

Date: April 12, 2026

Title: Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Passage: 1 Samuel 7:5-13

Summary:

How to Celebrate God's Faithfulness:

- Remember God's Faithfulness
- Rely on God's Power
- Rejoice in God's Provision
- Reach out to others

Key Truths:

- If you forget your history, you will forget how to live in the present (and affect your future). It's important to pause and remember God's faithfulness in the past.
- God has helped us to stay faithful to His Word, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ultimately, to Jesus Christ Himself!
- We should never outgrow our dependence from God. The greatest danger is to forget. Always remember God is always behind it all.
- Key characteristics we are to reflect as Jesus did: Meekness and Humility.
- Our greatest Ebenezer is not a building or a campus, but it is the cross of Christ.

Application:

- Remember God's faithfulness, rely on God, rejoice in help, and reach out to others.
- Pray
- Participate
- The church is something not only you attend but belong to as one of the members. You are meant to be functional to be part of the body of Christ.
- First, come to Christ. Then join a Biblically-sound church.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Passage:

1 Samuel 7:5-13

Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, "We have sinned against the LORD." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. And the people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel. And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car.

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us." So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

EXPOSITION

Key Verse:

1 Samuel 7:12

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us."

Ebenezer

- "Ebenezer" = "stone of help"

- Meaning = a visible reminder of God's faithfulness.

Overview

How to Celebrate God's Faithfulness

- Remember God's Faithfulness
- Rely on God's Power
- Rejoice in God's Provision
- Reach out to others

I. Remember God's Faithfulness

Till now the LORD has helped us.

- We are not a self-made church. We are a God-built church.

Psalm 127:1

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

Context of Passage

- Samuel is the last judge. The Philistines were attacking the Israelites.
- o The people plead and Samuel brought back message from God:
- if you all repent and turn from your old ways and turn to Me, I will deliver you.
- The people repented (turn from their ways and turn to God), and God answers:

1 Samuel 7:10

As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel.

Why an Ebenezer?

- An important historical reminder as we forget.
- If you forget your history, you will forget how to live in the present (and affect your future).
- Special festivals and events set so people remember the past
- o Ex: Passover

- o Ex: The Lord's Supper
- Important to pause and remember God's faithfulness in the past.
- o Both corporately as a church but also individually.

2 Timothy 2:13a

if we are faithless, he remains faithful

- God is faithful to His people.

II. Rely on God's Power

- One must rely solely on the LORD.
- If God doesn't act, we have no hope.

Temptation: During times of prosperity, we are tempted to rely on ourselves.

- Truth: apart from God, we can do nothing.

John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

Analogy: the moon

- Its reflection is only by the Sun's light.

Analogy: a sailboat on ocean

- When the wind blows, the boat moves effortlessly.
- But the boat has no power on its own. If the wind stops,
- Never confuse motion with power.
- o Movement is only by God's grace (not from us)
- We should never outgrow our dependence from God.
- The greatest danger is to forget that God is behind it all.
- o Always remember God is always behind it all.
- ❓ Every gift is from God.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

III. Rejoice in God's Provision

- God has helped us to stay faithful to His Word, to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and ultimately, to Jesus Christ Himself!

Temptation: We are always tempted to drift leftward.

- Drift towards what is anti-god. Tend to drift away from God.

Truth: We must always stay faithful to God and His Word

- Not to any denomination or movement or human relationship.

1 Samuel 12:24

Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

- Stay faithful to God Himself.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

- Faithfulness is not about numbers but about God's Word. Faithfulness is about God's power working through His people.

Matthew 11:28-29

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Key characteristics: Meek and Humility.
 - o Meek: power under control
 - o Humility: right perspective and submission under God.

IV. Reach out to others

- Our greatest Ebenezer is not a building or a campus, but it is the cross of Christ.

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

- And from that cross, Christ is now building His church - not just in Fresno, but among all nations.
- We are called not to only look backwards but forward to what God is calling you to.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2 Timothy 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Our Response

- Remember God's faithfulness, rely on God, rejoice in help, reach out to others.

Pray

- We are dependent upon God and Him alone.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Participate

- The church is something not only you attend but belong to as one of the members.

- You are meant to be functional to be part of the body of Christ.
- First, come to Christ.
- o Then join a church
- Analogy: In your own family, you would be insensitive if let everyone else do the dishes and manage the home.
- o Likewise, it would be insensitive to leave all the work for others to do.
- o For guests, they are to be served. But if part of the family, you should participate.
- ☐ It is for your good and the good of others.

Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.