

1 Samuel 12 – Samuel’s Farewell Address

April 24, 2022

1. The Situation

And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. 1 Samuel 12:1 (ESV)

And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you... 1 Samuel 12:2a (ESV)

2. The Righteousness Of The Old Order

...I have walked before you from my youth until this day. 1 Samuel 12:2b (ESV)

*Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed...
1 Samuel 12:3a (ESV)*

...Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” 1 Samuel 12:3b (ESV)

They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man’s hand.” 1 Samuel 12:4 (ESV)

- **Make every effort to finish well. Character makes a difference.**

But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. Luke 22:26 (ESV)

And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 2 Timothy 2:24 (ESV)

...not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.
1 Peter 5:3 (ESV)

And he said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand."... 1 Samuel 12:5a (ESV)

And Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. 1 Samuel 12:6 (ESV)

Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your fathers.
1 Samuel 12:7 (ESV)

When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. 1 Samuel 12:8 (ESV)

But they forgot the LORD their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. 1 Samuel 12:9 (ESV)

• **When we face a crisis, turn to the God who delivers instead of only worldly solutions.**

And they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.' And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety. 1 Samuel 12:10–11 (ESV)

3. The Foolishness Of The New Order

And when you saw that Nahash the king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the Lord your God was your king. And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the Lord has set a king over you. 1 Samuel 12:12–13 (ESV)

4. The Ultimatum

If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. 1 Samuel 12:14 (ESV)

But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king.

1 Samuel 12:15 (ESV)

- **God is gracious. Even when we sin in a big way, if we repent and humble ourselves, God forgives.**
- **If we make an unwise or sinful decision that we can not change, when we humble ourselves, repent, and turn to the Lord in obedience, God will show His favor and use us for His good purposes.**
- **There is no problem where repenting of sin, calling out to Jesus and obeying God is the wrong answer. No matter how difficult the situation we find ourselves in, there is always hope when we repent, call out to Jesus for forgiveness, and make choices of obedience.**

Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king."

1 Samuel 12:16–17 (ESV)

So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. 1 Samuel 12:18 (ESV)

5. Repentance

And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king."

1 Samuel 12:19 (ESV)

6. Renewal

And Samuel said to the people, "Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

1 Samuel 12:20 (ESV)

And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. 1 Samuel 12:21 (ESV)

For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. 1 Samuel 12:22 (ESV)

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. 1 Samuel 12:23 (ESV)

Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24 (ESV)

Application

1. **God's grace offers complete forgiveness of our sins.** When we sin, God offers forgiveness and a fresh start when we repent, ask God to forgive us through Jesus and make choices in obedience to God's word. God doesn't want us wallowing in our guilt or going down the path of self-hatred. He doesn't want us suffocating in guilt and shame. Through Jesus, God graciously offers to forgive us and cleanse us completely.
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (ESV)
2. **God's grace shows us the truth about our sins.** Israel was ignorant of the depth of their sin when they asked for a king. God graciously showed them the ugliness of what they had done so they could repent. God's grace in our life is when we finally see the ugliness of our sin so we are convicted and can repent of our sin.
3. **God's grace reconfigures our sinful choices and uses them for good.** God took the evil of his people's rebellion by asking for a human king and turned it into the very way He saved us by giving us Jesus, the king we desperately need. No matter what we have done or where we find ourselves, when we confess our sin, repent and make choices to obey God, our life is reconfigured by God and used for God's good purposes.

Life Group Questions

1. What did you learn in this week's lesson that you did not know? What questions do you have?
2. Christians sometimes view Old Testament characters unfavorably compared to people in the New Testament. Can this be justified in the light of Samuel's fine record of integrity in his leadership of Israel?
3. We do not like pain or fear. Pain has a purpose. It alerts us to illness or bodily damage. What is fear's God-ordained function? How did God use fear in this chapter? **See Colossians 3:5-6.**
4. Pastor Kurt talked about three ways God's grace is seen in this chapter. Why is the conviction of sin a form of God's grace?
5. God takes us where we are, even after we make sinful choices that we can not be changed, and when we repent and seek him, God begins using our lives for his kingdom. How does this truth encourage you? Where else have you seen it play out in the Bible and in your life?
6. If we forget the past, it is easy to forget God. What crucial lessons from the past had the Israelites forgotten? What does this teach us about the importance of keeping our finger in the text today?