

Life Lessons From 1 Samuel
The Danger of Missing the Presence of God
1 Samuel 4:1-22 (page 187)

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We must be careful not to manipulate God for our own purposes (1 Sam 4:1-10)

We can do that by:

- depending on our own wisdom rather than God's Word (vs 1-3; Josh 6:1-21; 7:1-5; 8:1-8; Prov 3:5-6)
- substituting ritual for relationship (vs 3b-4a; Deut 20:3-4)
- expecting blessing without repentance (v 4b-5; Rom 2:4; 1 John 1:9)
- allowing our failures to embolden our enemy (vs 6-10; 2 Sam 11:14; Neh 4:1-6)

We must be careful not to doubt God and His Word to us (1 Sam 4:11-18)

We can do that when we:

- Take our _____ to God lightly (v 11, 17; Lev 10:1-7)
- _____ to carry out our responsibilities as a servant of God (vs 12-18; 1 Sam 15:10-19; 1 Tim 4:1`3-15)

We must be careful not to think that God overlooks our sins (1 Sam 4:19-22; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Eze 10:4, 18; 11:22-23; 43:1-5; John 1:14; 1 Cor 6:19-20)

Life Lesson:

God will not participate in our sin, nor will he be used by us to gain what we desire, but He will deal with our sin and bring all that His Word says to fulfillment. (Psalm 78:56-64; Gal 6:7-9)