Character Study: Samuel
Part 3 – Samuel's Prayer for Israel
I Samuel 5:1-7:6

What's happening?

● *The Philistines had captured the Ark of the Covenant from Israel. It was taken to one of their cities and placed by their god, Dagon. (5:1-2)*

● *The Philistines awoke the next two mornings to find Dagon fallen on its face before the ark of God. Its head and hands had even broken off. After the people faced a plague of tumors from the Lord, they recognized that these were acts of God. They determined to send the ark to another city, but after that city faced the same plague, the Philistines realized it would be best to return the ark to the Israelites. (5:3-12)*

● *The Philistines sent the ark back with a trespass offering. The Israelites were thrilled, but sorrow quickly overcame them as many people disobeyed the Lord and were struck dead for looking into the ark. This invoked a great fear among the people. (6:1-21)*

● *Samuel urged the people to put away their false idols and return to the Lord with all their heart. The people willingly put away their idols, confessed their sin and wholeheartedly served the Lord. Samuel prayed a prayer on behalf of the Israelites. (7:1-6)*

What's God doing?

> *God was showing that He is superior over anyone or anything that people try to place over Him in their lives.*

> *We are reminded of our inability to attain to God's holiness. Such passages reveal our need for the righteousness offered through Jesus Christ.*

What's to learn?

→ *The Philistines were guilty of placing things above God. The Israelites were guilty of thinking God's word was not important. Both brought serious consequences. Are you guilty of similar sins?*

→ *God's superiority gives us sufficient reason to obey His every word and make Him first in our lives. God must have first place in our lives if we want to experience His fullest blessing and be used to do awesome things for His glory!*