

Spiritual Authority

Text: 1 Samuel 3:11-21, Numbers 25: 1-8

PLAIN TRUTH:

Responsible _____ blesses those
who _____ it.

Three things:

1. Responsible _____ is not _____.
2. People who are not welcoming _____ are
welcoming _____.
3. People who welcome _____ welcome
_____ and _____ for
_____.

One Year Bible Readings

June 16: 1 Kings 15:25-17:24, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 134:1-3, Proverbs 17:9-11
June 17: 1 Kings 18:1-46, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 135:1-21, Proverbs 17:12-13
June 18: 1 Kings 19:1-21, Acts 12:1-23, Psalm 136:1-26, Proverbs 17:14-15
June 19: 1 Kings 20:1-21:29, Acts 12:24-13:15, Psalm 137:1-9, Proverbs 17:16
June 20: 1 Kings 22:1-53, Acts 13:16-41, Psalm 138:1-8, Proverbs 17:17-18
June 21: 2 Kings 1:1-2:25, Acts 13:42-14:7, Psalm 139:1-24, Proverbs 17:19-21
June 22: 2 Kings 3:1-4:17, Acts 14:8-28, Psalm 140:1-13, Proverbs 17:22

June 15 & 16, 2019

Personal Study

Spiritual Authority • Week of June 16

Spiritual authority matters. Paul writes to the church in Rome: “Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God” (Romans 13:1). Pontius Pilate – fearful of sentencing an innocent man, frustrated at Jesus’ silence – exclaims: “Don’t you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?” Jesus replies, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above” (John 19:10b,11a).

Across the landscape of humanity, anyone at any level of power or influence is ultimately accountable to God who “brings some down and lifts others up” (1 Samuel 2:7). Eli served as priest when ‘messages from the Lord were rare and visions uncommon’. Eli had two sons but they were “scoundrels who had no respect for the LORD or for their duties as priests... Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing to the people of Israel” (1 Samuel 2:12, 22a). Eli and his sons’ disregard for spiritual authority led to their replacement. God raised up young Samuel, a boy promised to the Lord years before (1 Samuel 1:11,26-28), to lead Israel.

Read 1 Samuel 2:22-26 and 3:1-14

1. Re-read 1 Samuel 2:25. Why did Eli’s sons not listen to their father?

Look again at the Lord’s words in 1 Samuel 3:13:

“I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn’t disciplined them.”

How does lack of discipline and disregard for spiritual authority lead to a hardened heart?

Great leaders in the Bible were not always great parents. Although Samuel followed the Lord faithfully, Scripture says later Samuel “appointed his sons to be judges over Israel... But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice” (1 Samuel 8:1-2). The Bible is full of examples of persons who failed to discipline their children at the proper time in the proper way. But God is also merciful. Consequences to our choices are inevitable, but the Lord can turn around for good our failures if we trust Him and move in His direction. Christ will walk with us, and help us face whatever we need to face.

2. What does Hebrews 12:5-13 say about the Lord’s discipline: write down one take-away from this passage in the space below—

John the Baptist understood that his authority was only for a season, and then the Righteous One would come, the One for whom John had prepared the way. *“No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven,”* says John the Baptist (John 3:27). Close by reading John’s words – John 3:27-36. Have you accepted the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ over your life? All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18) and yet Jesus is the perfect example of a Servant Leader. Why not trust Him today? And begin to learn *who* He is –

BONUS Assignment for Father’s Day:

Give God a Father’s Day gift by spending time with Him! This week read the following Scriptures, and each day write one thing you learn about *who* Jesus is?

Sunday – Jesus Fulfills Israel’s Purpose.

Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Mark 3:7-12

Monday – Jesus Fulfills All Righteousness.

Read Joel 3:12-21 and Matthew 3:11-17

Tuesday – Jesus Brings Good News to the Oppressed.

Read Isaiah 61 and Luke 4:16-22

Wednesday – Jesus Israel’s Suffering Servant.

Read Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 and John 19:1-22

Thursday – Jesus Fulfills Moses’ Words.

Read Deuteronomy 18:15-19 and Luke 24:35-53

Friday – Jesus, Heaven’s King.

Read Psalm 68:15-20 and Matthew 28:1-20

Saturday – Jesus, Servant Leader is Coming to Renew.

Read Malachi 3 and Luke 12:22-38