

## Sermon Text Discussion 9/2/2018

How It's Good When God Doesn't Give You What You Want | Samuel 4 by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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The Bible teaches that God has glory. He is weighty, heavy, of substance. Yet His people sometimes treat Him as small and He rests lightly on their minds. As the earth orbits the sun in its weightiness, the blazing glory of God is at the center of reality and we order our lives by Him. In Samuel 4 the Israelites treated God weightlessly, trivializing Him and His place in their lives. They were shown a valuable and painful lesson: God refuses to give us what we want in order to see what we need most.

1. What Happened (v. 1-11) Following their defeat the Israelites used the Ark of God superstitiously in attempt to ensure victory in the next battle. They were again defeated because they used one of God's blessings to try to get from God what they wanted without giving Him their whole hearts.
2. Why It Matters (v. 12-22) Eli and his daughter-in-law died when they hear the news. Both acknowledge the tragedy of the Ark of God being lost. The Israelites wanted God's blessings without repentance; they sought a Rescuer but not a Lord.
3. What It Means The defeat of Israel is the judgment of God and actually a victory for Him. It means there is hope because it signals that the Lord is quietly restoring His people.

### Quotations

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"The fall of leaders in the church is not always a tragedy, it may well be a sign of God's work to renew His people. The hardening we see in some toward the Word of God in some...churches....may be a cause for rejoicing: God may have closed their hearts and hardened them, as a prelude to overthrowing them."

Peter Leithart

"God will allow you to be disappointed in Him if it will awaken you to the sort of God He really is."

Dale Ralph Davis

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) *How do I treat God?* Are there ways I've tried to set up a barter relationship in which I do or give certain things in exchange for what I want from the Lord? What would it mean for me to serve God because of who He is and the joy in knowing Him?
- 2) *How do I view God?* Have I experienced God allowing me to be disappointed in Him in order for me to know Him better? What's wrong with singing "Useful, Useful, Useful" to the Lord rather than "Holy, Holy, Holy"?
- 3) *How can I enjoy God's presence?* If God is weighty, heavy, and glorious, why do I trivialize Him? How does Jesus bring God's glory into focus for us? When do I truly enjoy the Lord's presence? How should I seek Him more?

