

1 Samuel 7:3–12

"Jesus, Our Help for Approaching a Holy God"

Who is able to stand before this holy Yahweh God? Pastor leads his family in tomorrow's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these ten verses, we learn that God Himself is our help for drawing near to God Himself, by the grace of Jesus Christ—our Prophet, Priest, and King.

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First Samuel 7 verses 3 through 12. Then Samuel spoke to all the house of Israel saying if you return to Yahweh with all your hearts. Put away the foreign gods and the asterisks from among you and prepare your hearts for Yahweh. And serve him only and he will deliver you from the hand of the flistons so the children of Israel put away the bals and the afterths and served.

Yahweh only. And Samuel said gather all Israel to mitzvah and I will pray to Yahweh for you. So they gathered together at mitzvah and drew water and poured it out before Yahweh, they fasted that day and said there we have sinned against Yahweh. And Samuel judged the children of Israel at mitzvah.

Now when the flistons heard that the children of Israel had gathered together admits pub the lords of the flisens went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the flisence so the children of Israel said to Samuel do not cease to cry out to Yahweh our God for us that he may save us from the hand of the flisence.

And Samuel took a suckling lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to Yahweh. And Samuel cried out to Yahweh for Israel and Yahweh answered him. Now as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering the flistons drew near to battle against Israel. But Yahai thundered with a loud thunder upon the flisens that day and so confused them that they were overcome before Israel.

And the men of Israel went out of mitzvah and pursued the flistons and drove them back as far as below bait car. Then Samuel took a stone. And set it up between mitzvah and shen and called its name ebonets or Ebenezer saying. Thus far. Yahweh. Has helped us.

So far the reading of God's word. So the end or towards the end of lasts chapter God had killed fifty thousand and seventy men in bait sinus because they had treated his arc as a common thing and he has severely humbled the Israelites. In fact the extent, um, To which he did so killing so many of them is so great that some Hebrew manuscripts just cut out the fifty thousand leaving the seventy.

But it was fifty thousand and seventy that he had killed. And. The there's an important question at that point asked at the end. Of verse 20 or at the end of chapter 6 and verse 20 when the Lord had done that. The metabachema say who is able to stand before this holy.

Yahweh God. And.

The answer is not immediate in the history of Israel the arc stays in curiosity Irene 20 years. But the answer is immediate in the book of first Samuel for us.

The house of Israel's lamenting after Yahweh and yet the question has hung in the air for 20 years who is able to stand before this holy. Yoly God. There are lamenting after the Lord and verse two, but they're afraid to come near him and sometimes believers feel like that they.

Are afraid to interact with God because they know their sin and they know his holiness and they know the danger of sinners drawing near him and they feel that they can't. And apart from Christ they would be exactly right that they can't but Samuel tells them that repentance is possible with the Lord with you.

There is forgiveness that you may be feared that you may be worshipped says all 130 and Samuel basically says the same thing he says, If you want to return to Yahweh put away your foreign gods repent and Samuel becomes to us a picture of Christ here, he's a prophet obviously that's his primary function and he is giving them instruction and directing them but he's also a priest he.

Fulfills a priestly functional offering the burnt offering. And you notice very similar although not as amazing in scope or scale as what happened with Joshua the people of Israel have a worship service and God takes care of the enemy while they take while

they are worshipping him never underestimate the power of the worship of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

People say oh we got to make a difference in the culture and it's fine to you know, write your legislators and talk to people and be active in your community, you should love your neighbor and you love the Lord in part by loving your neighbor. But. The most powerful thing is the Lord himself and the most powerful thing we do is worship him because he responds to our worship and his response is greater more necessary stronger more effective than anything.

That we ourselves do so Samuel prophesize to them, he offers up this burnt offering in their behalf and praise for them and they're already kind of having the the burnt offering in the prayer service and the flistons draw near and the people don't say stop praying we have to fight the listens, what do they say they say, oh no Philistines don't stop praying.

And so he functions of priests he also functions in part as a king notice that it says in verse 6 and Samuel judged the children of Israel admits by he's acting also in the function of a civil magistrate at the time which is why when they ask for a king in the next chapter the Lord has to tell Samuel it's not you that they've rejected even though you've been functioning in the place of a silver magistrate as judge over them, it's me that they've rejected and so Samuel is a picture of someone who is a Prophet priest and king whom do we know who is prophet priest and king both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

Okay. God does not have a state of humiliation. I mean God the second person does because he adds to himself a human nature. And he is. Jesus yes, yes. Jesus, this is Samuel is a picture of Christ to us and that's the answer to the question, right? How who is able to stand before this holy.

Yolway God. Those who come to him through Jesus. Those who receive Jesus's instruction who tells us to repent just like Samuel your tells usurpent those for whom Jesus has offered up the not just a. A whole burn offering is a suckling lamb but the offered up himself the lamb of God who takes away this end of the world once for all Jesus who is king who defends us who receives our worship and who rules and overrules you're super intense all things everywhere for our good.

Which is very good news. Because we are not able. To stand we are not able to love the Lord our God with all our hearts all mind and strength our hearts are indeed prone to wander, aren't they? When someone's Samuel sets up the stone of help. Ebenezer the thing that they need help most against is not for listeners is the visit.

The point in this part of first. Samuel is the thing that they most need help for. Is to be able to be near God safely with his favor to maintain repentance in faith and to have a righteousness that is not their own that can be their righteousness before God and that's what is what the stone Ebenezer points to that.

God is our help for bringing us near himself. That we may know him as the one who is favorable towards us because of Jesus. So, how can you walk with God? How can you have a relationship with this holy one in which he isn't constantly breaking out and wrath against you like he did at Bates MS and the answer of course is Jesus our prophet priest and King by his grace.

He keeps your heart from wandering by his grace, he stirs up your heart and mind towards him and when you find your heart wandering when you need to repent again, you can look to him for that grace. So, let's pray. Our Father in heaven we thank you for this portion of your word, we bless your name for how good you were to your people at this time that we just read about in first Samuel 7.

Verses 3 through 12, we thank you. Lord that your goodness to us. Has been all the greater. For it is not Samuel, you have given us what Christ and it is not a suckling land you have given us but Christ. And that he is our help and in him you are our help.

So we pray that you would make us continually as we need your help your grace by which to walk with you to come to your throne of grace. To find mercy and obtain help for our time of need. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.