



Series: 1 Samuel
Week 6: He Is Exalted

Notes for Group Leader: The sermon is now uploaded onto the church website. If you miss a Sunday and need to “catch-up”, please have a listen at westendbaptist.org.uk/?page_id=435.

Questions

Ice-breaker question (to get people talking): Has God ever done anything in your life that looked foolish? What was it? Did it turn out not to be foolish in the end?

- 1) In 1 Samuel 6 we see God returning in glory to his people. From the beginning of chapter 4 to the end of chapter 6, we see a theme of humiliation to exaltation, a theme of descent to ascent emerging. We see this mirrored in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Why do you think it was such foolishness for God to be crucified?

- 2) The context of the beginning of 1 Samuel is that God is doing a new thing (as in Isaiah 43:18-19). Everything from chapter 4-6 has been a revelation about who God is.

Read Philippians 3:1-11

Even the great apostle declares that he needs to know Christ. What priority do you place on getting to know Christ in your life? In practical terms, how long do you spend consciously in his presence? What can you do to increase it, if need be?

- 3) What do you think is the importance of getting to know Him more? (*You might want to skip this question as it addresses something specific rather than aiding in discussion! My thoughts here are that sometimes God does things that look foolish to us because we are on the outside looking in. However, if we are spending time getting to know him, what he does will not seem as foolish.*)

- 4) **Read Exodus 33:11-13 and Psalm 25:4-5.** Both Moses and David were men completely in touch with God. Moses spoke with God face to face as one speaks with a friend and David was a man after God’s own heart. They still had to ask God what he was up to.

How can we cooperate with God in His mission to the world?

- 5) **Read Galatians 5:22-26.** Paul lists a load of qualities that are only possible with the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Then he tells the church to be led by the Spirit. Another way of translating this is to ‘walk in line with the Spirit’. This is having a knowledge of what God is doing, reflecting on how to do it and allowing the Spirit to have his way in us. (See Tom Wright, *Galatians for Everyone*.) What are the ways in which we can ‘walk in line with the Spirit’ on a regular basis? Share and encourage one another in these things.