

REMEMBER

Part 3 – Remember the Blessings

1 Samuel 7.12-14

Best stories from Saturday – the blessings

- Purpose: we are blessed to be a blessing (looking backward urges us outward)
- True of all sorts of individuals in the Bible – true of the people of God throughout the Bible

What God has done before He can do again

- It's not that He will or has to, it's that He can
- He hears prayers
- He works miracles
- He uses us
 - He can use broken people – Samuel and Israelites here, but Samson earlier
 - Zeru's story: "Everywhere we mentioned Heritage Park Baptist Church in the community, there was a good aroma to that name"

God can tell a bigger story

- The Ebenezer was part of a much larger plot – "Till now the Lord has helped us" = ch. 4-6 capture and return of Ark
- Bigger than any place
 - Basketball goals
- Bigger than any person
 - Jamie - Honolulu
- Bigger than any history
 - Foster / Adoption

God expects expectancy (aka faith, without which we can't please Him – Heb. 11.6)

- Expect God to be who He says He is
 - Sovereign – He reigns over everything
 - Redeemer – He uses bad for good
 - Merciful – He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
- Expect God to do what He promises to do (Psalm 31.19)
- Expect God to use us (as we make ourselves *available*)
 - Can we complete Phase II? (will you be available?)
 - Can we reach our neighborhood? (will you be available?)
 - Can we plant churches? (will you be available?)

Questions for Discussion:

1. What are two ways that you can say God has used Heritage Park in your life? How has He made Himself known to you? How have you matured as a result? What stories would you tell as evidence of that?
2. In the sermon, Trent mentioned that the three things God has done before (answering prayer, working miracles, using us) often go together. How have you seen this in your life? In the life of our church?
3. Read Acts 9.1-19. Think about this story from the perspective of Ananias. What kinds of thoughts and emotions do you think he experienced? In the sermon, Trent talked about God telling a bigger story than any of us. How do you see this in Ananias?
4. Out of the three expectations / faith statements in the notes, which is hardest for you to believe? Why? What kinds of actions do you need to take to bolster your faith in that area?