



Pastor Todd Schlechty  
July 16, 2017

The Call to Let Go  
I Samuel 5-6

**Have you ever wanted something so bad that you couldn't wait to get it, and once you got it you realized you were better off without it?**

I Sam 5:1-4, 6-7 *Now the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. 2 Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it to the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon. 3 When the Ashdodites arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set him in his place again. 4 But when they arose early the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen on his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off on the threshold; only the trunk of Dagon was left to him... 6 Now the hand of the LORD was heavy on the Ashdodites, and He ravaged them and smote them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territories. 7 When the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is severe on us and on Dagon our god."*

I Sam 6:1-4 *Now the ark of the LORD had been in the country of the Philistines seven months. 2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, "What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we shall send it to its place." 3 They said, "If you send away the ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; but you shall surely return to Him a guilt offering. Then you will be healed and it will be known to you why His hand is not removed from you." 4 Then they said, "What shall be the guilt offering which we shall return to Him?" And they said, "Five golden tumors and five golden mice according to the number of the lords of the Philistines, for one plague was on all of you and on your lords."*

I Sam 6:12-13 *And the cows took the straight way in the direction of Beth-shemesh; they went along the highway, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. And the lords of the Philistines followed them to the border of Beth-shemesh. 13 Now the people of Beth-shemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley, and they raised their eyes and saw the ark and were glad to see it.*

## Three Observations:

I. God is \_\_\_\_\_

II. God can \_\_\_\_\_

III. God's call requires that we \_\_\_\_\_

## Point:



## Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!

1. When have you wanted something so bad that you couldn't wait to get it, and once you got it you realized you were better off without it?
2. What are the idols in your life? What are the things that you trust in to give you life, health, peace, prosperity?
3. When have you seen people try to defend God? When have you been tempted to defend God?
4. What is God calling you to let go of? What is there in your life that keeps you from God's call?

If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/ Pastor Todd about your relationship with Christ, please email [pastortodd@thevineva.org](mailto:pastortodd@thevineva.org) or call 703-573-5836 to set up an appointment.