

# Now Hear This

## 1 Samuel Series – Chapter 12

- Last Week – Leaders We Love Chapters 9-10
  - anointing a King
- In Chapter 11.....
  - story of Nahash the Ammonite and threat to Israel
  - emergence of Saul as leader for people
  - deliverance of God from the enemy
- gathering to celebrate and sacrifice at Gilgal 11:14-15

Samuel relinquishes his role as judge and leader

- confers the role for a king on Saul
- gives a message to the people at this critical juncture

***Samuel said to all Israel, "I have listened to everything you said to me and have set a king over you. <sup>2</sup> Now you have a king as your leader. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have been your leader from my youth until this day. <sup>3</sup> Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these things, I will make it right." <sup>4</sup> "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied. "You have not taken anything from anyone's hand."***

***<sup>5</sup> Samuel said to them, "The LORD is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." "He is witness," they said.***

## 1. My Hands Are Clean

- I have served you since my youth, my sons are here with me

a) You asked for A King and I responded!

- warned you about the ramifications – 8:11-20

- anointed the one God has chosen – 10:1

- now He is your leader – vs. 2

b) If you have a charge against me – bring it!

- this request is not due to my unfaithful leadership

- in the presence of God and your king, I have been faithful

- gives 5 characteristics of unfaithful leadership

- 3 have not taken from you – ox, donkey, cheated you
- interesting – opposite of Eli's sons and the charge
- have not oppressed – held back serving you
- have not taken a bribe or looked the other way
- all things he warns them a King will do to them

- important to Samuel they respond – you are without charge

\*Note – Samuel very clear about how He handled the authority and responsibility that was entrusted him. Good checklist for leaders you can trust, great checklist for our hearts in leading

***Then Samuel said to the people, “It is the LORD who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your ancestors up out of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> Now then, stand here, because I am going to confront you with evidence before the LORD as to all the righteous acts performed by the LORD for you and your ancestors.***

***<sup>8</sup> After Jacob entered Egypt, they cried to the LORD for help, and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.***

***<sup>9</sup> But they forgot the LORD their God; so he sold them into the hand of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hands of the Philistines and the king of Moab, who fought against them. <sup>10</sup> They cried out to the LORD and said, ‘We have sinned; we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths. But now deliver us from the hands of our enemies, and we will serve you.’ <sup>11</sup> Then the LORD sent Jerub-Baal, Barak, Jephthah and Samuel, and he delivered you from the hands of your enemies all around you, so that you lived in safety.”***

***“But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’—even though the LORD your God was your king. <sup>13</sup> Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the LORD has set a king over you. <sup>14</sup> If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God—good! <sup>15</sup> But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors. “Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes! <sup>17</sup> Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call on the LORD to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king.”***

*Then Samuel called on the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel. <sup>19</sup> The people all said to Samuel, “Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”*

*<sup>20</sup> “Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. <sup>22</sup> For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. <sup>23</sup> As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. <sup>24</sup> But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. <sup>25</sup> Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish.”*

## 2. God Has Been Faithful to You

- love vs. 7 – “Now then, stand here because I am going to confront you with evidence before the Lord as to all the righteous acts performed by the Lord for you and your fathers.”

### a) Faithful in Delivering You

- from slavery, enemies, threats, troubles
- provided leaders at every step to lead you in His way

### b) Faithful in Disciplining You

- when you forgot the Lord, you were defeated, enslaved
- when you turned to idols – Baals and Ashtoreths vs. 10
- true to His word, when you were unfaithful vs. 9



### c) Faithful in Forgiving and Restoring You

- when they cried out and repented – restored vs.8,10
- when they returned to faithfulness – protected vs. 11
- always ready to respond to His chosen

### 3. You Have Been forgetful and Unfaithful

- as you faced a threat from Nahash – asked for a King to save you instead of relying on God
- your history is littered with forgetting what God has done, and living in unfaithful ways

#### 4. Clear Call to People and King

- interesting that Samuel addresses both the nation & king

##### a) Future Depends on Your Choices

- vs. 14 – ‘fear the Lord’
- ‘serve the Lord’
- ‘obey Him’
- ‘do not rebel’

##### b) Choices bring Blessing or Consequence

- clear language for not doing this – his hand will be against
- vs. 25 – if you persist in doing evil – swept away

### c) Object Lesson

- vs. 16-19 – bring on the rain
- harvest – dry season, devastating loss, uncertain future
- demonstrates the evil they have done in seeking a King
- shows Samuel still God's spokesman – just not judge

### d) Can Trust God's Grace

- vs. 20-23 – 'Do not be afraid'
- serve the Lord with all your heart – will not be rejected
- can trust God's forgiveness and restoration
- vs. 23 – Lord pleased to make you his own

## 5. Samuels Role Changes

- this amazes me, how Samuel deals with his new role

### a) Clear Who He Is Serving

- vs. 23 – will not sin by failing to pray for you

### b) Clear about his Role

- intercessor

- teacher

- admonisher

\*Final Words – “Fear the Lord, serve him faithfully with all your heart, consider what great things He has done for you. Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will be swept away.”

## So What

### 1. Need to Listen to Warning Signs

- make us aware of dangers ahead, allow safety
- pay attention to credible sources – evidence gives weight
- Samuel a faithful man of God, serving God – key warning

### 2. Important to Recount God is Faithful

- In our history, In our story – see God's faithfulness to us
- God delivers, disciplines, and forgives – restoring us
- repentance comes from a clear view of God and our sin

### 3. We have a history of being Ungrateful and Unfaithful

- all of us can attest to this truth in our lives

#### 4. Clear Warning to Us Today

- pay close attention to my life and how I am living
- does my life reflect – fearing God, serving Him, thankful
- does my heart reflect – loving him, desiring that relationship
- what would it take for God to get my attention

#### 5. How are you dealing with God's people

- are you clear about who it is your serving
- are you clear about what your gift is and how it's used