

Text: 1 Samuel 5:1-7:2 (ESV)

Roadmap: 1-3-3

One Theme – God seeks out his own glory

Bible References for this statement can be found here at:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/biblical-texts-to-show-gods-zeal-for-his-own-glory>

(taken from Desiringgod.org, “Biblical Texts to Show God’s Zeal for His Own Glory”)

Three ways in which we see him to this from our text

Three benefits that his people enjoy because of this

The Three Ways and the Three Benefits:

1. Because God seeks out his own glory, He is missional

(missional meaning that God takes initiative in spreading his own glory)

- a. The ark of the covenant is in the camp of the Philistines, in “enemy territory”

What is the benefit now for the people of God because he is a missional God?

- a. The Great Commission is really a Great Invitation to be in the presence of God
- b. Our salvation was possible because God was missional

2. Because God seeks his own glory, His timing is perfect.

- a. 6:1 *The ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months.*
- b. The Ark went back to Beth-shemesh on its own accord

Because God’s timing is perfect the benefit for his people is that there is always meaning for his timing.

- a. Romans 8:28 (ESV)
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose.
- b. The Bible shows that there are things that the Lord is doing all around the world in his perfect timing to fulfill his perfect purposes

3. Because God seeks his own glory, He is Relentless

- a. Beth-shemesh and how they treat the ark
- b. God’s holiness had not changed, nor did the hearts of the Israelites

What is the benefit for the people of God because God is relentless in his pursuit of his own glory? It is the same benefit that the Israelites enjoyed.

- a. “Who is able to stand before the Lord, this holy God?” The answer is still no one, but God has made a way. For the Israelites, it was through the law and through the sacrifice of bulls and rams, but to us this side of the cross, it is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. One of the benefits of our God being missional is that there is a command to be missional ourselves (Great Commission). Read Matthew 28:18-20. How have you been obeying this command in your life? In what ways can you foster a missional lifestyle in the future? *Think outside the box, the Great Commission is not just about short-term mission trips, think about your family, friends, and your work setting.
2. Share with one another some areas in your life where it is hard for you to trust in the timing of God.
3. We learned that God is relentless in seeking out his own glory. What are some areas in your life where you feel like God is being relentless with making you into the image of Christ?