep falling away. There are times when they genuinely sought after God and purged all the false idols from their lives. There are other times when they just didn't like the consequences of their idolatry and turned to God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote: "Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance." Just like Israel, sometimes we want forgiveness but still live the way we want. We want to be on the throne of our lives and keep Jesus on the cross. Galatians 2:20 reads: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Bible Study: 1 Samuel 7:2-10

1. What does it look like in your life to put God first?
2. Why is putting God first a daily practice of the Christian life?
3. What is one area of struggle you tend to wrestle with God over and want to keep control?
4. As you read 1 Samuel 7:2-10. What is the difference between repentance from sin and just not liking the consequences of sin?