

Date - Mar 15th
Speaker - Billy Holden

Series -Epic Fail - King Sized
Sermon Title - The Distortion

BLURB: The Psalmist exhorts us to meditate on Scripture day and night. The word for "meditate" is the Hebrew word *haga* and it carries the image of reading the Scriptures like a dog chewing its bone. R-r-r-r-r, r-r-r-r-r-r. That is the kind of ferociousness that we should approach the Bible every time we open it to read. As we come to The Story in the Book of First Samuel, we will examine three major distortions of the perfect picture God set before his people.

Intro: **What does it mean to meditate?**

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. Psalm 1:1-2

1Samuel 3:21 **The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.**

Point 1 - The Distortion of Phoniness.

1. At Shiloh, the Priest was Eli and he had two sons, Hophni and Phineas, who abused the sacrificial system (literally stealing from the offerings that were presented to God) and committed sexually immoral acts. (1 Samuel 2:22 - 22) Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Point 2 - 2nd Distortion is The Distortion of Conformity.

1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel's leaders.

2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. 3 But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." 6 But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

Point 3 - The Distortion of Misrepresentation.

God allows the people to have a king (permissive will) though it was not God's perfect will.

We, too, are representatives of God to the world.

When we disobey God we distort God to the world.

Closing - James 4:8 - Come close to God, and God will come close to you.